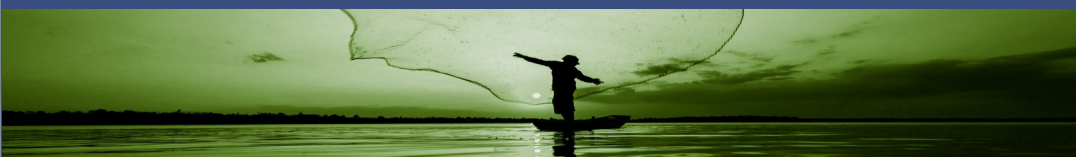




WEEKLY BULLETIN

26TH JULY 2026

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



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

Sunday Connection....

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered:

this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

Family Connection....

Like the person who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price, we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God's kingdom in our actions and in our words. We pray that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

As you gather as a family, talk about what your family values. Make a list together of those things that your family considers most important, such as family, friends, faith, trust, and love. Place this list before you as you read today's Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:44-46. In these parables, Jesus teaches us that it is worth giving up even valuable things in order to possess the kingdom of heaven. Look at the list your family made and talk about how these things are important to the kingdom of heaven. What has your family given up to make these values important in your life? As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Pray together for God's kingdom by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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CONTACT US

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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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36 ~ God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:5.7-12 ~ The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm ~ Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97
R.) Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading - Romans 8:28-30

~ We know that by turning everything to their good God co-

operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation ~ Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 13:44-46

(Shorter Form) ~ Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 102:2

~ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.



COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

Recently Deceased: Generosa Magdaraog; Emily Rudd, Annie Bateria.

Death Anniversary: Randolph Gunasekara (1st Yr); Catherine Tolmie (1st Yr); Joe Menezes; Hazel Rebello (4th Yr); Christopher Dimagmaliw.

In Memoriam: Mr & Mrs Sammut; Anthony Xureb; Valerio Callus & Lawrence Monteiro

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: Noorul Ayn Hazeera Zavahir; Tony Duggan; Mila Makasini; Annabelle Edwards Amor Matulac & Tony Yu.

IMPORTANT DINNER DANCE NOTICE

If you are joining us for the Dinner Dance following the Saturday Vigil Mass, please note that the Frontier Carpark will close after the Mass. You are encouraged to move your vehicle to the Northbourne Carpark, which will open from 6:30 PM.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

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 or (02) 7261 0246.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS 2026 – SPECIAL OFFER ~ God's Word Daily Reflections 2026 is now available at half price – only \$12 per copy. This beautifully prepared resource provides the daily Mass readings and reflections, offering an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and a deeper engagement with God's Word throughout the year. Limited stocks are available. Copies can be purchased after Mass or from the Parish Office. We encourage parishioners to take advantage of this special offer while copies are still available.

ADULT CONFIRMATION – The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates 16 years old and above interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. For more information and to enroll into the process, please contact the parish office.

FIRST SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ~The First Sacrament of Reconciliation commitment Masses will continue this weekend 25/26 July at all Masses. Lessons will continue following the commitment Masses. The Sacrament will be celebrated on 12 August. Please keep the families and children in your prayers.

PARKING REMINDER ~ For the safety of everyone attending our parish, we kindly remind parishioners that the church driveway is a designated drop-off and pick-up zone only. Please do not park or leave your vehicle in the driveway, as it must remain clear at all times to allow access for emergency vehicles if needed. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration in helping to keep our parish safe.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & BENEDICTION ~ Beginning Friday, 7 August, St Luke's Parish will celebrate First Friday Mass followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Friday of each month. All parishioners are warmly invited to remain after Mass for this beautiful devotion, offering prayers of thanksgiving, reparation, and petition before the Blessed Sacrament. Come and spend some time with the Lord, renewing your faith and deepening your relationship with Him. *"Be still and know that I am God."* — Psalm 46:10

OCIA (ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) TEAM UPDATE-

We sincerely thank Tessie and James for their generous dedication and faithful service to our OCIA ministry in the parish. Their support and guidance have helped many people on their journey of faith, and we are deeply grateful for all they have contributed to our parish. After serving faithfully in this ministry, Tessie and James will be stepping down from their roles. We warmly welcome Neng and Em, who have generously accepted the role of leading our OCIA ministry. We thank them for their willingness to serve and look forward to the gifts and commitment they will bring to this important ministry. If you feel called to be part of the OCIA ministry as a support person, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Neng and Emm, for more information. Please keep our outgoing and incoming OCIA team members in your prayers as they continue to serve the faith journey of our parish community.

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: 7th August 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

MORNING TEA:

Every 2nd Sunday after 10.00am Mass.
This Weekend: 9th August

WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund.
Next Food Stall ~ 15th & 16th August.



PRAYER MINISTRY:

1st weekend every 2nd month.

Next Weekend~ 1st & 2nd August 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.



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: 6th August. 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



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Our physical spaces are maintained and used in a way where all children and adults at risk feel safe to participate in Diocesan and Parish liturgies and activities.

BE THE WITNESS - THE MUSICAL



Over the past few months, the chorus of Be The Witness has visited parishes across the Diocese, sharing a glimpse of this powerful Catholic musical. Now the full production is coming to Riverside Theatres Parramatta from 10–13 September 2026. Be The Witness brings the story of Jesus to life through the eyes of St Peter, using music, drama and storytelling to create a moving encounter of faith, hope and witness. **We've extended our Special Group Booking Offer for all parishes within the Parramatta Diocese**, and we hope your parish ministries, youth groups, and families can benefit from this opportunity. Groups of 50 receive around 20% off standard tickets, plus one complimentary ticket for the parish priest. Bring your parish group, ministry, family or friends. Scan the QR code to book your group!



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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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For every client we successfully help, we will donate a portion to the church.

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At Gold Disability Services, we are dedicated to empowering individuals with diverse needs. Our passion is to provide personalized support that helps you achieve your unique NDIS goals, whether that's increasing independence, engaging with your community, or pursuing other aspirations.

By partnering with us, you can trust that you'll receive customized support that honors your individuality and fosters meaningful progress toward your goals.

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GOLD DISABILITY SERVICES