

OUR VISION:

“WE ARE CONTINUALLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO ST LUKE’S AND EVERYONE WHO COMMITS TO BEING A MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY IS TRANSFORMED IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIFE BY HAVING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.”

First Reading

Zep 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second reading

Phil 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel

Lk 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came

for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’ A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.



Reflection: The approach of Christmas Yes, in case you hadn’t noticed, it is only nine more sleeps until Christmas! Amidst the last-minute shopping for presents and food it can be hard to take time to appreciate the reason why this Season even exists. Its origin and real power come from the birth of a baby. A baby born to a poor couple of ‘middle-eastern appearance’ with no real stature in their own society. A baby who would become a refugee in another land not long after his birth, due to persecution in his own country.



It is a sobering thought that if Jesus had been born in 2018 and his family had sought to travel not to Egypt but to Australia for refuge, they would most likely have been turned away. That shows we have some way to go as a nation in being people living the Gospel values. The baby who is the reason for this season continually calls us to embrace his ways of love, inclusion, tolerance, peace, justice and compassion. May we take time in the lead up to Christmas to pray that Jesus helps instil more deeply these values within us.

- Deacon Tony
Pastoral Director

23rd December – 4th Sunday Advent

MINISTRY ROSTER

- Welcomers: Volunteer needed
- Acolyte: Volunteer needed
- Servers: Jessica Thompson
- Readers: Lavanya Ambrose, Quintina Reyes, Aileen Sebastian
- Eucharistic Min: Volunteer needed
- Hospitality: Volunteers needed

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 Dado

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

National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

The Prime Minister of Australia and the Leader of the Opposition delivered the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse on Monday 22 October at Parliament House, Canberra. A response from the Diocese of Parramatta can be found here: <https://parracatholic.org/national-apology/>

Time is running out for Plenary Council 2020

Submissions to Plenary Council 2020 close on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019. YOUR voice matters! Make a personal submission now or join a small group. Our question is for everyone: "What you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" To make a submission or to find out more visit: <https://parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/>

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Homeless Young Mothers in our Diocese

CatholicCare's Houses to Homes service, supported by Parramatta Catholic Foundation, gives hope, help, compassion, care and shelter to homeless young mums who have nowhere and nobody else to turn to. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will support the shelter, independent living and parenting skills programs that homeless mums desperately need. Please give generously via the appeal envelopes on the pews or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

St Patrick's Gift Shop

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is bringing Christmas cheer by opening an on-site gift shop. Opening hours will be 10am – 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,

Friday and Sunday. For more information visit: <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>

Christmas at St Finbars, Glenbrook: 16 December

Music and Readings for Christmas. Service commences at 7.30pm. 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook. Donation (\$15/\$35 Families). For more information please call 02 4758 6067.

Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta: 17 December

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Concert. Tickets via www.brandenburg.com.au/ – More details at: <https://stpatscathedral.com.au>

Rosary Group gathering: 29 December

On the last Saturday of each month the local Rosary group meet for prayer and food! This month it will be held at the new St Luke's office at 2 Springdale St, starting at 7:30pm. For further information call 8605 2623 or email marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Christmas Mass Times for St Luke's

24th December: Join Bishop Vincent Long as celebrant for Mass at 7.00pm.
25th December: 10.00am Mass.

Christmas 2018 Mass Times for the Diocese

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: www.parracatholic.org

Local Reconciliation Times:

Good Shepherd
– Every Sat 11.00am-12.00pm
Mary Immaculate
– Every Sat 4.00-5.00pm
Mon 17th 6.00-7.00pm
St John the Evangelist
– Fri 21st 10-11am
Sat 22nd 10-11am & 4-5.30pm
St Matthew's – Every Sat 9.30am

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 2019: Thirsting for Justice

A wonderful opportunity for a faith formation experience for parishioners, leaders, teachers, catechists ... all people in ministry and all people who would like to enrich their faith! Join this pilgrimage group to attend the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 18-30 March 2019. Cost of pilgrimage \$4350 for 12 days with some additional expenses. Please contact Lisa Bright on 9622 1125 for information or lbright@mqofblacktown.org.au

Walk the Camino Portugués

Walk the Camino Portugués. Catholic Mission are holding 17-day Pilgrimages: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues>

NAPPA Conference 2019 – Early Bird

The NAPPA Conference will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2019. At this time we simply want to offer a courtesy reminder that our "Early Bird" discount offer closes on the 17 December 2018. You can register at: www.nappa2019.wixsite.com/conference or contact Tanya Quinn on 8838 3441.

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



SUNDAY MASS

Every Sunday 10.00am in The Hub

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

CONTACT US

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