



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

5TH APRIL 2026

EASTER SUNDAY ~ YEAR A



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

Easter Sunday Reflection....

Today we read from John 20:1-9. Mary Magdalene comes to Jesus' tomb and finds it empty. She runs to tell Peter and John. They come and see for themselves. The stone has been rolled away. The tomb, which held death, is now empty.

Right now, our world is full of suffering. Many wars and conflicts continue in different places. People are afraid, families are torn apart, and uncertainty seems everywhere. Life can feel heavy, unfair, and fragile. Like the disciples, we can feel confused and unsure. Sometimes it feels like there is no way forward.

Easter gives us a different message. Jesus suffered and even died, but he rose again. He took on the pain and violence of the world and turned it into love. Like sugar cane, the more he was crushed, the more sweetness came out. His suffering was not wasted. It brought life and hope. It shows us that God can bring good out of even the darkest moments.

The empty tomb reminds us that death, fear, and violence do not win. God's love is stronger. Easter does not pretend suffering does not exist, but it tells us that suffering is not the final word. Just as the tomb could not hold Jesus, nothing can stop God's love from working in the world and in our lives.

Easter calls us to live with hope. It invites us to bring light where there is darkness, to love where there is hatred, and to trust even when life is uncertain. We can let hope guide our steps, even in hard times, and be instruments of God's love to others.



As we celebrate Easter, we remember that God is faithful. The risen Christ is with us in our worries, fears, and struggles. We are invited to follow him, trust his love, and let hope grow in our hearts.

Like the disciples, we see the empty tomb and believe. We are reminded that life, love, and hope are stronger than death and despair. Easter is a new beginning. It is a promise that God's love is alive and at work in our world today.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. ~ Fr Gayan Thamel

The Parish Office will be closed
From Friday, April 3rd and re-open Tuesday, April 7th.

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

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

EASTER SUNDAY ~ YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6 ~ I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.

Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

First Reading - Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43 ~ Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm—Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24 - (R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading - Colossians 3:1-4 ~ Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where

Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation - Philippians 2:8-9 ~ Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 20:1-9 ~ It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had 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: 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 ~ Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

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: Eduardo Pasaquian; 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

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 ~

Why do we have catechists in the catechumenate?

Those preparing to become Catholics meet regularly with parishioners who assist them in their understanding of the scriptures and the traditions and teachings of the Church. The role of these catechists is more than one of imparting information. It is a role of listening to the unique questions and issues faced by each individual and encouraging each to discern the action of the Holy Spirit in his/her life. The work of these catechists is supported by the priest and other parishioners such as sponsors, friends and relatives of the catechumens.

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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

WEEKEND MASSES – BACK IN THE CHURCH ~ Our Easter celebrations in the school's Performance Hall have concluded. From next week onwards, weekend Masses will return to their usual setting in the Church. The 10:00am Mass is very popular, but there is still approximately 30% seating capacity available at the following Masses: Saturday Vigil – 5:30pm, Sunday – 8:00am and 5:30pm. We invite parishioners to consider attending these Masses.

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.

PRAYER MINISTRY ~ Next weekend at all Masses, members of our Parish Prayer Ministry Team will be available to pray with you and for your intentions.

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.

LUKE 18 - YOUTH PROGRAM ~ We invite all youths between the aged between 11 years old and 18 to our next youth night on Friday 10th April. We kindly ask all parents / guardians to arrive with their child between 6.15pm and 6.30pm to all time for sign ins before Mass starts at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY~ CELEBRATE ST LUKE'S 8TH FOUNDING

ANNIVERSARY ~ We warmly invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating St Luke's 8th Founding Anniversary with a joyful International Food Day! Date: Sunday, 12 April 2026 Time: After 10 AM Mass Please bring a plate to share — a dish from your culture or country of origin — as we come together to enjoy the wonderful diversity of our parish fami-

ly. Let's celebrate with food, fellowship, and thanksgiving! All are welcome. Feel free to wear cultural attire and invite friends and family to join in the celebration.

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 or by scanning the QR code displayed or by logging onto the link: <https://forms.gle/4kd4F5Hu5TLuVJ9XA>



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.

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.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES ~ The Easter offering envelopes available at the welcome table. The Easter offering envelopes go to the support of priests throughout the diocese. This includes priests who are active in ministry and those who have retired. Your generosity is appreciated.

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.

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)

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 sup-

ported 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.

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.

COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

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

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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