



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARDEN PARK

 DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

8TH FEBRUARY 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



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

Sunday Reflection . . .

Jesus says we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. These are ordinary images from everyday life, but they carry a deep challenge. Salt is small and easily overlooked, yet it changes everything it touches. Light is quiet and steady, yet it makes it possible to see and live.

Salt does not exist for itself. It only makes sense when it is mixed into food. In the same way, faith is not meant to be kept separate from real life. It is not something we store away for private moments only. Our faith is personal, but never private. It shapes how we speak, how we forgive, how we work, and how we treat people who cannot give us anything in return. When salt loses its taste, Jesus says it becomes useless. This is not about being loud or perfect, but about being real. When faith no longer affects how we live, it stops being life-giving.

Light does not draw attention to itself. It points beyond itself so others can see. A lamp is not lit to be admired, but to help people find their way. Our lives are not meant to be a performance. We are not called to impress others with how good or religious we are. We are called to live so people glimpse something greater than us. The focus is not on the light, but on what the light reveals.

CONTACT US

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Postal Address: PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARDEN 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."

Jesus does not say, "Try to become salt" or "Work hard to be light." He says, "You are." This is an identity before it is a task. We live this way not to earn God's love, but because we already live in it. When we know we are loved, forgiven, and held by God, something changes in us.



The world does not need more noise or show. It needs people who live with integrity, mercy, and hope. Small acts of kindness, steady faithfulness, honesty when it costs us something, and compassion that keeps showing up—these are the ways salt and light do their work. Through them, God is glorified in the world.

Fr. Gayan Thamel . . .

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

18th February 2026

7.30am – Morning Mass in the Church

7.00pm – Evening Mass in the Performance Hall



**Ash Wednesday is a day of
fasting and abstinence.**



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

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

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 contributors and innovative problem solvers for our changing world.



St Luke's
Catholic College



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 94:6-7 ~ O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading - Isaiah 58:7-10 ~ Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm -Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ~ When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in

great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation - John 8:12 ~ Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:13-16

~ Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon - Cf Psalm 106:8-9 ~ Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

We pray for those in our Community who are sick:

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

Recently Deceased:

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

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Part V. OCIA formally RCIA ~ Rite of Welcome ('Cont.)

THE PERIOD OF THE CATECHUMENATE

The catechumenate is the second of four stages of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. During this period an unbaptized person becomes more deeply acquainted with the people, teachings and practices of the Catholic Church with the expressed desire of becoming a Catholic. He/she is no longer called an 'enquirer' but a 'catechumen' (from the ancient Greek: one who 'echoes the gospel'). The relationship between catechumen and the parish community is a bit like an engaged couple who are seriously preparing for marriage. © The Story Source, 1993.

STEWARSHIP: 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>

You 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 inquiries about building fund donations.
accounts@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au or (02) 7261 0246.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN PROGRAM 2026 ~ Come and join our Lenten program in the preparation for Holy week and Easter. Commencing on the 19th February at 7.00pm in the old parish office, all welcome to attend.

RETURN OF PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY ~ If you still have palms from last year, please bring them back to the church so they can be prepared for Ash Wednesday on 18 February. Collection baskets are located in the church entrance.

NOTICE FOR VISITING PRIESTS ~ If you have a family member or friend who is a priest visiting the Diocese of Parramatta and wishing to be involved in public ministry, please ensure they complete the Professional Standards forms. This must be completed at least one month prior to their arrival. Please see the link below for more information. If you are unsure, please contact the Diocese.

<https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/visiting-clergy/>

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR ~ This year marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis' death. Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Franciscan Jubilee Year. A plenary indulgence can be obtained until 10 January 2027 by visiting any Franciscan church or shrine, including in our Diocese:

- ◆ The Good Shepherd, Plumpton
- ◆ St Bernadette's, Dundas Valley
- ◆ Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville
- ◆ Franciscan Shrine of Holy Innocents, Kellyville
- ◆ Poor Clares Monastery, North Richmond
- ◆ Our Lady of Consolation Chapel, Rooty Hill

The sick and homebound can join spiritually through prayer and offering their sufferings.

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028 – HOLY HOUR

Sydney will host the International Eucharistic Congress in September 2028. As part of the three-year preparation, parishes across Australia are invited to hold a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday, 1 March 2026. Our parish will have Adoration following the 10:00am Mass. All are warmly welcome to join in prayer and reflection.

PIETY STALL – 2026 RESOURCES AVAILABLE ~ A range of 2026 spiritual resources is now available from the Piety Stall, including the Daily Mass Book, Break Open the Word, and God's Word Daily Reflections. These are excellent resources to support daily prayer, reflection, and a deeper engagement with the Scriptures throughout the year.

HOLY SPIRIT MISSION 2026

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Parramatta Diocese invites you to their Holy Spirit Mission 2026. Saturday 21st February 2026 from 12.00pm to 5.00pm. Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes (School Camilleri Hall) 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes.



Scan To Register

ROSARY MAKING WORKSHOP: 9 FEBRUARY ~ Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

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

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS:

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

All enquiries please email: 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 February 2026
For students in Year 4 to Year 12.

All enquiries please email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

SRE-SCRIPTURE PROGRAM:

Every Tuesday at Public schools during school term. Volunteers required. All enquiries please email: 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.
This weekend 8th February.

WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund.
Recommencing soon.

MARSDEN PARK CARE COMMUNITY MASS

2nd Friday of each month at 11am. If you would like to join Fr Gayan, please contact the Parish Office in advance, as spaces are limited.

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: 19th February. 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

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