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PARRAMATTA

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27 October 2025

Western Sydney opens its newest Church for the growing Catholic population

Catholic Church officials and local residents from Marsden Park and across the Blacktown LGA came together on Sunday 19 October to celebrate a major milestone: the opening of St Luke's Catholic Parish's new building. After years of celebrating Mass at St Luke's Catholic College, the parish now has a purpose-built home.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, led the morning Mass for the Feast of St Luke, the parish's patron saint, alongside Fr Gayan Thamel, Parish Priest. The celebration began with a procession outside St Luke's Catholic College and drew more than 600 parishioners, students, residents and officials from near and far.

Marsden Park has a thriving Catholic community. St Luke's was officially recognised as a parish of the Diocese of Parramatta in January 2025, having grown rapidly since its establishment in 2018. Today, approximately 900 members are active in the parish. The Catholic community has over 21 ministries, including youth groups, music, prayer, and hospitality. The Catholic school on the same site has also grown in popularity, showcasing the importance of the Catholic Church to the local community.

As Bishop Vincent remarked: "I used to think that Parramatta was where the action was... This is where the action is. Look at the vibrancy of this faith community. We are truly the body of Christ!"

Blacktown City Councillor Talia Amituanai, on behalf of Mayor Brad Bunting, said: "The completion of this new parish building is a major step forward towards establishing a permanent church reflecting the strength, generosity, and unity of this growing Catholic community. Congratulations to everyone who helped bring this project to life."

Parish Priest Fr Gayan Thamel said: "As we open these doors, may this new parish home be a place of welcome, worship, and witness here in Marsden Park. Someone asked me earlier if this is our permanent church. I said, 'It's watertight, has chairs, and God is here with us, so it is perfect for now.' So thank you all, and may God continue to bless St Luke's Catholic Parish."

Bishop Vincent blessed the new building, marking the occasion with a ribbon-cutting, plaque unveiling, and cake-cutting ceremony. The new facility delivered by Secure Building Services and Trademark Consulting, was made possible through support from the Diocese of Parramatta, the NSW Government's Community Partnership Grant, Blacktown City Council, parishioners, and the wider community. The building includes offices and kitchen amenities and will serve as a temporary church for up to 200 people until the permanent church is constructed as part of the second stage of the parish's building project.



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Other special guests included Fr Chris de Souza, Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference; former parish leader Deacon Tony Hoban and his wife Annette Hoban; Deacon Brian Myers; Kelly Bauer, Principal of St Luke's Catholic College; and Diocesan representatives.

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Photos from the event here: tinyurl.com/tx8bduzi

Drone vision here: tinyurl.com/st-lukes-church-drone

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About the Diocese of Parramatta

The Diocese of Parramatta is the Catholic Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains and is home to over 320,000 Catholics with 45 parishes and churches. The Diocese educates more than 43,000 students across its 80 schools, employs more than 5,500 people and cares for thousands of people in need through its social services arm, Catholic Care. Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv was appointed the fourth Bishop of Parramatta in 2016. He is Australia's first Asian-born Bishop, and the first Vietnamese-born Bishop to lead a Catholic Diocese outside of Vietnam. You can read more about [him here](#).