

First Reading

Is 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for
joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:7-10

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second reading

Jas 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel

Mk 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



Reflection: by Dianne Bergant CSS

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world. There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.



Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

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16 September – 24th Sunday in Ord Time

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers: Reyes family

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Yanisha Rodrigo, Feba Abby, Jessica Thompson

Readers: Elvie & Bobs Reyes, Kath Bullas, Genesis Raymundo

Eucharistic Min: Marietta

Hospitality: Volunteer needed

Children's Liturgy: Sindhu Tholath

If you are not able to fulfil your ministry role, or if you would like to volunteer for a vacant role, please email marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

**We welcome this week as our
Celebrant: Fr Greg from Emerton**

OUR COMMUNITY PRAYER

O God

You show us in St Luke, our patron, a person of faith who desired all people to come to know and love you in the community of your Church. Teach us to embrace what St Luke pioneered: discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Trusting in your love and grace and nourished by Word and Sacrament may we grow in our relationship with you and together make our Catholic Faith Community a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Luke, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ON REQUEST –
PLEASE SEE ACOLYTE BEFORE MASS**

Plenary Council 2020

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: *"What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"* Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website, now online:
www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Plenary 2020 Information and Training

Learn about the Australian Catholic Bishops Plenary Council's impact on you. Receive support to share the Plenary invitation with parish, friends and family.

20 September, 7pm-9.30pm, Parramatta Cathedral Hall

29 September, 10am-12.30pm, St Thomas Aquinas Springwood School Hall (168 Hawkesbury Rd)

29 September, 2pm-4.30pm, Emu Plains School Hall (17 Troy Street)

RSVP: 8838 3460

marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org

St Vincent de Paul DROUGHT APPEAL

Help support struggling rural communities facing tough drought conditions. Help individuals and communities across NSW.

Donations can be made by calling 13 18 12, www.vinnies.org.au/drought or at any local Vinnies Shop.

**Lawn and Garden Services: Help
CatholicCare to Help Disabled Workers**

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains (CatholicCare) is the diocesan social services organisation. Our Mamre Garden Services employed disabled people in a lawn and garden service lawns for both residential and commercial clients. There is a Garden Crew Supervisor. You will not be disappointed with the quality of the work. If you're interested in having your lawns and/or gardens serviced by CatholicCare or would like more information, please contact 02 8843 2500 or visit our website www.ccss.org.au

Dad's Support Group: 11 September

D.A.D.S MyTime Group is a group aiming to connect fathers and other male carers of children with a disability, developmental delay, ASD or a chronic illness to a support network of other fathers, helping the whole family. This is a free, government funded service. 7pm – 9pm at St Margaret Mary's Parish Centre, 5 Chetwynd Rd, Merrylands. Call 0438 878 355 for more information or visit playgroupnsw.org.au or mytime.net.au. Tea & Coffee provided.

Jesuit Mission Indian Bazaar: 15 September

Everyone is welcome on Sat 15th September at St Ignatius' College, Riverview for the "Indian Bazaar". Come to the fundraiser which supports work for the Jesuit Mission. It is a fabulous day catering to young and old, (worth the drive to Lane Cove!). For more information, to order ride tickets, take away Curries, or other food go to www.jesuitmission.org.au/indian-bazaar/

Social Justice Sunday: 30 September

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September. This year, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land'. The Statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499.

Adult Confirmation for 2018

Adult Confirmation for 2018 will be held on Friday 12 October, 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Any adult over 16 years of age wanting to be confirmed please see your Parish Office for information. Alternatively, you can contact The Office for Worship on 02 8838 3456 or ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org

Save the Date - Liturgy Conference 2018

Date: 10 November 2018. Keynote Speaker: Fr Peter Williams Vicar General from the Diocese of Parramatta. Workshops: Singing the Psalms, RCIA ritual & symbols, Training Junior Altar Servers and Music and Prayer in the Classroom. Tickets are now on sale. For tickets and a full list of workshops go to parracatholic.org/liturgyconference2018. Cost \$30 - includes lunch.

Natural Fertility Services

To learn more about Natural Family Planning in the Diocese of Parramatta contact 02 8838 3460 or nfs@parracatholic.org or catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or www.parralmf.org.au/nfs

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse

This is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26 – 31 2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftoGraceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.griefftoGrace.org

Can you support St Luke's to grow?

St Luke's Catholic Faith Community is Australia's newest Catholic worshipping community. Please consider helping us with your time and talents by volunteering for one of our many ministries. And please support us by sharing some of your treasure through our giving program to help facilitate our weekly worship and form part of the foundation of a future church building. You can find donation envelopes

SUNDAY MASS

Every Sunday 10.00am in The Hub

St Luke's Catholic College (Enter via Frontier Ave Marsden Park)

CONTACT US

Pastoral Director: Deacon Tony Hoban

Phone: (02) 8605 2623

Email:

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

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Postal Address: PO Box 85,
Plumpton NSW 2761

SCHOOL ENQUIRIES: 9854 3100

www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au



Sunday, September 9, 2018

23rd Sunday in Ordinary
time

on the Welcome Table in the foyer Sunday.
Please pass these to Dcn Tony or include
them on one of the collections during Mass.