St Luke's CATHOLIC PARISH MARSDEN PARK

WEEKLY BULLETIN

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

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

29th NOVEMBER 2026 — First Sunday of Advent Year B

Sunday Reflection

"Stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

One of the interesting things about this Gospel is that Jesus does not tell us when he will return. Instead, he tells us to stay awake. Perhaps this is because the greatest danger in our spiritual life is not always rejecting God, but gradually living as though we do not really need him.

We can become so absorbed in the ordinary business of life that we forget that our lives belong to God. We make plans, build our futures and try to keep everything under control. There is nothing wrong with these things. But sometimes we live as though everything depends on us and forget that we are not the masters of our own lives.

Jesus uses the image of a master who leaves his house and puts his servants in charge. The house does not belong to the servants. It has been entrusted to them. This is also how we should understand our lives. Our time, our gifts, our relationships and even our opportunities are gifts entrusted to us by God.

Advent begins by reminding us of this truth. We are not the owners of our lives; we are people waiting for the Lord. And that changes the way we live.

Perhaps staying awake means learning to live with God at the centre, rather than making him an occasional part of our lives. It means recognising his presence, listening to his Word and allowing him to shape our decisions. As we begin Advent, the question is not simply whether we are ready for Christmas, but whether we are ready for Christ.

- God Bless! Fr Gayan Thamel



CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Gayan Thamel.
Email: gayan.thamel@parracatholic.org
Parish Secretary: Gerald "Ged" Oblea
Phone: (02) 7261-0246.
Mobile: 0422 724 160.
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".*

St Luke's Catholic College

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 PARISH MARSDEN PARK

LITURGY OF THE WORD
First Sunday of Advent Year B

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 24:1-3: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 ~ You, Lord, yourself are our Father,Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4
(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9~May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation: Psalm 84:8~ Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37~ Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 84:13~ The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

Recently Deceased: Mark Raymond Nuguid; Saturnino Butic Guimbatan Sr.; Benjamin Indolos; Elsie Clemmet; Sylvia Talam; Victoria Susanti Setiadi.

Death Anniversary: Fe Alegado (2nd Year); Suzy Welikala -(5th Year) Josie DeLosTrino Mateo (1st Year); Nimal Fonseka; Magdelena dela Cruz; Josie Bulaong.

In Memoriam: Ruben Valencia Jr.

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. ***Email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org***

We pray for those in our Community who are sick:
Armi Llanos; Noorul Ayn; Hazeera Zavahir; Tony Duggan; Mila Makasini & Tony Yu.

FORMED ~ *Free Resource*

FREE access to Formed, an outstanding Catholic online resource. Formed offers Bible studies, faith formation programs, talks, movies, children's content, and many other resources to help you grow in your faith and deepen your relationship with Christ. We invite all parishioners to create a free account by following the registration steps below and take advantage of this wonderful resource. To gain access to all of FORMED's content, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to signup.formed.org or formed.org/parishes or scan QR code displayed. *Scan Me....*

2. Enter the parish name or Postcode "St Luke's" or 2765

3. Enter your name and your email address. Once you have registered as a user you may access the content.

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 inquires about building fund donations. accounts@stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au or (02) 7261 0246.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT PROGRAMME ~As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we invite all parishioners to participate in our Advent Programme, which will continue this Tuesday 1st December at 7:00 pm in the School Hub. During these gatherings, we will come together to reflect on the Sunday Gospel, share our faith and deepen our spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. All parishioners are warmly invited to join on this journey of prayer and reflection.

ALTAR SERVERS – END-OF-YEAR GATHERING ~ All current altar servers are invited to an end-of-year gathering on Wednesday, 9 December, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the School Hub. Children who have received their First Holy Communion and would like to become altar servers are also warmly invited to attend the gathering.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2027 ~ Would you like to become a Minister at the Altar, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or Reader in our parish? Diocesan training sessions will be starting in February 2027 in Blacktown and Penrith.
Please download and complete the enrolment form using the following link: bit.ly/4hEOLtM or scan the QR code and send it to the Parish Office for Fr Gayan to sign.

Scan Me....

BISHOPS GOOD WORKS APPEAL – NEXT WEEKEND ~ Our Parish will be supporting the Catholic Care's Houses to Homes appeal for safe transitional housing for young mothers who are homeless or in risk of homelessness. Giving envelopes will be available on the church seats next weekend. All donations over $2 to this appeal are tax deductable.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS ~ Christmas raffle tickets will be available for purchase this & next weekend. Tickets can be purchased through ministry leaders, after Mass, or online. There are great prizes to be won! We warmly encourage everyone to support the raffle.
Thank you for your generosity!
Tickets can be purchased by using the QR Code or by the following link: http://bit.ly/3Um

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NO MASS – 4 DECEMBER~ Please note that there will be no Friday Mass on 4 December due to our Parish and School Christmas Carols event.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH ~ As part of our Christmas outreach, we invite parishioners to share the spirit of giving by donating non-perishable food items and essentials to support the work of Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS). Donation boxes will be available at the entrance to the church from the weekend of 28/29 November. We warmly encourage everyone to contribute whatever they can. Every donation, no matter how small, can make a difference in someone's life.
The list of items that are invited to be donated can be found by following this link bit.ly/4jpQzZz or scanning the QR Code.
Thank you once again for your on going generosity.

Scan Me....

OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS! ~ Congratulations to Fr Jeff Hood, Fr Luke Huynh and Fr Paul Tran, ordained last Tuesday in a moving liturgy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. We give thanks to God for the gift of their vocations and we pray for God's blessings for their priestly ministry.

OUR 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 & Benediction – The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated during the 6.30pm Mass on the First Friday of each month, followed by Benediction.

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. (Ages 5-10).

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. Christmas Party: 11th Dec 2026. 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 Year: Saturday 13th February 2027 - After the 5.30pm Mass

WEEKEND FOOD STALL: Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund. rETURNS IN 2027.

PRAYER MINISTRY: 1st weekend every 2nd month. Next Weekend~ 5th & 6th December 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 church.

WALKING WITH CHRIST: Fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Parish Office. Next session: February 2027. During the season of Advent, Walking with Christ will take place every Tuesday, starting on 24th November, at 7.00 pm in the School Hub. Come and join us! For more information email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

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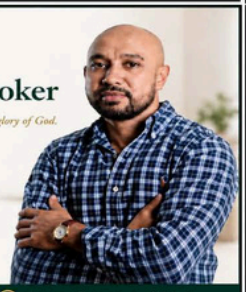

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