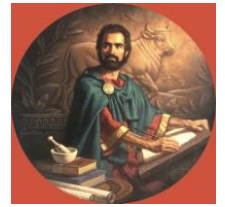


Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: 03 9877 2292 | Fax: 03 9894 3359

Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: <http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Home.aspx>



WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 18 MARCH 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

THE YEAR OF YOUTH

This week's readings: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Gospel John 12:20-33

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again – the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

GOSPEL FOCUS – LOVE OF LIFE: Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? WHY GREEKS? The gospel reading begins with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. Why is it significant that they were Greeks? The Jews were very clear about the distinction between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). Regardless of their intentions and goodwill, a Gentile was simply not a Jew. Greeks, who worshipped an entire pantheon of gods, were regarded as almost as far from Jewish belief in one God as was possible. Yet Jesus made clear that his message was for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike. His death and resurrection would bring a 'rich harvest' of belief among Gentiles as well as Jews.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT – THE FINAL DAYS: Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

Raise your voices ...

Entrance antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Response to the Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion antiphon: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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. – Sat. @ 9:00am

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

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday evening @ 7.00pm

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

Website:

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 Barbara Robinson who died recently and for Louise Westwood 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: **Monday:** St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity. **Friday:** St Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop; Sunday Masses: Preface II of Lent, Euch. Accl. No. 3 & Eucharistic Prayer III.

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, Lenten Penitential Service this Thursday evening @ 7.00pm, the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) – available twice a week and learning by heart the (new) Mass responses.

WEEK 5 - Jesus' Words on the Cross: Join us this week as we contemplate the powerful and profound words of Jesus from the cross. These words, spoken in the final hours of Jesus' life, reflect a spirit of love and forgiveness that are deeply humbling. As you reflect on his words, marvel at his example of selflessness, even in suffering.

PROJECT COMPASSION LENT WEEK FIVE: Ditosa is a young girl from Mozambique who hopes to go to university and become a police officer. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, Ditosa faced a challenging future with food scarcity, little education and few job prospects. Cared for by her grandmother and aunt, after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, they also lost their home and livelihoods in severe flooding. Please visit this webpage for more details:

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/weekly-stories/week-5-ditosa>

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

A VOCATION VIEW: Strangers come to Philip with the simple request: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." In your actions and words, are you able to show the love of Christ to the stranger in your midst? (John 12:21)

OUR (Lenten) PARISH MINISTRY WORKSHOP: Thankyou to all Parishioners who managed to attend one of our Lenten Ministry Workshops this week. Hopefully you returned home with a renewed appreciation of your Ministry, being of service to the Parish and a fresh understanding for Mission.

ST. LUKE'S FETE – 18TH MARCH 2018: Thankyou to all involved with this Parish biennial enterprise, especially Jackie Purcell our Parish School Principal & Staff, Melissa with her team - the Fete Committee and all our Parishioners who have children in our Parish Primary School. May you continue to be blessed for all your efforts and may our Parish continue to foster stronger friendships and deeper relationships throughout the Community with initiatives like this one.

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.

PALMS FOR PASSION SUNDAY (next week): Is/are there (a) Parishioner(s) who has(ve) access to or a contact(s) regarding Palms that is/are pruning at this time of the year and would like to provide Palms to the Parish for next weekend Masses? Please let Fr Gerard know asap. Parishioners are welcome to bring their own as well.

IS THERE A SEMI-RETIRED 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

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED? After Mass most times in our Church People like to spend some further time in prayer, yet others like to catch up and chat. Do you think those who want to chat could withdraw to the Church foyer to do so, enabling those who want to stay and pray to do so in the quiet of the Church? A both/and – or, a win/win for all ...

A CHANGE IN PRACTICE: Some People have made it known that they are finding not having the Prayers & Responses on the screens in our Church to prompt them a challenge. *When was the last time you required prompt cards to have a conversation with a member of your family or with God?* The Prayers and Responses are much the same each week so remembering them ought be second nature; this exercise in memory may prove to be more beneficial than some people realise, for the Celebration of Mass is all about remembering; "Do this in remembrance of me," Jesus says (Luke 22:19). Some further reading: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/eucharist/upload/catsun-2011-doc-acklin-meaning.pdf>

PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

17 AND 18 MARCH 2018

24 AND 25 MARCH 2018

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	Monica Hodder
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Megan McLean	Engelina Nyhuis
	10:30 AM	Val Gardiner	Lynda Kilroe-Smith

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

17 AND 18 MARCH 2018

24 AND 25 MARCH 2018

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Olive Hammill	Bernie Brennan
			Melina Barcellona
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Terry Wells	Godfrey Thong
			Shirley Prabha
	10:30 AM	Dale Dixon	Steve Kilroe-Smith
			Margaret Gearon

WELCOMER'S ROSTER

17 AND 18 MARCH 2018

24 AND 25 MARCH 2018

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	-
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Marie Pekish	Joe Brogno
	10:30 AM	Leigh Kelly	Margaret Gearon

SLIDE OPERATORS

17 AND 18 MARCH 2018

24 AND 25 MARCH 2018

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	CHOIR	David Prabha
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Darren McLean	Rosemary Donaldson
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

CHURCH FLOWERS

24 MARCH 2018
- LENT SEASON -

CHURCH CLEANING

24 MARCH 2018
Team 1 (Val's Team)
Val Fogarty, Jim Fogarty, Megan
McLean, Raquel Ramirez

MAINTENANCE

24 MARCH 2018
Team 6
(Barry Rawlines & Tim Blair)

OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE: *College Open Day*, Thursday 22 March, 2.30 pm – 6.30 pm.

MARCH OF WITNESS GOOD FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2018: St John's March of Witness on Good Friday morning, this year held on the 30 March has been held continuously for over fifty years and has not dwindled in numbers over the years. About 1000 people participate. Please see Church noticeboard for more details.

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 these tasks were 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.

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 25th 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.

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.

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 - 0452 613 863

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?