



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

19TH APRIL 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ YEAR A



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

Sunday Reflection....

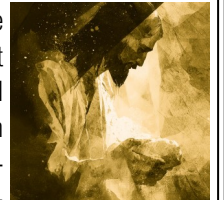
In Gospel of Luke 24:13-35 we see how easily faith can be shaken when life does not unfold as expected. The disciples were walking in disappointment and confusion, unable to understand how things had gone so wrong. Their hopes felt broken, and their understanding of God's plan was clouded.

This reflects our own experience at times. We can pray sincerely, hope deeply, and still find ourselves facing situations that do not make sense. In those moments, it can feel like God is distant. Yet the passage gently shows that God is closer than we realise, even when he is not immediately recognised.

A key turning point comes when the Scriptures are opened. As the Word of God is explained, their understanding begins to shift. They start to see that what seemed like defeat was actually part of God's unfolding plan of salvation. Their hearts begin to burn as truth takes root and hope slowly returns.

This is why the Church places such importance on Scripture in the liturgy. In the Mass, the proclamation of the Word comes first because it prepares the heart. Before we can fully recognise Christ in the sacrament, we are first formed by his Word. Scripture opens our minds so that we can begin to see with faith, not just with human understanding.

Only after this preparation do we come to the breaking of the bread. In the Eucharist, Christ makes himself truly present. What the Word has begun to reveal is brought into fullness in sacramental encounter. The two belong together: the Word leads us, and the Eucharist completes what has been opened in us.



In the Holy Mass, this movement is lived out every time we gather. We are first instructed and shaped by Scripture, and then we are drawn into communion with Christ himself in the Eucharist.

This order is not accidental. God prepares the heart through his Word so that it can recognise him in the breaking of bread. Understanding comes before recognition, and revelation prepares us for encounter.

When this happens, confusion gives way to clarity, and disappointment is transformed into hope. We come to see that Christ has been walking with us all along, leading us gently from understanding to communion. ~ 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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Website: stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook: 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

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

THIRD EASTER SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 65:1-2 ~ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading - Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33 ~ On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11 - (R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:17-21 ~ If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation - See Luke 24:32 ~ Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 24:13-35 ~ Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread. you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon: Luke 24:35 ~ The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

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

ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE~ ANZAC Remembrance will be commemorated at the end of all Masses on the weekend of 25/26 April. We will pause to honour the service and sacrifice of all who have served our country in times of war and peace.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COMMITMENT MASSES ~ The First Holy Communion Commitment Masses will take place on the weekends of 2/3 May and 9/10 May at all Masses. During these Masses, the children preparing for First Holy Communion, together with their parents will make their commitment as they continue their sacramental journey. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this important step in their faith journey.

MOTHER'S DAY VIDEO~ AS A TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHER'S OF OUR COMMUNITY ~ A pictorial tribute will be created to be shown during our Mother's Day Masses. We invite parishioners to submit photos of St Luke's parish mum's no later than 3rd May. This can be send via email to marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

STAGE 2 CHURCH BUILDING FUND – UPDATE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ~ At all Masses on the weekend of 2/3 May, Arvin Joya will acknowledge those who are currently supporting the Stage 2 Church Building Fund. He will also invite new members of the parish community to consider joining the pledge program and will provide a brief update on the financial report. We are grateful for the ongoing generosity and support of our parish community.

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.

SAVE THE DATE ~ Our Parish Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, 25 July 2026 at 7:00pm at the Performance Hall of St Luke's

Catholic College. More details to follow.

NEW CHURCH NOTICE BOARD ~ A new church notice board has been installed outside the main entrance of the church. We thank the parishioner who assisted with this installation and with other general maintenance work around the church. We also acknowledge and thank all those who care for and help maintain the church buildings and grounds. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM ~ The CLP is a 8-session renewal course run by Couples for Christ, designed to renew Christian faith and build stronger family lives. It serves as an entry point into a supportive community, featuring talks, group discussions, and fellowship, focused on Basics of Christianity, Authentic Christian Living, and Life in the Holy Spirit. Start Date: 03 May 2026 130-430PM Venue: St Lukes Catholic College (The HUB) Contact persons: Carlo (0402123152), Cathy J (0413337627)

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

Recently Deceased: John Neish; 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: Milagros Aguilar; Eduardo Pasaquian; Armando Joya; Arsenio Virata Jamir; Rafael Tiotuico; Madeline Ivy Ma-Ambong.

In Memoriam: Daisy Pangilinan; Ciciy 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

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.

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: 8th May 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.
This weekend~ 6th & 7th June 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: 10th May

WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund.
This weekend ~ 18th & 19th April.

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: 30th 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



WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Part V. OCIA formally RCIA ~ Rite of Election

If we think of the Church as a loving relationship between believers, then the Rite of Election is a bit like the later stages of a couple's engagement. At a ceremony held at the diocesan cathedral, at which the bishop presides, the catechumens declare before the Church community their intention to receive baptism at Easter. In turn, the community affirms their readiness to take this step. The catechumen is now referred to as one of 'the elect' and enters into the third stage of the O.C.I.A.: the period of enlightenment. © The Story Source, 1993.



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TOP JUICE



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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

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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