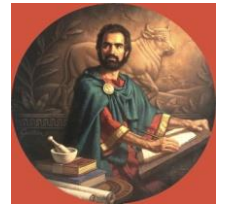


# Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: 03 9877 2292 | Fax: 03 9894 3359

Email: [blackburnsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:blackburnsouth@cam.org.au) | Web: <http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Home.aspx>



**WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 11 MARCH 2018**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B**  
**THE YEAR OF YOUTH**

*This week's readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Gospel John 3:14-21*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER:** To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance. In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT? GOD IN POPULAR CULTURE:** Think for a moment of the last time you saw or heard a reference to God on a television program, in a song, or some other popular medium. Chances are, the reference was one of a judging, vengeful, punishing God. This sort of image plays particularly well with a modern audience. It's easier to dismiss God as irrelevant if we can paint God in that sort of image. TV sitcoms do it particularly well with thunderclaps, bolts of lightning and booming, disapproving voices from above. It's much harder to dismiss a God of love who will go to extremes to demonstrate that love.

**GOSPEL FOCUS – NOT TO CONDEMN ...** The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe 'is already condemned'. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT – BABYLONIAN EXILE:** In the book of Leviticus (25:4), it is commanded that every seventh year, the land was to be allowed to have a 'Sabbath year' – no tilling soil, no planting, no harvesting. The people failed to observe this command and the prophet, Jeremiah, interprets the destruction of the Temple and exile into Babylon as God's opportunity to enforce the period of Sabbath rest for the land. The people were in exile in Babylon for 70 years, ending about 537 BCE when the Persian emperor, Cyrus, conquered the Babylonians and agreed to return the Israelites to their land. He also returned to them all of the treasures looted from the Temple so that it may be rebuilt.

**Raise your voices ...**

**Entrance antiphon:** Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**Response to the Psalm:** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

**Gospel acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Communion antiphon:** Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

**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](mailto: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

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  
46 Orchard Grove,  
Blackburn South Vic 3130  
Tel: (03) 9877 4023**

Mrs Jackie Purcell: Principal

Email:

[principal@slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au)

Website:

[stlukes@slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au](http://stlukes@slblackburnstn.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!

*Patron Saint of artists, physicians, surgeons,  
students and butchers.*

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** all who are sick and those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For Fr Joseph Micallef PE who died recently and for Beatrice Patrick and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace. *Parishioners may like to remember their loved ones in this way by contacting the Parish Office leading up to the person's anniversary and requesting that their loved ones' names be included and mentioned in the Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Mass accompanied by the usual stipend envelope that is on the notice table.*

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK:** **Saturday:** St Patrick, bishop; Archdiocese of Melbourne Patronal Feast. Sunday Masses: Preface 1 of Lent & Eucharistic Prayer I.

**PARISH LENTEN EXERCISES:** Weekday Mass, Project Compassion, mid-week Stations of the Cross Wednesday afternoons at 4.00pm, Holy Hour each Wednesday evening at 7.00pm, the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) – available twice a week, **a Parish Ministry Workshop this week for all interested Parishioners** and learning by heart the (new) Mass responses.

**WEEK 4 - Journey to the Cross:** Walk with us this week as we reflect on the events that led up to Jesus' crucifixion, and we ponder the question "Were You There?" As we imagine ourselves in these scenes, what can we learn from them and how can they prepare us for coming to the cross?

**PROJECT COMPASSION LENT WEEK FOUR:** Evangeline is strengthening Aboriginal culture, while making a living for herself and creating opportunities for her community. Featured in Project Compassion 2016, Evangeline was employed by the Caritas Australia supported Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation and quickly rose to the role of Senior Artswoker. Please visit this webpage for more details:

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-4-evangeline>

**THE 6PM CHOIR** will lead the singing on **Sat 17th March** and **Easter Sunday Morning 1st April** @ 8.30 am Mass.

**A VOCATION VIEW:** To be cut off from the treasures of the Church is to be cast away from life itself. As the Israelites longed to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem, so must we long to continue to build up the Church today. (Psalm 137).

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE** a Welcomer, Lector, Collector, Counter, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and/or Holy Communion to the housebound – come to a Parish Workshop. Other ways to be involved and to minimise any anxiety of being of service to the Parish. *Date claimer* with Rev Fr Tony Doran our facilitator. This **Thursday 15th March:** an afternoon session 2.00pm - 3.30pm **or** an evening session 7.30pm - 9.00pm, in our Parish Church.

**ST. LUKE'S FETE – 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018:** St. Luke's Fete is less than a week away. **Silver Circle Draw:** Tickets on sale in foyer after Mass. Only 100 tickets available \$20 per ticket, 1st prize \$500. **Cake Stall:** You're invited to bake your favorite cake, slice or biscuits for our cake stall. The Committee ***just requests no cream as there is no refrigeration on the day.*** Plates will be available for collection in church foyer over the next 2 weeks. 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](http://www.facebook.com.au/stlukesparishfete)

**COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS IS BACK!** Do you shop at Coles? If you do **this is another way to support our Parish Primary School.** Please deposit your "Schools voucher" in the box provided on the notice table in our foyer.

**IS THERE A SEMI-RETIRED (R.E.) TEACHER** available who would be willing to meet regularly with Parents and children (*who are not in our Primary School*) to prepare them for the Sacraments of Initiation this year? Please make yourself known to Fr Gerard at your earliest convenience.

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

**LOCAL CONF. OF ST.V.DE.P.** Please do not leave any donations for Vinnies' Stores in the Church foyer. Electrical goods can be given to Eastern Emergency Relief, Mitcham Food donations gratefully accepted.

**OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE:** *Talk and Tour Morning*, Friday 16 March, 9.30 am. *College Open Day*, Thursday 22 March, 2.30 pm – 6.30 pm.

## PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

**10 AND 11 MARCH 2018**

**17 AND 18 MARCH 2018**

**SATURDAY**      **6:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY**        **8:30 AM**  
                         **10:30 AM**

Ian Holmes  
Melina Barcellona  
Kilroe-Smith Family

Lorraine Kermond  
Megan McLean  
Jess Kilroe-Smith

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**10 AND 11 MARCH 2018**

**17 AND 18 MARCH 2018**

**SATURDAY**      **6:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY**        **8:30 AM**  
                         **10:30 AM**

Kathryn Holmes  
Jeanette Neumann  
Elizabeth Dixon

Olive Hammill  
Terry Wells  
Dale Dixon

### WELCOMER'S ROSTER

**10 AND 11 MARCH 2018**

**17 AND 18 MARCH 2018**

**SATURDAY**      **6:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY**        **8:30 AM**  
                         **10:30 AM**

Greg Grant  
Don McKenzie  
Dixon Family

Lorraine Kermond  
Marie Pekish  
Leigh Kelly

### SLIDE OPERATORS

**10 AND 11 MARCH 2018**

**17 AND 18 MARCH 2018**

**SATURDAY**      **6:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY**        **8:30 AM**  
                         **10:30 AM**

David Prabha  
Megan McLean  
Manny Gonzalez

CHOIR  
Darren McLean  
Manny Gonzalez

### CHURCH FLOWERS

**17 MARCH 2018**

- LENT SEASON -

### CHURCH CLEANING

**17 MARCH 2018**

Team 8 (Judy's Team)  
Judy Noy, Chelsea Brown, Debbie  
Brown, Sarah Santili

### MAINTENANCE

**17 MARCH 2018**

Team 5 (Manuel Gonzalez,  
Arthur Kolitsis &  
Mike Lockwood)

Hopefully you have noticed that the path to our Parish Memorial Garden from the carpark was completed recently @ \$1500, best quote. Your regular and faithful contributions to the **Second Collection – Church/Parish** (weekly average \$800-\$900) enables projects like this to be done. Like having access to the glass sliding door at the back of the Church again, now that the broken (*o,h&s hazard*) tiles have been replaced. A major repair to the box gutter above the entrance to our Church has been completed @ \$2100 best quote – had you noticed the drip/leak under your feet just as you step through the front left-hand door? The timber ceiling has begun to rot where the leak used to be. The doors to the Reconciliation Room and the Work Sacristy are supposed to be transparent for obvious reasons, so those tasks will be done this week @ \$797.50. Our interior two front doors and its door jam were also attended to recently for \$660. A quote has arrived to fit-out the Parish Hall Restrooms with hot water as per Whitehorse City Council Health and Family Services requirements and it will cost us \$6,622.66 to resolve this outstanding assessment; *please see Church noticeboard for more details*. Your contribution too, to the **First Collection – Presbytery** (weekly average \$750-\$850) is also significant as it helps to remunerate your P.P. The rest of his stipend has to come from a central fund known as the Priest's Remuneration Fund, which supports P.P.'s whose parish does not financially provide for them.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE** for Christians and all people of goodwill: an opportunity to gather, to listen, to learn, to respond and to commit to justice for all. Monday 19 March 2018 7:30pm. Chapel of St Peter, Melbourne Grammar School, Domain Road, South Yarra. After the service you are invited to share kosher light refreshments and conversation in the hall. An ecumenical initiative of: Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

**ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE:** Dear Friends, Unfortunately Australia's sad treatment of Asylum Seekers continues, and so once again we find ourselves needing to make a public witness to "WELCOME THE STRANGER!" Please see flyer on parish noticeboard with details of: **1.** the Public Rally at 2.00pm - Palm Sunday (Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018) at the State Library **2.** A Liturgy of Welcome to be held in St Patrick's Cathedral from 1.00pm – 1.30pm – also on Palm Sunday. Pope Francis has challenged all of us with his action plan for Asylum Seekers and Refugees: to Welcome, to Protect, to Promote and to Integrate. Following the Liturgy, we will walk as one Faith Community (down Lonsdale Street) to join the larger Public Rally.

**SAFETY STATEMENT:** We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable adults in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults 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. (<http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Policies.aspx>)

## 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

**Gardens**

Judy Noy – 9894 1506

**Church Sacristan**

Greg Grant 0401 644 474

**Church Linen**

Toni Plevier

**Church Cleaning & Flowers**

Megan McLean 9878 8691

**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?*