

**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**

Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

*I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.*

**Second reading**

Rv 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

**Gospel**

Jn 13:31-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

**Reflection: Congratulations to our First Communion class**

Congratulations to the 16 boys and girls who will make their First Holy Communion today. This is not only a wonderful event in their life but a wonderful event in the life of our new faith community. The first 'graduating' First Communion class for St Luke's. Why is it such a special day? Well, a few examples may illustrate why some people view this as such a special day. Some of you may have heard of Napoleon Bonaparte, the French emperor who conquered most countries of Europe and wished to conquer the whole world. Somebody asked him a question, "What is the most important day in your life?" They expected answers like the day of his coronation as emperor, the day of his royal wedding, the day of his famous victories. But he said, "The most important and the most memorable day of my life is my First Communion Day." Another example is a little girl in northern France made her first communion more than 100 years ago. She had prepared for it; she had looked forward to it with excitement. And the day finally came. This is how she described the first time she received Jesus. "I felt that I was loved, and I said to Jesus, 'I love you and I give myself to you forever...' "It was a



fusion: Jesus and I were no longer two, I had vanished in him as a drop of water vanishes in the ocean. Jesus alone remained." She ended her description of her first communion by recalling the joy she felt that day – and the joy she experienced every time she received Christ in the Eucharist. Today that little girl is one of the most famous saints in the Catholic Church – St Therese of Lisieux. She illustrates that joy flows from the certainty of being infinitely loved by God. And every time we receive the Eucharist we receive a living reminder of God's love for us. We too can say: "I know that I am loved. And that certainty brings a joy that nothing can take away, because I am safe in the hands of Jesus." I pray that today is the start of a lifelong relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist for the members of our initial First Communion class. I would like to public record my deep thanks to Mrs Julie Atkins from St Luke's Catholic College for preparing the children for this Sacrament today. We are very grateful for her support of our faith community.

- Deacon Tony Hoban,  
Pastoral Director

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

26<sup>th</sup> May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

### MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers: Juanita Cruikshank

Hospitality: Volunteers needed

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Jessica, Rohit

Readers: Monique de Guzman (F),  
Volunteer req (S), Luanshya Naidoo (I)

Eucharistic Min: Tessie James, Gari de Guzman

Children's Liturgy: Sinta, Sindhu,  
Rowena, 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)**

### 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.

### New Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards Website:

The Diocese of Parramatta's Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards (OSPS) has launched a new website, strengthening their ability to deliver advice and support to parishes, agencies and ministries to ensure the Diocese is safe for all people. Visit the website at [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au)

### Join St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Parramatta is recruiting singers! For further information visit [stpatscathedral.com.au/music](http://stpatscathedral.com.au/music) or contact the Music Director, Bernard Kirkpatrick on 0430 431 884

### 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 on average once every two weeks, with CatholicCare providing training and other support. For more information, contact Deb Woolacott 0418 114 055 or [deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au).

### Exploring *Laudato Si*: 24 May

CCD invites all parishioners and friends to attend a presentation by Sr Valda Dickenson RSM exploring aspects of Pope Francis' Letter on Our Common Home – *Laudato Si*. Friday 24 May at the IFM Blacktown 10am to 2pm. Register with Maree on 02 8838 3486 and BYO lunch.

### Oz Rosary: 24-26 May

Oz is happening again! On this weekend we will pray for Australia and its protection. Also for our political leaders and the spiritual leaders of our church, our Cardinals, Bishops and Priests. To register: [facebook.com/OZROSARY53](https://facebook.com/OZROSARY53) or [ozrosary53@gmail.com](mailto:ozrosary53@gmail.com) or contact Jane on 0476 535 595.

### St Philomena Mass and Devotions: 25 May

Mass and Devotions for St Philomena will be held on Saturday 25 May at St John Vianney Parish, Doonside. Mass will be held at 12Midday. Please bring a snack to share. For further information, contact Libby Peoples – 0423 154 463 or [epeoples9@gmail.com](mailto:epeoples9@gmail.com)

### National Fair Trade Conference: 31 May – 1 June

The conference will examine how the Christian Gospel relates to the way we do our shopping. Keynote speaker: John Bell from the Iona Community, Scotland. 31 May and 1 June at Springwood Uniting Church. 0408 115 210 or [fairtradefairfaithconference.com.au](http://fairtradefairfaithconference.com.au) for more information.

### MGL Retreat Weekend: 1 – 2 June

The Missionaries of God's Love sisters help people know they are loved by God. If you are a young woman who feels even vaguely interested in that mission, consider coming to their weekend to ask questions, pray with the sisters and hear discernment stories. June 1-2 at the MGL sisters home in Quakers Hill. For more info and to RSVP: 9626 8382 or [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

### Holy Hour for Vocations: 6 June

Youth aged 18 to 35 are invited to join The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for the Holy Hour for Vocations at the St Joseph Convent, Quakers Hill, on Thursday 6 June at 7pm. Dinner will be served afterwards. RSVP to Sr Paula – [vocationscsfn@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscsfn@gmail.com) or 0449 656 406.

### A Pentecost retreat day: 8<sup>th</sup> June

Rest and Inspiration for the journey. Presented by 'Walking with Refugees and People Seeking protection. Join Bishop Vincent as we reflect and share. Mount Schoenstatt Fairlight Rd Mulgoa 9:00am - 4.00pm. Registration essential. Call 8838 3460 or email [lmckeogh@parracatholic.org](mailto:lmckeogh@parracatholic.org)

### The Jewish Jesus in the Eucharist: June 12

The Northern Deanery Pastoral Council is hosting a presentation from the Institute for Mission on The Jewish Jesus in the Eucharist on Wednesday June 12, at St Michael's School Hall, Baulkham Hills from 7pm to 9pm. A light supper will be provided. To RSVP for catering purposes, contact Wendy on 0427 863 149 or [deanerypc@parishofbaulkhamills.org.au](mailto:deanerypc@parishofbaulkhamills.org.au)

### Women in Leadership: 4 - 7 July

The Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo invites women of any age and any experience in formal leadership positions, and for those who exercise leadership without a formal title in business, schools, homes, offices, parishes, anywhere to the Women in Leadership workshop. The aim is to support women to explore their unique gifts. Call 4236 0533 for more information. [cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au](mailto:cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au)

**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)

Baptisms available most Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

### CONTACT US

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**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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