

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

Mi 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19

*Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

Second reading

Heb 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, ‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’ Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.’

Reflection: A GREAT EVENT!

In the short life of our new faith community, one of the highlights definitely has been the Carols and Nativity Play event on Monday night. More than 600 people attended the postponed event, which was a great turnout. The grand entrance by the 3 Magi on camels was a highlight. As was the “birth” of Baby Jesus (alias Mia). And the singing by the choirs from the learning community, faith community and visitors from North Rocks parish. But, for me, one of the most wonderful highlights was how our faith community members pitched in and helped out. Whether it was cooking the BBQ, selling the BBQ food, cupcakes, drinks and (the very popular) zooper doopers, helping with the choir, or helping clean up afterwards, this was a wonderful community effort. Many of us were exhausted at the end of the night, yet also feeling joyous at the way things went. This was not about trying to be a Carols in the Domain or Myer Music Bowl wannabee. It was a community event – put on by



the community for the community. A great collaboration between St Luke’s learning and faith communities. And it was all about Jesus.

A poignant moment for me was just before the ‘birth of Baby Jesus’ scene when I had to pop into our sacristy room to grab something and I had cause to stop in front of the Tabernacle and pray quietly: “This is all about you, Jesus.”

Hopefully this community is all about Jesus and will continue to be so. Thank you everyone for all that you did to commemorate publicly the birth of Jesus last Monday night.

- Deacon Tony
Pastoral Director

24th December – Christmas Eve

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers: Juanita Cruikshank

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Jessica Thompson & Rohit Joseph

Readers: Quintina & Rufino Reyes, Emmanuel Udebunu

Eucharistic Min: Volunteers needed

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 Meng**

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/>

Thank You for Showing the Compassionate Face of Christ to Homeless Young Mothers and children in crisis

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, CatholicCare and Houses to Homes thank you for supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your kind-hearted generosity, Houses to Homes can provide more homeless mothers with the shelter, support, independent living and parenting skills programs they desperately need. Please pray for the wellbeing of all mothers and children in Houses to Homes' care. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit

yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

St Patrick's Gift Shop

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is bringing Christmas cheer by opening an on-site gift shop. Opening hours will be 10am – 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. For more information visit: <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>

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.

Fest of the Holy Innocents: 28 December

Fest of the Holy Innocents will be held on Friday 28 December 2018 at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville (8 Diana Avenue). Starting with Holy Mass at 11am in the parish church followed by a procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville. Lunch available. Please bring a plate to share. Enquiries: 02 9629 2595.

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 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

St John the Evangelist

– Fri 21st 10-11am

Sat 22nd 10-11am & 4-5.30pm

St Matthew's – Every Sat 9.30am

The Epiphany Pilgrimage: the journey of the Magi

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and join parishioners in daily Mass, Adoration, prayer, catechesis and fellowship.

To register for all or part of the pilgrimage, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. For updates and to follow the journey see www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

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 for information or lbright@mqofblacktown.org.au

Walk the Camino Portugués

Walk the Camino Portugués. Catholic Mission are holding 17-day Pilgrimages: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues>



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. Please pass these to Deacon Tony or include them on one of the collections during Mass.

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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