

**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**

Jos 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’ The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 33:2-7

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

**Second reading**

2 Cor 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

**Gospel**

Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them: ‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’



**Lent Reflection:** I’m Garry, and I’m here to tell a story:

“Mum, Vinnies are here.”

Each word paints a picture. When you saw ‘Mum’ in your mind as you listened, what was she like? Was she young? Single? Stressed? Or was she invisible to you? The word ‘Vinnies’ conveys in the story a certain familiarity; it refers to someone who is known and trusted. The word ‘are’ in the story is significant. It tells the listener that what is happening is real. It is not a statement about a promise or some future encounter. Help is at hand – right now! And finally, the word ‘here’ completes the story. It conveys that the visitors are with us in our place.

Before we leave the story, can you recall the tone of the voice of the child speaker? It reveals a great deal. “Mum, Vinnies are here.” Did it sound hopeful? A little excited; with a sense that the visitors will bring good news? Well, this common greeting touches the hearts of all Vinnies visitors. Four simple words that set the scene for the encounter: the meeting, the listening, the sharing and the helping. *This is compassion as Jesus explained it in the Gospels.* Recall for a moment the two great parables in the Gospels: the forgiving father (of the Prodigal Son), and the parable of the Good Samaritan. The two most famous compassionate figures in the Gospels are people of action. And this is Jesus teaching us that unless our sympathy results in meaningful assistance, then it is not compassion.

-Garry Everett. From Evangelisation Brisbane’s lentprogram.com

**We welcome this week as our Celebrant:  
Fr Luis Herrera**

**Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross. 7pm at 2 Springdale St.**

7<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

### MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers: Volunteers needed

Hospitality: Volunteer needed

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Jessica, Rohit, Tissa

Readers: Aileen Sebastian (F), Rufino Reyes (S), Quintina Reyes (I)

Eucharistic Min: Varuni Emerson

Children's Liturgy: Sinta, Lavanya, Cristina, 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)

### Bishop Vincent's Pastoral Letter

Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta can be found at: [catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincents-pastoral-letter](http://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincents-pastoral-letter)

### Bishop Vincent's Statement on the Christchurch Attack

Bishop Vincent has issued a statement on the Christchurch attack. The statement can be found here: [catholicoutlook.org/christchurchattack](http://catholicoutlook.org/christchurchattack)

### Join St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Parramatta is recruiting singers! This is an exciting opportunity to join a group of highly talented musicians. For further information visit [stpatscathedral.com.au/music](http://stpatscathedral.com.au/music) or contact the Music Director, Bernard Kirkpatrick on 0430 431 884

### 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.

### 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)

### 2nd Rite Confession/Reconciliation: 9 April

Good Shepherd Parish, 136 Hyatts Rd, Plumpton at 7.30pm

### Palm Sunday Procession: 14 April

The annual Palm Sunday procession is on again. Process with Bishop Vincent from Parramatta Town Hall to St Patrick's Cathedral for a World Youth Day Mass and Event on Palm Sunday. Starting at 5:20pm. Register at: [parracatholic.org/cyp](http://parracatholic.org/cyp)

### 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? For more information, contact Deb Woolcott on 0418 114 055 or [deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au).

### Communion to the Sick at Blacktown Hospital

We urgently require people to take Holy Communion to patients in Blacktown Hospital on Sundays. Please contact Deacon George Bryan at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown either via the parish office or via at [George.Bryan@parracatholic.org](mailto:George.Bryan@parracatholic.org)

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

### MONDAY APRIL 1

Back to work/school day. Say a prayer for those who are unable to obtain employment and those children in our world who do not have access to education.

### TUESDAY APRIL 2

"By devoting more time to prayer we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception and then to find the consolation God offers." (Pope Francis)

### THURSDAY APRIL 4

Today, we remember St. Isidore of Seville, patron of a medium that didn't exist when he lived - the Internet!

### FRIDAY APRIL 5

St. Vincent Ferrer was a popular preacher in western Europe. Think about how priests and deacons have inspired you with their preaching and pray for their continued service today.

### SATURDAY APRIL 6

In this upcoming last week of Lent before Holy Week, take stock in your Lenten journey so far. Are you keeping to the spiritual goals you set at the beginning of the season? We have our Lent Retreat today 9.30am to 12.30pm then lunch at 2 Springdale St, Marsden Park.

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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