



WEEKLY BULLETIN

30TH AUGUST 2026

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



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

Sunday Reflection....

Jesus says something difficult in today's Gospel: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Peter had just recognised Jesus as the Messiah. He expected the Messiah to bring victory, strength and success. But when Jesus speaks about suffering and the cross, Peter cannot accept it. He wants a Messiah without suffering.

Perhaps we can understand Peter because we often do the same. We want God to bless our plans, protect us from difficulties and make life work according to our expectations. But following Jesus is not simply about asking God to support the life we have already chosen. It is about allowing Jesus to reshape the life we are living.

Jesus says, "Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it." This sounds like a contradiction. Yet we know it is true. When life becomes centred only on ourselves—our comfort, reputation, success or being in control—we can gain many things and still feel empty.

Sometimes the cross comes through forgiving someone when we would rather hold on to resentment, serving when nobody notices, giving when it costs us, or remaining faithful when things do not go as we hoped.

The Christian life is not about avoiding every cross. It is about discovering that when we walk with Christ through the cross, we do not walk alone. The path of surrender becomes the path to true freedom and life.

God Bless ~ Fr Gayan Thamel

FATHER'S DAY NEXT WEEKEND!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL

— Next weekend 5-6 September, the annual Bishop's Father's Day appeal will take place. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside. This appeal supports all the retired priests of the Diocese, and your donations are very much appreciated.



ST LUKE'S TRIBUTE TO FATHERS

The parish is putting together a Father's Day Tribute Video for all the St. Luke's Dad's.

We kindly invite families to email a photo of their Father's to feature in this video **by Monday evening (31st August)**.

Please Email it to: admin@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au (Please ensure the name of the Dad in the photograph is also included).

CONTACT US

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Email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 85:3,5 ~ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading - Jeremiah 20:7-9 ~ You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm ~ Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2 R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading - Romans 12:1-2 ~ Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation: See Ephesians 1:17-18

~ Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 16:21-27 ~ Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 30:20 ~ How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

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

Death Anniversary: Jose Mayang; John Wright (1st Death Anniversary); Belen Tiotuico; Perla Reyes, Romeo Susi, Rosalito Trucilla Luiza Machado & 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.

THANK YOU FROM (TLC)

(Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC)) would like to thank the Parish for their generous support of the raffle tickets sale last week. All proceeds directly support their free legal Clinic which provides free legal advice to the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of Western Sydney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ~ 65 candidates from our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, 11 September at 7.00pm in the Performance Hall. Please keep our candidates and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this important celebration.

CHANGE OF FRIDAY MASS TIME ~ Please note that there will be no 6.30pm Mass in the church on Friday, 11 September, due to the Confirmation Mass at 7.00pm in the Performance Hall.

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 next weekend (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.



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

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:

12 September: After the 5.30pm Saturday Mass

18 October: After the 10.00am Sunday Mass

8 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.

PARISH FOOD STALL ~ The Weekend Food Stall will be open after our Saturday Vigil Mass and after the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. Cash and card payments are accepted. All proceeds will support our Stage 2 Church Building Fund and parish operational costs. Thank you for your continued support 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: 18th September 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: 5th 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-



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to synodality where all people, including adults at risk are involved in discussions and communications about safeguarding practices to ensure we are a humble and healing church.

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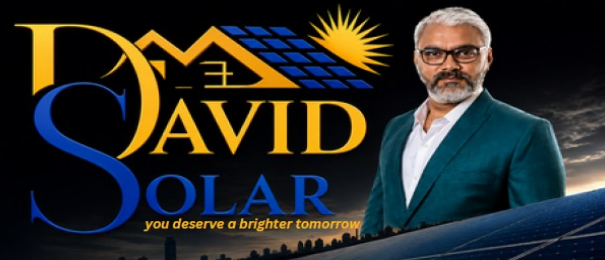


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At Gold Disability Services, we are dedicated to empowering individuals with diverse needs. Our passion is to provide personalized support that helps you achieve your unique NDIS goals, whether that's increasing independence, engaging with your community,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

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