



WEEKLY BULLETIN

23RD AUGUST 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



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

Sunday Reflection....

Today Jesus asks His disciples a simple but very deep question: "Who do you say I am?" Peter answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is the right answer. But Jesus knows that Peter and the others still do not understand what that answer really means.

That is why, after this, Jesus gives them a strict order not to tell anyone that He is the Christ. At first, this seems strange. If Jesus came to save everyone, why tell His disciples to keep quiet?

Because Jesus does not want people to have a wrong idea about Him.

Many people expected the Messiah to be powerful, successful and victorious. But Jesus was going to show that His way was different. He would suffer, serve, give His life and rise again. The disciples needed to understand this before they could truly proclaim Him.

There is an important lesson here for us. **It is possible to know the right words about Jesus without really understanding Jesus.** Peter could say, "You are the Christ," but he still had to learn what kind of Christ Jesus was.

Faith is not simply knowing the answer. Faith is allowing that answer to change our lives.

If Jesus is truly the Christ, then He must affect how we forgive, how we love, how we serve, and how we respond when life becomes

difficult. Jesus asks the same question of us today: "Who do you say I am?" Our answer should not only come from our lips. It should be seen in the way we live.

God Bless ~ Fr Gayan Thamel

Seniors Group
SEE PAGE 3

YOUTH Group
SEE PAGE 3

Friday, 28th August 2026
6:30pm-9:00pm
55 Frontier Ave, Marsden Park

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 85:1-3 ~ Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading - Isaiah 22:19-23 ~ Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm ~ Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading - Romans 11:33-36 ~ Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.



Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 16:18 ~ Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20 ~ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 103:13-15 ~ The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

Recently Deceased: Rodolfo Valdepena Sr.; cMaria Teresa Resurreccion, Fr Eugene Stockton & Generosa Magdaraog.

Death Anniversary: Perla Reyes, Romeo Susi, Rosalito Trucilla & Fausta Dela Cruz.

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

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.

STEWARDSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

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.



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3. Enter your name and your email address



Once you have registered as a user you may access the content.

AFRICAN MASS 2026

Date: Sunday 27 September 2026 **Time:** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Principal Celebrant: Very Rev Peter Williams AM, Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia **Venue:** Mary, Queen of the Family Parish (St Patrick's Church), 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

Refreshments and entertainment will be provided after Mass.

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE

(TLC) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend, along with some merchandise items. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 17 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets with ten prizes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION~ From this weekend of 22/23 August, the choir members will receive Holy Communion first, before the congregation.

OCIA – ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ~ The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) will begin on Tuesday, 1 September, at 7:00 pm in the parish office. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, or if you know someone who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith and explore becoming Catholic, we invite you to attend the Inquiry Night.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026–2028~ Over recent months, a small working group from the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has been reviewing and refining our Parish Pastoral Plan. This is not a new plan for our parish. Rather, the working group has built on the work already undertaken, refining our priorities, adding new initiatives and extending the plan through to 2028. This also ensures that our parish direction is aligned with the Diocese of Parramatta's Pastoral Plan. The Parish Pastoral Plan 2026–2028 will be officially launched on the weekend of 5/6 September. After the launch, The plan will be available on our parish website. We warmly invite all parishioners to visit the website, read through the plan and become familiar with our pastoral priorities and vision for the coming years.

PARISH DINNER DANCE FEATURED IN CATHOLIC OUTLOOK

Our Parish Dinner Dance was recently featured in Catholic Outlook. The article highlights the event and the support of our parish community. Click the link below to read the full article.

<https://bit.ly/4qne5sh> Or Scan the QR Code.



LUKE 18~ We invite students from our parish in Year 4 to Year 12 to attend our next youth program on Friday 28th August from 6.30pm. For further information please see our youth flyers available after Mass.

SENIORS GROUP ~ We're looking at starting a Seniors Group at our parish—a welcoming place to connect, make new friends, and enjoy fellowship together. If you're interested, please complete the questionnaire forms available at the welcome table or contact the Parish Office.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY UPDATE ~ A sincere thank you to Aleta Dela Cruz our outgoing Hospitality Lead, for her time, dedication and service to our parish community. We are very grateful for all that she has done in welcoming and supporting our parishioners. We warmly welcome Amy Tantiangco as our incoming Hospitality Lead. Thank you, Amy, for accepting this role and for your willingness to serve our parish community. Please keep both Aleta and Amy in your prayers.

PARISH CUPPA ~ From September, we are trialling the Parish Cuppa at different Masses to give more parishioners the opportunity to come together, enjoy a cuppa and spend time getting to know one another. As a trial for September, October and November, the Parish Cuppa will be held after a different Mass each month:

September: After the 5.30pm Saturday Mass

October: After the 10.00am Sunday Mass

November: After the 5.30pm Sunday Mass

We hope this trial will allow more members of our parish community to take part. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa, some refreshments and good company.

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: 28th 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

PARISH CUPPA:

Every 2nd weekend.
Next Date: 12th September -
After 5.30pm Mass

WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund.
Next Weekend ~ 29th & 30th August.



PRAYER MINISTRY:

1st weekend every 2nd month.

This Weekend~ 3rd & 4th October 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: 3rd September. Looking for space to grow in faith, explore Scripture, and walk with others in our parish community? Come and join us! For more infor-



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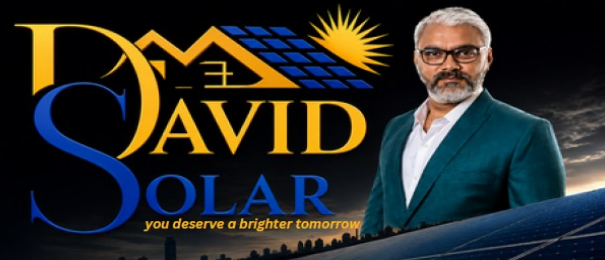


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