First Reading
Is 7:10-14
The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10
Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second reading
Rom 1:1-7
From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel
Mt 1:18-24
This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Reflection: An Open Invitation
It is at Christmas that many people attend Mass for just their second time in the year. Some regular church goers view these people negatively and scoff at why they bother with the church if they can only make it twice a year. But others take the view that we need to do our best to make these people feel welcome at these times, in an effort to help open their hearts to perhaps engaging with the church more than they have. And I think it is the latter position that is the healthier. No one can be forced to believe; we all need to accept the invitation that Jesus gives us to be his followers. The gift of the real, true, and fulfilling life that Jesus offers is never going to be forced on us. We can choose to unwrap the gift, to put it in a corner to be considered for opening at a later time, or thrown out altogether. We can be Jesus’ helpers in offering his gift to people we know.

We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Bishop Vincent Long

Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent

“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.”

MINISTRY ROSTER
24th & 25th December
24th – Vol req’d
25th – Juanita, Anne

Acolyte:
24th – Arvin Joya
25th – Jamie Hoban

Servers:
24th – Gab
25th – Gab, Denver

Readers:
24th – Monique (1), Gabrielle (2), Meli
25th – Ofelia (1), Mars (2), Vol Req’d

Eucharistic Min:
24th – Gari de Guzman
25th – Vol req’d
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.

Positions Vacant
*CatholicCare Mamre Creche volunteers
More details parracatholic.org/employment

Bishop Vincent’s Christmas Message
Bishop Vincent’s Christmas message can be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqtMPFd06Y4 or www.parracatholic.org
Happy Christmas from Bishop Vincent and the Diocese of Parramatta.

Bishop’s Christmas Appeal
Help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Your support and services to build strong CatholicCare to connect people with compassionate gifts and prayers will help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Your support and services to build strong

Feast of the Holy Family Celebration: 28 December
The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth invite families and young people aged 18 to 35 to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on 28 Dec at Our Lady Queen of Poland Convent in Marayong. Mass at 3pm, Adoration 4.30pm. RSVP Sr Paula by 26 Dec 0449 656 406 or vocationscfn@gmail.com.

Annual Red Mass: 28 January 2020
Bishop Vincent Long and Fr Bob Bossini warmly invite members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass on 28 January at St Patrick’s Cathedral at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served after Mass. RSVP 20/1 8839 8411 or events@stpatscathedral.com.au.

Catholic Mission Camino 2020 Pilgrimages:
Catholic Mission is organising two pilgrimages to walk the Camino Portugués (17 days) from 11 to 27 May 2020 and the Camino Francés (16 days) from 19 September to 5 October. For more information, please contact Sr Veronica Rosier OP on 0451 387 906 or visit www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020

Local Christmas Mass Times
The Good Shepherd Plumpton
Vigil 24th 6pm & 8pm, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day 7am & 9am
Reconciliation every Saturday 11am-12
Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill
Vigil 24th 5.30pm & 9.30pm, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day 8am & 10am
Reconciliation every Saturday 4pm-5
St John the Evangelist Riverstone
Vigil 24th 6pm & 9pm
Christmas Day 7am & 9am
Reconciliation 24/12 10am-11

St Bernadette’s Lotor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions
St Bernadette’s Parish, Lotor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette and Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments every Wednesday evening at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office on 02 9672 4037 or admin@stbernadetteslatorpark.org.au

Kellyville Parish Mass of the Holy Innocents: 28 December
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, is holding their annual Mass of the Holy Innocents on 28 December at 11am, followed by a Rosary procession to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Lunch will be available and please bring a plate to share. For enquiries, please contact the parish office on (02) 9629 2595.

ST LUKES LOCAL NEWS
Mother of Perpetual Help Novena
Will be held every Wednesday from 7.30-8.00pm at 2 Springdale St (opposite St Luke’s Catholic College)

St Luke’s Mass Times
Vigil 24th 7pm
Christmas Day 10am

Youth Corner
Email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com

We need You!
Meal preparation
We currently have some wonderful parent helpers who provide meals for the youth group. However, we still need further assistance. If you are able to assist next year either as a one off or be part of a roster (however regularly you are able to contribute) please contact the Youth Team.

Youth Leaders
We currently have a small team of leaders who plan, run and organise the youth group evenings twice a month. However, with the growth of the youth group, we need more volunteers to assist and become part of the team. If you have experience in youth ministry or would like to be involved in youth ministry please contact us! You must have a current working with children check but further training can be provided if needed. Please contact the youth team for further information.

WEEKEND MASS
Sunday 10.00am
St Luke’s Catholic College (Enter via Frontier Ave Marsden Park)
Baptisms available most Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

CONTACT US
Pastoral Director:
Deacon Tony Hoban
Phone: (02) 8840 8521
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