

**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**

Sir 27:4-7

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man’s words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16

*Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.*

**Second reading**

1 Cor 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord’s work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

**Gospel**

Lk 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, ‘Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother’s eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, “Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye,” when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly

enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother’s eye.

‘There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man’s words flow out of what fills his heart.’

**Reflection:**

There is really no issue that I could reflect on this week other than the conviction of the former Archbishop of Sydney, George Pell, of horrendous child sexual abuse offences. Like most of you, Annette and I are parents, and the safety and protection of our children is paramount to us – even though our children are now in their 20’s. I can only say that the events of this week have left me feeling sick in the stomach, appalled and feeling deep sorrow for the victims. I feel for the damage done to young lives and the wounds that have now been carried for decades by one victim and carried to the grave by another. For the terrible abuse of a position of trust. For the damage done to the Church that we love. For the betrayal of the command of Jesus Christ to protect the little ones above all. Perhaps you are also feeling sick and numb. Perhaps you are questioning your engagement with the Church. This is all totally understandable. I can only offer you these personal thoughts that I have, as I grapple with my own response to such horrendous news:

\* The Church is not George Pell or any priest or bishop or even the Pope. The Church is every one of us who has been Baptised and desires to be a part of the ‘Body of Christ.’

\* The wrongs of one person, no matter how senior their role, or many people, no matter how senior their roles, do not cancel out the message and gifts of Christ.

\* We don’t leave Jesus because of Judas. I offer that if anyone in our community would like to talk to myself or Annette about concerns you have in light of these



events to please call me. We can’t promise that we can do anything, but we will listen with compassion and care. My personal mobile number is 0438 987 357. (I do advise that I will be involved in a prison ministry program this week that will require me to be away from my phone most of the day from Monday to Thursday inclusive. However, I will return every call outside these hours.) Please continue to pray for the victims of sexual abuse and voice your concerns to myself, Bishop Vincent or any other people in the Church.

- Deacon Tony Hoban
- Pastoral Director

10<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers: Dominiqu & Gabrielle de Guzman

Hospitality: Couples for Christ

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Jessica, Feba, Denver Remo

Readers: Gary & Monique de Guzman

Eucharistic Min: Arvin Joya

Children’s Liturgy: Cristina, Sinta, Annette

**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](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)**

**We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr John Hogan**

## 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**

## 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/>

## Ash Wednesday: 6 March

On Ash Wednesday members of St Luke's Catholic Faith Community are welcome to attend a liturgy at St Luke's Catholic College at 11am.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times at Good Shepherd, Plumpton: 6am, 9am, 7:30pm.

## Mount St Benedict: 9 March

Mount St Benedict Centre invites you to the last ever Lenten Reflection day prior to the closure of the Centre. The day will include input, time for reflection and conversation on scripture and the themes of Lent in conversation with contemporary issues and spirituality. Saturday 9 March 10am-3pm. Facilitators Sr Catherine McCahill SGS and Sr Patty Fawcner SGS. For information and RSVP [mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au](mailto:mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au) or 02 8752 5390.

## Affordable Housing Assembly: 14 March

Join 2,000 leaders and citizens on 14 March at Sydney Town Hall to stand together for the common good. Together we will be seeking clear, concrete commitments on affordable housing, household energy and rental reform from both state and federal politicians. The Diocese of Parramatta Social Justice Office, Sydney Alliance, Vinnies NSW and the Everybody's Home

Campaign are jointly working on this campaign. For more information: [www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing](http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing)

## St Luke's Youth Group: 15 March

The next youth gathering will be on Friday evening 15<sup>th</sup> March from 7-9pm. It will be held at our new office at 2 Springdale St, Marsden Park (off Frontier Avenue and opposite St Luke's Catholic College). The night will feature food, games and activities, prayer, reflection, and exploration of faith. RSVP for catering purposes by 14 March to: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

## Dr Laurie Woods: 15 March

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Diocese of Parramatta has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of St Luke.

Venue: IFM Marion St Blacktown

Time: 10am - 2pm

Dates: Fridays Mar 15, 22, 29, Apr 5, 12

All are welcome. BYO lunch.

Register with Maree on 02 8838 3486

## St Luke's Lenten Retreat: 6 April

Come and join us for a special Lenten Retreat morning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. The morning will include prayer and reflection, discussion and community. We will start at 9.30am and conclude with lunch at 12.30pm. It will be held at our new office at 2 Springdale St, Marsden Park (off Frontier Avenue and opposite St Luke's Catholic College). Expressions of interest to: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

## First Communion: 19 May

We will celebrate First Holy Communion at St Luke's on [Sunday, May 19](#) at our usual 10am Mass. Preparation classes for children and their parents will be held on Wednesdays April 3 and 10 and then May 8 and 15 at 6pm at St Luke's Catholic College (Hub). This is available for children who have made the First Reconciliation and are aged 9/in Year 4. Please take a Sacraments of Initiation enrolment form from the Welcome Table and return it asap.

## Volunteers Urgently Needed for Visiting Residents of Aged Care Facility

Are you interested in visiting an elderly person in a nursing home who has no or very few visitors? You would visit once every two weeks with CatholicCare providing training and support. After learning your interests, we will match you with a resident in a nursing home within approx 10km of your home. The visit is within the nursing home – you do not take the person on outings or shopping etc. For more information, contact Deb Woolcott

on 0418 114 055  
or [deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au).

**LENT 2019** | Prayer. Fasting. Almsgiving.

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins

"Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning." (Joel 2:12)

## THURSDAY MARCH 7

Today is the memorial of Saints Perpetua and Felicity, both martyrs. Take time to learn about them today and their love of Christ.

## FRIDAY MARCH 8

Explore some new [meatless recipes](#) and consider trying a new meal every Friday of Lent this year.

## SATURDAY MARCH 9

Today is the feast day of St Frances of Rome, who organized a women's religious order-the Oblates of Mary-and became a member of it following her husband's death. In her honour today, pray for those in consecrated life.

**IF YOU DO NOT WANT PHOTOS OF YOURSELF OR YOUR CHILDREN TAKEN OR PUBLISHED PLEASE FORWARD AN EMAIL TO [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org) ADVISING US OF THIS!**

## 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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**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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