



**St Luke's**  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK



**DIOCESE of**  
**PARRAMATTA**

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

29TH MARCH 2026

PALM SUNDAY ~ YEAR A



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

## Sunday Reflection....

Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem while people waved palm branches and shouted with joy. They welcomed him as a king. But Palm Sunday also begins the journey toward the cross. The same week that started with praise would end with suffering. Matthew 26:14-27:66 helps us see what happened during those final days. The story begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Judas had been with Jesus for a long time. He had listened to his teaching and seen his miracles. Yet he chose money over loyalty. This reminds us that being close to good things is not the same as choosing them. Even today we can know what is right but still choose something easier, more comfortable, or more rewarding. Next we see the Last Supper. Jesus shares a meal with his disciples, even though he knows betrayal and suffering are coming. He takes bread and wine and speaks of his body and blood given for others. Instead of protecting himself, Jesus gives himself. His love does not depend on how others treat him. This invites us to think about how we treat people, especially when they disappoint us. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays in deep distress. He knows the pain that is coming and asks if the cup can pass from him. Yet he ends by saying, "Not as I will, but as you will." Trusting God does not mean life will always be easy. Sometimes it means choosing what is right even when it is difficult. The disciples struggle during this time. They fall asleep when Jesus asks them to pray. Later they run away. Peter, who promised loyalty, denies even knowing Jesus. Their weakness reminds us how fear can silence courage. Jesus is then brought before the leaders and before Pilate. Though innocent,

he is condemned and crucified. At his death the curtain of the temple is torn in two, showing that the way to God is now open. Even a Roman centurion says, "Truly this was the Son of God." Palm Sunday reminds us that the true king shows his power through faithfulness, humility, and sacrificial love. ~ **Fr Gayan Thamel**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**28/29 Mar- Palm Sunday** – Masses will be in the Church.

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm, Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.30pm

**2nd Apr- Holy Thursday** – 7:00pm (Performance Hall)

**3rd Apr- Good Friday** – Stations of the Cross – 10:00am

**Good Friday Service** – 3:00pm (Both at Performance Hall)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after the 3:00pm service.

**4th Apr- Easter Vigil** – 7:00pm (Performance Hall)

**NB: Easter Vigil Mass** – Change of Time - The Easter Vigil on Saturday, 4 April will be celebrated at 7:00 pm in the Performance Hall, rather than the usual Saturday evening Mass time of 5:30 pm.

**5th Apr- Easter Sunday** – 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:30pm.

(Performance Hall)



## 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

**Parish Priest:** Fr Gayan Thamel.

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**Phone:** (02) 7261-0246.

**Mobile:** 0422 724 160.

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

**Website:** [stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au](http://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au)

**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 contributors and innovative problem solvers for our changing world.*



**St Luke's**  
Catholic College



**St Luke's**  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PALM SUNDAY ~ YEAR A

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf John 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10 ~ Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

**First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7** ~ The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

**Responsorial Psalm—Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2** ~ (R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? .

**Second Reading - Philippians 2:6-11** ~ His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation - Philippians 2:8-9** ~ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel - Matthew 27:11-54** ~ The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Communion Antiphon: Matthew 26:42** ~ Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



### COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

**Recently Deceased:** Henry Faustorilla; Danilo Ilagan; Gloria Garbolo; Melba Reyestan; Derek Anselm Rego; Rodolfo Magaling; Paolo Carrer ; Josie Mateo; Terezinha da Silva Rojanski; Carmello Pilato.

**Death Anniversary:** Armando Joya ; Arsenio Virata Jamir; Rafael Tiotuico Madeline Ivy Ma-Ambong.

**In Memoriam:** Daisy Pangilinan; Cicily Abraham and Abraham Paulose

#### 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)

#### 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.

### WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

#### Part V. OCIA formally RCIA ~ 'Who's who' in the O.C.I.A.?

(CONTD)

- 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.

## 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](mailto:accounts@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au) or (02) 7261 0246.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH MASSES** ~ Our parish celebrates four Masses each weekend. The 10:00am Mass is very popular, and we still have about 30% of seating capacity available at the following Masses: Saturday 5:30 PM, Sunday 8:00 AM, Sunday 5:30 PM We warmly invite parishioners to consider attending these Masses.

**EASTER VIGIL CANDLES** ~ Please note that wax candles cannot be used in the Performance Hall due to venue regulations. Therefore, battery-operated candles will be used during the Easter Vigil. Battery candles are available at the Piety Stall for \$5 each.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** ~ Please note that there will be no Reconciliation on Saturday, 4 April at 4:30 pm; however, Reconciliation will be available on Good Friday, 3 April following the 3:00 pm Service. Additionally, on Saturday, 4 April, the Easter Vigil Mass will be held at 7:00 pm, not 5:30 pm.

**NO THURSDAY 9AM MASS** ~ Please note that there will be no 9:00am Mass on Holy Thursday.

**PARKING DURING HOLY WEEK. MASSES AT PERFORMANCE HALL** ~ Please take note that parking at the Northbourne Drive car park is limited, so parishioners are encouraged to park at the Frontier Avenue car park and walk through the small gate to the performance hall.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS** ~ A gentle reminder that next weekend day light savings ends. (Sunday, 5th April) Clocks go back one hour.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** ~ From Friday, April 3rd and re-open Tuesday, April 7th.

**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.

**WALKING WITH CHRIST** ~ The Walking with Christ Bible Study Group will resume after the Lenten programme on Thursday, 16 April at 7:00 pm in the Old Parish Office. All parishioners are warmly invited to come along and be part of this enriching time of prayer, discussion, and fellowship.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT** ~ A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Weekend Food Stall—whether you cooked, served, donated, or simply came along to enjoy the food. Your generosity and community spirit made it a wonderful success. Together, we raised nearly \$900. All proceeds will go towards our Stage 2 Church Building Project and operational expenses. We are truly grateful for your continued support and look forward to seeing you again at our next stall.

**HELP NEEDED – CHURCH CLEANING** ~ We are looking for volunteers to assist with the church cleaning roster. If you are able to help, please contact the parish office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**CATHOLIC OUTLOOK** ~ The latest edition of Catholic Outlook is now available. Please take a free copy.

**COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY** ~ A collection for the upkeep of the holy sites in Jerusalem will be collected as you leave the Church following the Stations, 10am and the celebration of the Passion of the Lord, 3pm. Thank you for your contribution.

**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.

**ST LUKE'S PARISH IS SEEKING A FUNDRAISING LEAD.** ~ If you are organised, enjoy working with others, and would like to support our parish, especially our Stage 2 Church Building Project. We'd love to hear from you. Please speak to Fr Gayan after Mass or contact the parish office. Thank you for supporting our parish community.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** ~ Join us on Sunday, 12 April, at 3pm in the church to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited, followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Fr Gayan will also be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time.

**PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPS.** ~ Please return your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes to the collection box provided at the church entrance or to the parish office. Your generous contributions help support Caritas Australia's vital programs around the world, providing food, education, and support to communities in need. Thank you for your continued generosity and compassion.

**JRS FOOD DRIVE – A NOTE OF THANKS** ~ Thank you to all who supported the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) Food Drive during the Lenten season. Your generosity has provided essential food and support to refugees and those in need, demonstrating true compassion and solidarity.

## 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.

### COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Our Pastoral Care Team is available to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are sick or unable to attend Mass. If you or someone you know would like to receive Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office:

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

### RECONCILIATION TIMES:

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

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

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



### 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

### YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday. 6.30pm Mass followed by the youth program at 7pm in St Luke's Hub. Next Youth Program: 10th April 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: 11th & 12th 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. On Sunday: 12th April

### WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund. Next 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: 16th April. 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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D)

**CYP GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT WALK | 3 APRIL** ~ The annual Good Friday Night Walk pilgrimage is attended by 1000+ young people from across Western Sydney each year. Beginning late on Good Friday night and continuing into the early hours of Holy Saturday, participants journey together in prayer, reflection and reverence as we retrace the steps of Christ during the Easter Triduum. Registration is compulsory, visit : [parracatholic.org/gfnw](http://parracatholic.org/gfnw) If you are interested in supporting as a volunteer, please contact Sebastian Duhau. [sebastian.duhau@parracatholic.org](mailto:sebastian.duhau@parracatholic.org)  
**YOUTH FOR CHRIST - ENRTY CAMP** ~ Youth for Christ Australia (YFCA) is a

Catholic youth group for teenagers 13-19 years old. YFCA is having an entry camp on April 17-19 at Scout Bundilla Camp, Winston Hills. For inquiries, please contacty Ermi & Ed Acallar 0438 716 510.

**FREE WEEKLY LEGAL CLINIC AT CATHOLIC CARE, EMERTON** ~ Every Thursday from 11 am at Catholic Care (11 Emerton Parade, Emerton) you can visit for FREE legal advice on matters including: Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates and Traffic Offences. Walk-ins are welcome, for more information and to make a booking call 8843 2500.

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**TOP JUICE**



**ADVERTISE IN OUR PARISH BULLETIN ~**

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)

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
*We encourage you to support the advertisers that support us. Please understand that St Luke's Catholic Parish Marsden Park cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.*

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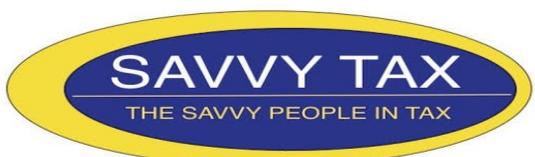
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**Get in touch.**

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