



*St Luke's*  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

8TH MARCH 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A



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

## Sunday Reflection....



Jesus was tired and stopped at a well in Samaria. A woman came to draw water. Usually, Jews didn't speak to Samaritans, and men didn't talk to women in public. Yet, Jesus spoke to her. Right away, we see something amazing: Jesus crosses barriers. He meets people where they are, even those

society ignores.

He asked her for a drink. Simple, ordinary words—but they opened the door to a life-changing conversation. Jesus didn't just want water; He wanted to offer her something deeper. He spoke about "living water," a gift that satisfies your soul forever. The woman thought He meant regular water, but Jesus meant eternal life, joy, and peace that nothing in the world can give.

Jesus didn't judge her past. He knew she had struggles and made mistakes, yet He spoke truth with love. This is the heart of the Gospel: Jesus sees our brokenness but meets us with grace, not shame. When we face Him honestly, He offers forgiveness and a new start.

The woman's heart changed. She ran back to her town, excited to tell others about Jesus. People came to see Him, and many be-

lieved. One person's encounter with Jesus can ripple out to an entire community.

This story teaches us three simple but powerful truths:

- ◆ **Jesus meets us where we are.** He knows our hearts and still reaches out.
- ◆ **Only Jesus satisfies our deepest thirst.** Nothing in life—success, relationships, or money—fills the soul like He does.
- ◆ **Our encounter with Him changes others.** When we experience His love, it overflows into the lives of people around us.

Today, we can ask ourselves: Are we drinking from the world's water or from Jesus' living water? Are we willing to see others with the same grace Jesus showed the woman at the well? Let's drink deeply of His love and share it boldly, because one encounter with Jesus can change everything.

*~ 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 PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf Psalm 24:15-16 ~ My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**First Reading - Exodus 17:3-7** ~ The Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

**Responsorial Psalm—Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8**

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading - Romans 5:1-2. 5-8** ~ Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit

which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Gospel Acclamation - See John 4:42. 15** ~ Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel - Matthew 17:1-9** ~ Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. *(Con't on the back page of bulletin)*

### 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**

**50th Wedding Anniversary:** Rufino and Nemia Oblea.

## 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 inquiries about building fund donations.  
[accounts@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au](mailto:accounts@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au) or (02) 7261 0246.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

**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 this 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!

**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.



**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 on Tuesday and at the presbytery on Wednesday. Thank you for your understanding as workers carry out this important upgrade to sup-

port our parish's sustainability.

**PARISH TOILETS** ~ The toilets have recently been blocked due to hand paper towels being flushed. Please use only toilet paper in the toilets and place all hand paper towels in the bins provided. Please do not leave hand towels outside the bins. Thank you for your cooperation.

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because  
by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

## HOLY WEEK

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup>):**  
Sat Vigil 5.30pm • Sunday 8 AM • 10 AM • 5.30 PM  
(Masses will be in the Church.)

**Holy Thursday (April 2nd):**  
7.00 PM (Performance Hall)

**Good Friday (April 3rd):**  
10.00 AM (Stations of the Cross - Performance Hall)  
3.00 PM (Good Friday Service - Performance Hall)  
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after the 3.00pm service.

**Easter Vigil (April 4th):**  
7.00 PM (Performance Hall)

**Easter Sunday (April 5th):**  
8.00 AM • 10.00 AM • 5.30 PM (Performance Hall)



55A Frontier Avenue  
Marsden Park

# 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: 13th March 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.  
This 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: 12th 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



**SUNDAY LITURGY (CONT'D)**

He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

**Communion Antiphon: John 4:13-14** ~ For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

**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:

Wk 2 - Dishwashing liquid & Wk 3 - Canned tuna (unflavored in oil)

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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**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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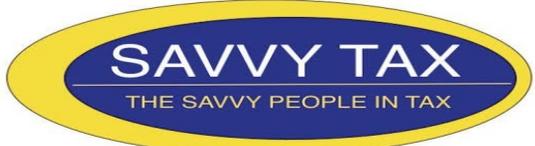
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**Get in touch.**

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