

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

Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, ‘Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness’. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second reading

Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ

Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel

Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation
of God.

Reflection: A big event for our community

Our Christmas Carols and Nativity Play (this coming Friday from 6pm to 8pm at St Luke’s Catholic College) is a key event for our St Luke’s community. It is a joint event between the faith community and learning community but one which is open to all people in our local community. As such, it is an event that is likely to attract both Catholics and non-Catholics.



It is an evangelising opportunity to highlight the significance of the arrival of Jesus into our world. An event which transformed and forever changed the world. So, thank you to those people who have volunteered to offer support in running the event. Some people are estimating that as many as 1000 people might attend. If so, we will need a lot of helpers. So, if you are free to arrive early (anytime from 4.30pm on), please do so and give us a hand with food, selling booklets and other items, and with safety warden duties. I hope this is a wonderfully successful occasion and something which will become an annual event in our community.

- Deacon Tony
Pastoral Director

16th December – 3rd Sund of Advent

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers: Volunteer needed

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Rohit Joseph

Readers: Luanshya Naidoo

Eucharistic Min: Volunteer needed

Hospitality: Volunteers needed

Children’s Liturgy: Julie Preston, Annette Hoban, Lavanya Ambrose

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 Ruben from Quakers Hill**

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/>

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

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

Family Christmas celebration in Marsden Park: 14 December



All Welcome! Join our Catholic Faith community, in conjunction with St Luke's Catholic College, on Friday 14th December 6.00-8.00pm for Christmas Carols and a Nativity play. There will be LIVE animals, BBQ food and drinks available for purchase, and a possible visit from Santa (if he's not too busy!) Entry via Frontier Avenue carpark.

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 or
lbright@mqofblacktown.org.au for an information pack.

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.



*Preparing for the
Christmas Season*

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

Website: stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark

Address: 2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address: PO Box 85, Plumpton NSW 2761

SCHOOL ENQUIRIES: 9854 3100

www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au