



*St Luke's*  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

1ST MARCH 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A



*We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.*

## Sunday Reflection....



In Matthew 17:1–9, we see a glimpse of Jesus' glory—but it is not for show. It is meant to give strength.

This happens right after Jesus talks about suffering and the cross. The brightness of His face and clothes is not an escape from hard times. It is preparation for them. The disciples see who Jesus really is so that when confusion, fear, or disappointment

come, they will understand those moments through Him, not the other way around.

We often think that if God is present, life will always feel clear and easy. But real spiritual growth comes when we trust what we know about Jesus, even when we cannot feel it. Glory is given not to replace obedience, but to help us obey.

Peter wants to hold onto the moment. He wants to preserve it, to keep the high of seeing Jesus so bright. We all do this—we want to hold onto times of strong worship, answered prayers, or clarity about the future. But faith does not come from holding experiences. Faith comes from trusting Jesus.

The main command here is simple: listen to Him. When fear clouds our minds, when suffering raises questions, when the future feels uncertain—listen. Hearing Jesus, even when the glory fades, keeps our faith strong. It gives us the strength to keep following Him, to obey, and to trust that His presence is enough, even in the hard times.

- **Remember who Jesus is.** Let His character shape how you see your problems.
- **Don't depend on spiritual highs.** Faith grows in everyday obedience.
- **Keep listening.** Read Scripture and pray honestly.
- **Trust Him in the valley.** The same Jesus who is glorious on the mountain is present in ordinary life.

God sometimes gives us moments of clarity and joy. Receive them with gratitude. But then walk forward faithfully. Real faith is not about staying on the mountain — it is about trusting Jesus wherever He leads.

*Fr Gayan Thamel....*

### Sacramental Process Dates 2026

Dates and registrations for our sacramental processes for 2026 are now open. Please use QR code or log on to our parish website:

<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>



### CONTACT US

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](http://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark)

**Address:** 55A Frontier Ave, Marsden Park

**Postal Address:** PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765.

**Parish Office:** Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm ~ Located adjacent to the school office entrance.

### OUR VISION

"We are continually attracting people to St Luke's and everyone who engages as a member of our community is transformed in every area of their life by having a deeper relationship with Jesus."

**Parish School:** St. Luke's Catholic College, Marsden Park.

**College Principal:** Kelly Bauer

**Address:** Cnr Frontier Avenue & Northbourne Drive Marsden Park 2765 NSW

**Open Weekdays:** 8:30am - 2:40pm

**Phone:** (02) 9854 3100

**Email:** [stlukesmarsdenpark@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stlukesmarsdenpark@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**School Motto:** "Live the Good News".

*In a place where 'Learning = Infinite Possibilities', staff and parents work in partnership to nurture faith-filled, curious children to become creative*



St Luke's  
Catholic College



*St Luke's*  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf Psalm 26:8-9 ~ Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

**First Reading - Genesis 12:1-4** ~ The Lord The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

**Responsorial Psalm -Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22**

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Second Reading - 2 Timothy 1:8-10**~ With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

**Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 17:5** ~ Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel - Matthew 17:1-9**

~ Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

**Communion Antiphon - Matthew 17:5** ~ This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

### COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

**We pray for those in our Community who are sick:**

Maryse Ferdinands; Tony Duggan; Mila Makasini; Annabelle Edwards; Amor Matulac; Tony Yu; Rena Cremutus & Bernardo Quintana.

**Recently Deceased:** Gloria Garbolo; Melba Reyestan; Derek Anselm Rego

Rodolfo Magaling; Paolo Carrer ; Josie Mateo; Terezinha da Silva Rojanski; Carmello Pilato,

**Death Anniversary:** Madeline Ivy Ma-Ambong

*May They Rest In Peace*

If you would like to include the name of a loved one who is sick or recently deceased in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office.

[marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

**Special Intentions**

**18th Wedding Anniversary:** Joceny and Mark Guillermo

### WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

**Part V. OCIA formally RCIA ~ 'Who's who' in the O.C.I.A.? (CONT'D)**

- Neophyte: (Greek: 'new nature') A recently baptized Catholic.
- Sponsor: a Catholic who acts as a companion to a catechumen or candidate on his/her journey to becoming a Catholic.
- Catechist: A parishioner with a role of teaching and facilitation in the catechumenate process.
- Catechumenate team: The core group who oversees the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in a parish. Since the initiation of adults into the Church is regarded as the responsibility of the whole parish, the actual involvement of people in the process is far wider than the team.

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## STEWARDSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PLANNED GIVING** ~ Your thoughtful contributions through planned giving can make a significant difference, helping us move from financial strain to a sustainable surplus. This will allow us to continue our vital ministries, maintain our sacred spaces, and serve those in need. Please prayerfully consider setting up a recurring gift or increasing your weekly offering. Together, we can build a stronger financial foundation for our parish's future. For more information on how to start planned giving, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

**PARISH DONATIONS** ~ Donations can be made using the bank details below, or via the Tap-and-go machine and online donations which are accepted through our parish website donation portal through the CBA at <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISH1> Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**SUPPORT DONATIONS** ~ BSB: 067 950 Account: 100005720

Account Name: Marsden Park St Luke's Parish

Reference: (Your name)

**AN ALTERNATIVE TO OUR TAP DEVICES** - Contribute to our St Luke's collections by scanning this QR code. 30% of funds support the living costs of our clergy and 70% goes to the operating costs of St Luke's.



Please contact Ged at the parish office for further information or any inquires about building fund donations.

accounts@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au or (02) 7261 0246.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FR CHINONYE'S ANNUAL LEAVE** ~ Fr Chinonye will be on annual leave from 8 March to 25 March, visiting his family in Nigeria. We wish him a restful and enjoyable leave. During his absence, Fr Gayan will be celebrating the weekend Masses.

**OUR PARISH, OUR STORY – ST LUKE'S 2025** ~ We're excited to announce that Our Parish, Our Story – St Luke's 2025 will be available next weekend! This special booklet shares highlights, reflections from our ministry teams, and snapshots of parish life. Printed copies will be limited, but it will also be accessible online via our website and Facebook page. Don't miss it!

**OCIA(ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) UPDATE**  
Last week, Natalie Eneliko and Shannon Lee, together with the OCIA team, attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral in Parramatta. They will be baptised during the Easter Vigil Mass, and Miriam Perez will be welcomed into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

They will begin the Scrutinies from the Third Sunday of Lent through to the Fifth Sunday of Lent (7 March – 21 March). Please keep Natalie, Shannon, and Miriam in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

**HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME** ~ If you know someone, or a family member, who is unable to attend Mass due to illness or limited mobility and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office. A member of our Pastoral Care team will be happy to bring Holy Communion to them.

**LUKE18 PILGRIMAGE** ~ If you are aged 14-35 and would like to join our youth and young adults pilgrimage to Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa on Sunday 22nd March please scan the QR code to register.



**LENTEN PROGRAM 2026** ~ Come and join our Lenten program in the preparation for Holy week and Easter. Every Thursday during lent at 7.00pm in the old parish office, all welcome to attend.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** ~ We invite parishioners to participate in the station of the cross after the 6.30pm Mass every Friday during Lent. (Commencing Friday ~ 20th February)

**RETURN OF OFFERING TINS** ~ During the opening of our parish building, offering tins were distributed to parishioners. We warmly ask that all tins be kindly returned to the church in the coming weeks. Your contributions play a vital role in helping us continue the next stage of our church building. Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and support.

**INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS AND BATTERY SYSTEMS** ~ Solar panels and battery systems will be installed at the church and the presbytery (priest's house) over two separate days in the coming weeks. Thank you for your understanding as workers carry out this important upgrade to support our parish's sustainability.

**PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES** ~ Project Compassion boxes are ready for collection at the church doors today.

This year, instead of the usual six weekly envelopes, there is just one Project Compassion envelope for the entire Lenten season.

**ST LUKE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, MARSDEN PARK OPEN DAY THURSDAY 5 MARCH 4PM - 6PM.**

All welcome to attend our Open Day to see what we have to offer. Enrolments now open for K-12, 2027, Limited enrolments available for 2026.

Please register: <https://www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au>



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

### PARISH MASS TIMES:

All Mass celebrated at our new worship space  
55A Frontier Ave, Marsden Park.

### Weekday Mass Times:

Wednesday 7.30am  
Thursday 9.00am  
Friday 6.30pm



### Sunday Mass Times:

Saturday: Vigil Mass: 5.30pm  
Sunday: 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.30pm.

**Healing Mass** – the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated every First Friday of the month during the 6.30pm Mass.

### RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Saturdays: 4.30pm to 5.25pm in the parish office or by appointment.



### BAPTISMS:

Every 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. Booking & Preparation are essential. Contact Parish office to register.

### MARRIAGES:

Strictly by appointment. A minimum of 6 months notice is required. All enquiries please email: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

### SACRAMENTAL PROCESS:

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, and OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults.

All enquiries please email: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

During School Term at Saturday Vigil & Sunday Mass. (Kindy to Year 4).

### YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday. 6.30pm Mass followed by the youth program at 7pm in St Luke's Hub.

Next Youth Program: 13th March 2026

For students in Year 4 to Year 12.

All enquiries please email: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

### SRE-SCRIPTURE PROGRAM:

Every Tuesday at Public schools during school term. Volunteers required. All enquiries please email: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

### PRAYER MINISTRY:

1st weekend every 2nd month.  
Next opportunity: 4th & 5th April 2026.  
Whether you need guidance, support, or simply someone to pray with, feel free to come forward after Mass and let us join you in prayer.



### MORNING TEA:

Every 2nd Sunday after 10.00am Mass.  
Sunday: 8th March

### WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund.  
This weekend: 21st & 22nd March.

### MARSDEN PARK CARE COMMUNITY MASS

2nd Friday of each month at 11am - Mass  
4th Sunday of each month at 10am - Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

### ROSARY BLOCK:

Welcome the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to your home. Take the statue home after the Sunday 10am Mass and return before Saturday 5.30pm Mass. Register your interest on the roster on the information tables outside the performance hub.

### WALKING WITH CHRIST:

Fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Parish Office. Next session: 5th March. Looking for space to grow in faith, explore Scripture, and walk with others in our parish community? Come and join us! For more information, email: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

**JRS LENTEN FOOD BANK APPEAL**~ This Lent, our parish is supporting Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia by collecting food items for their Foodbank, which provides essential groceries to over 150 families each week. We will be collecting a different item:

- Week 1 - Cooking oil (750 ml or 1L)
- Week 2 - Dishwashing liquid
- Week 3 - Canned tuna (unflavored in oil)

- Week 4 - Laundry detergent
- Week 5 - Dried red lentils (375g or 1kg)
- Week 6 - Long life milk (1L, full cream)

Collection buckets will be outside the church to place your donations. We thank you for your on going generosity.



## COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

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Do you own a business or know someone who does? We are offering the opportunity to advertise in our parish bulletin. This is a wonderful way to support our parish and connect with the local community. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office. [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

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