

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2018
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
THE YEAR OF YOUTH

This week's readings: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Gospel Mark 1:40-45

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – LEPROSY To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.

GOSPEL FOCUS – WHAT'S IN A WORD? Verse 41 of this week's reading begins, 'Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand.' This translation is from the Jerusalem Bible but if we were to consider other translations of the Bible we would find other phrases used such as: moved with pity; filled with pity; moved with compassion; filled with compassion; or even, filled with anger. By comparison, 'Feeling sorry for him' seems a weak translation. Jesus' reaction is a fully human one of indignation at what this man is forced to endure. It is a gut-wrenching response from the very core of Jesus' humanity.

LIVING THE GOSPEL – WHO IS YOUR LEPER? There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

Raise your voices ...

Entrance antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Response to the Psalm: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

**Saint Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parish
Blackburn South**

We are Companions on the Journey ...

<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

Thursday & Friday

9.30am – 4.30pm

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. 9.00am & 7.00pm;

Thurs – 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

Friday evening *this coming week*

Start: 7:00pm | End: 8:00pm

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

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

**St Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parish Primary School**
46 Orchard Grove,
Blackburn South Vic 3130
Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs Jackie Purcell: Principal

Email:

principal@sblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au

Website:

stlukes@sblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au

**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 and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Wednesday: Ash Wednesday. This weekend's Sunday Masses: Preface III of the Sundays in Ordinary Time & Eucharistic Prayer II.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Morning Mass, usual time and usual place. **7.00pm Evening Mass for Parishioners** unable to attend Morning Mass.

THE 6PM CHOIR will lead the singing on the following days this month: **Sat 10th and Sat 24th Feb.**

A VOCATION VIEW: (11/2/18) **World Day of Prayer for Marriage.** The Psalmist calls to be glad, rejoice and exult in the Lord. (Psalm 32:11) For many, the day of their marriage is the happiest day of their life; rather, live the challenge to continue to grow deeper in love with your spouse each day of your married life.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE a Welcomer, Lector, Collector, Counter, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and/or Holy Communion to the housebound – 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.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: There are some 2018 Columban Calendars still available from the Priest's Sacristy for anyone who would like to purchase one; RRP=\$9 each.

ST. LUKE'S FETE – 18TH MARCH 2018: St. Luke's Fete is just a couple of months away. If you have any questions, queries, please contact Jo Adams on 0409 935 937. **Your time and talent will be greatly appreciated.** This Parish and School initiative is an opportunity to foster new friendships and deeper relationships throughout the Community. Please visit this page at your convenience: www.facebook.com.au/stlukesparishfete

PARISH LEADERS AND PARISHIONERS ARE WARMLY INVITED to participate in **Hearing, Healing, Hope**, which is both the title and the theme of the 2018 national Catholic social services conference. This will be held in Melbourne from Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 February, at the Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Much of the conference relates to parishes as well as to Catholic social service organisations. Social services, at the parish level and beyond, are all subject to the challenges and opportunities of disruption in our society, in relations with Government and within the Church. Please see Parish noticeboard for more details or visit the following website: www.css.org.au/HearingHealingHope

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

'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.

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.

PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

		<u>10 AND 11 FEB 2018</u>	<u>17 AND 18 FEB 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Monica Hodder	Olive Hammill
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Engelina Nyhuis	Kana Chelliah
	10:30 AM	Elizabeth Dixon	Margaret Yore

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

		<u>10 AND 11 FEB 2018</u>	<u>17 AND 18 FEB 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Shirley Prabha	Olive Hammill
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Godfrey Thong	Beryl Chelliah
	10:30 AM	Dale Dixon	Margaret Gearon

WELCOMER'S ROSTER

		<u>10 AND 11 FEB 2018</u>	<u>17 AND 18 FEB 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	-	-
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	-	-
	10:30 AM	-	-

SLIDE OPERATORS

		<u>10 AND 11 FEB 2018</u>	<u>17 AND 18 FEB 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	CHOIR	David Prabha
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Mary Whiting	Meghan McLean
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

CHURCH FLOWERS 17 FEB 2018

- LENT SEASON -

CHURCH CLEANING 17 FEB 2018

Team 4 (Joanne's Team)
Joanne Nolan, Melissa O'Mara,
Tina Tempany & Jesse Barret

MAINTENANCE 17 FEB 2018

Team 9
Dale Dixon & Ian Holmes

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE: A MESSAGE TO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT - Days of fasting and reparation in sorrow for child sexual abuse and for the healing of victims – February 14 - 17, 2018; Dated February 5, 2018. Please see Parish Noticeboard for further details.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE LITURGICAL AND PRAYER RESOURCES FOR DAYS OF FASTING AND REPARATION following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Lent 2018. **Days of Reparation HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION** will be our Parish Exercise and be held on **Friday 16th** in our Parish Church from **7.00pm – 8.00pm**. All welcome.

DURING HIS CATECHESIS AT THE WEEKLY GENERAL AUDIENCE POPE FRANCIS told those present that Christians need to be constantly open to and challenged by the Word of God. Pope Francis invited the faithful to place themselves in silent openness to God's saving message as it resounds in the ecclesial assembly and is a fundamental aspect of God's constant dialogue with his people. The Pope's words came on Wednesday during the General Audience as he continued his ongoing catechesis dedicated to the Eucharist with a reflection on the Liturgy of the Word. During Mass, he said, God speaks to his people through the Liturgy of the Word, and the same Holy Spirit who inspired the sacred Scriptures opens our minds and hearts to that living word. "That's why, he explained, personal choices regarding the readings are not acceptable," and he invited the faithful to attain to the readings listed in the Church's Lectionary, thus favouring ecclesial communion. *January 31, 2018*

SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB: Please see Parish noticeboard for details.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: *Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage!* Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. *There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.* **2018 Melbourne weekend dates: 16-18 March, 1-3 June, 17-19 August, and 9-11 November 2018** Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information/Bookings: PH: Andre and Maria 0411 225 992 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: www.wwme.org.au

CHANEL COLLEGE 60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION for students of THE MARIST FATHERS ERA [1958-1970]. For details send your email address to chanel.geelong@gmail.com OR your postal details to PO Box 3069 Geelong West 3218.

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

CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT: We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Did not our hearts burn within us as we walked along ...

**Lectors, Welcomers Collectors
Extraordinary Ministers of the
Eucharist, & Rosters**
Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Children's Liturgy Group
Nina Grieve - 9877 4023
Jess Kilroe-Smith - 0497 630 173

Thanksgiving Counters
Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087
Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

**Pastoral Council &
Child Safety Officer**
Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

History
Margaret Gearon 0409 807 135

Whitehorse Deanery

Finance Council
Steve Brennan
Parish Accountant

Hall Hire
Marilyn Robert – 9877 2292

Welcomers

Gardens
Judy Noy – 9894 1506

Church Sacristan
Greg Grant 0401 644 474

Church Linen
Toni Plevier

Church Cleaning & Flowers
Meghan McLean

Maintenance
Bill Goodwin 9803 6056

Holy Communion
to the housebound

Parish & School Choirs
Maria Pinto, Lina Mafi
0411 136 043

Marg Yore & Kat Bergin
9877 4023

**Parish and School
Fete Committee**

Jackie Purcell - 9877 4023

Parish School Advisory Board
Jackie Purcell - 9877 4023

**Parish School
Parents' Association**
Jackie Purcell - 9877 4023

St Vincent de Paul Society
For Assistance: 1800 305 330
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contact:
Tony Kearney

RECRUITMENT NOTICE:

These Parish Groups welcome new members who choose to participate in the life of the Parish in these ways - would you like to make contact with one or more of them?