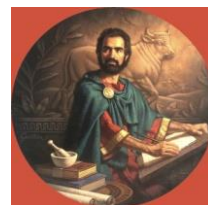


Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2018 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B *THE YEAR OF YOUTH*

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret. Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

Historical Context – He said what?

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

Scriptural context – The Messianic Secret

A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do you think I am?' They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

Gospel Focus – Exorcisms

This week's gospel features an exorcism by Jesus – driving an unclean spirit out of a possessed man. Some people read these acts of exorcism as being literally true. Others are keen to demonstrate that these 'possessions' described in the gospels are able to be explained by various manifestations of mental illness. The thrashing fits described in the gospels have been likened to epileptic seizures, and episodes of paranoia and schizophrenia might explain the first century understanding of possession. Rather than trying to justify or explain away these events, we must seek to understand the gospel writer's purpose in including such episodes.

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. Why might the people of the synagogue have been so impressed with the authority of Jesus?
- Q. What is meant by teaching with authority?
- Q. Why is the unclean spirit able to recognise Jesus as the 'Holy One of God'?
- Q. Why might Jesus have been attempting to keep his identity as the Messiah hidden?
- Q. How can the message of Jesus 'free' people today?

Questions for Adults

- Q. How might the scribe who normally taught in the synagogue have reacted to Jesus' actions?
- Q. What does the gospel writer seek to bring into focus by using the exorcism event?
- Q. Why might Jesus' teaching have been so remarkable to the people?
- Q. Who are some of the 'teachers' of authority today?
- Q. In what area of life today do we most need the 'freeing' message of Jesus?

Raise your voices ...

Entrance antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Response to the Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

<http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Home.aspx>

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard Johnson
Parish Priest

Marilyn Robert
Part-time Parish Secretary

Email: BlackburnSouth@cam.org.au

Website:

<http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Home.aspx>

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am & 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASS & ROSARY

Tues. 11.00am
Weds. - Sat. @ 9:00am

Rosary prayed after Mass times as
listed above. All welcome.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 9.30am & 5.30pm

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

The Blessed Sacrament is
exposed for Adoration
Every Wednesday
Start: 7:00pm | End: 8:00pm

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

By appointment and
six months (6) notice, please.

St Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parish Primary School
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Mrs Jackie Purcell: Principal

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Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist

Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal by his preaching and writings the mystery of your love for the poor, grant that those who already glory in your name may persevere as one heart and one soul and that all nations may merit to see your salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen!



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For those who died recently especially Terri (Therese) Hammill and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: **Wednesday:** St John Bosco, priest. **Friday:** The Presentation of the Lord. **Saturday: BVM.** This weekend's Sunday Masses: **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR MASSES FOR VARIOUS NEEDS AND OCCASIONS III.**

NEW ROSTERS: 2018 Parish Rosters are currently being prepared. If you are usually on one or more and would like to continue to be of service to the Parish Community in this way, please add your name to the list(s) on the notice table after Mass tonight/today. *Thankyou, from all of us!*

WELCOME BACK to our Parish School Community, to Mrs Jackie Purcell our Parish School Principal and to all our Professional educational staff. Hopefully you have rested and are all ready for Term 1.

ST. LUKE'S FETE – 18TH MARCH 2018: St. Luke's Fete is just a couple of months away. If you would like to contribute to our 'Cheap and Cheerful Craft Stall' for the 18th March, 2018, please start your crafting. If you have any questions, queries, please contact Jo Adams on 0409 935 937. **Your time and talent will be greatly appreciated.**

A VOCATION VIEW: Jesus speaks as one having authority, so that even the demons must obey. We see in this same authority passed down to the Church that she might guide us closer to Christ. (Mark 1:21-28)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE a Welcomer, Lector, Collector and/or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist – come to the Parish Workshop. Other ways to be involved and to minimise any anxiety of being of service to the Parish. Details coming soon from Rev Fr Tony Doran, our facilitator who is deciding dates.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE: Each Year on the Feast of the Presentation (Feb 2) the Church celebrates and honours the gift of Consecrated Life to the Church and the world. Many of us have been the grateful recipients of ministry of faithful religious in schools, hospitals, parishes, etc. Please spare a prayer of thanksgiving for the religious that have touched your life. Please pray that young people may generously offer themselves to the Lord in service in the religious life.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: 8th February each year the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan. 7.30pm Mass @ St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.

'SPIRITUALITY & HUMAN LIFE STAGES' (new), 'Discernment', 'The Human Experience of God' and other seminars are soon to begin at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Box Hill as part of its Semester 1 offerings. For more information and bookings, visit www.heartoflife.melbourne or email holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1101.

PALMS ENCOUNTERS are ethically run group tours that provide participants with authentic, hard to come by experiences. The tours have been carefully designed to give you an insight into the daily life of people of another culture, an understanding of sustainable approaches to reducing poverty, and an insight into the life and work of Palms development volunteers. We still have **limited places** available for our next trip to **Timor-Leste 11-23 March** if you book by **5pm Thursday 25 January**. Please contact Palms on 02 9560 5333 or see www.palms.org.au/encounters

NEWSLETTER NOTICES: Please send to the following e-mail address by **Wednesday 5pm – BlackburnSouth@cam.org.au**

A MESSAGE FOR MARRIED COUPLES ON ST VALENTINE'S DAY: God does not call us to mediocrity. God calls us to be a radical witness; to bring alive within our marriage the passionate love and extravagant mercy he has for every human person. God calls us to live this reality within our own marriage and to proclaim it to our families and to the world through our lived example. But marriage can be a challenge sometimes! We are not always easy to love, especially when hurts and disappointments accumulate. Yet God is endlessly patient and merciful! Even when we fail, even when we settle for less, even when we doubt ... God's mercy calls us back. This year, St Valentine's Day coincides with Ash Wednesday. Why not make Lent a time to bring mercy more deeply into your marriage with this daily prayer:

Heavenly Father, You call us to radical holiness; to witness to your passionate love and extravagant mercy. Forgive us for the times we have failed to love and help us to more readily forgive each other. Inspire us with the ambition to grow ever closer to the fulfillment of our vocation. Amen.

MINISTERS' ROSTER: 27 & 28 JANUARY 2018

READERS

SPECIAL MINISTERS

6:00PM	Kathryn Holmes	Ian Holmes
8:30AM	Beryl Chelliah	Kana Chelliah
10.30AM	Steve Kilroe Smith	Lynda/Jess Kilroe Smith