***N.B. The next series of Parish Thanksgiving Envelopes are ready for collection, this weekend and next. There is a covering letter with them, a way to update your records, an opportunity to choose an EFT approach to financially supporting the Parish and a Report of your giving over the past year or so.***

***Raise your voices ...* Entrance antiphon:** he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb; and many will rejoice at his birth.

**Response to the Psalm:** Since my mother’s womb, you have been my strength.

**Gospel acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! He came to bear witness to the light, to prepare an upright people for the Lord. Alleluia!

**Communion antiphon:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people and redeemed them.

**Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:** Some scholars today suggest that before his own public ministry Jesus was a follower of John the Baptist and that it was John who nurtured the call to ministry within Jesus and encouraged him to respond to that call. Regardless of whether or not this was the case, John and Jesus were cousins and the image that we have from the infancy narratives of Luke is that their mothers – Mary and Elizabeth – were very close and we can assume that Jesus and John were equally close and spent a lot of time together growing up. John’s decision to go out into the wilderness to live an ascetic lifestyle must have made a big impact on his cousin.

John’s ministry was a ministry to the Jewish people only. It was a call to them to repent and return to God’s ways. The baptism that he encouraged people to undertake was a baptism of repentance – different from our Christian understanding of Baptism. For John and his followers, the call to baptism was a call to acknowledge one’s wrongdoing and, through the baptism in the river Jordan, to be cleansed ready to recommit to living in right relationship with God.

When John announced Jesus as the one coming after him, he recognised that Jesus would take John’s own ministry to a new level. Whereas John’s message was for the Jews alone, the message of Jesus was for all people – Jew and Gentile alike. John’s simple existence – apparently surviving on locusts and wild honey – is in stark contrast to the feast of the reign of God that Jesus heralds. Rather than John’s call to prepare the way of the Lord, Jesus called all people to live the way of the Lord.

**Scriptural context – Isaiah:** Today’s first reading comes from the prophet Isaiah – an Old Testament book that is quoted extensively in the gospels. In this instance the compilers of the lectionary have chosen to link the words of Isaiah with the life of John the Baptist. The images of being called, even before birth, and being charged to draw the people of Israel back to their God sit comfortably with our notion of John the Baptist. Interestingly, the imagery of Isaiah is generally used by the gospel writers to show Jesus as the fulfillment of scripture, but in today’s liturgy we apply the prophet’s writings to John.

**Have you thought? – Struck dumb:** Earlier in Chapter 1 of the gospel of Luke, John’s father, Zechariah, is struck dumb when he expresses doubt at an angel’s prediction of John’s birth – both he and Elizabeth were quite old and had been unable to conceive. Today’s passage depicts Zechariah’s voice being restored when he confirmed that his child was to be named John. Zechariah’s inability to speak – as a result of his unbelief – is a contrast to the voice of John that called people to repentance and announced the coming of Jesus. Ironically, John is remembered as ‘the voice crying in the wilderness’.

**Gospel Focus – What’s in a name?** The name ‘John’ originates from the Hebrew language and means ‘God has shown favour (grace)’. The name given to John the Baptist reflects both the favour God showed to Elizabeth and Zechariah in granting them a son and also the favour that God showed to the people through John. John’s whole ministry was to call people back to God; to recognise that they were in God’s favour and to respond accordingly through the way they lived their lives. In Luke’s gospel, when Jesus announces the commencement of his ministry he announces the coming of the Lord’s year of favour.



**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 24 June 2018**

**The Nativity of St John the Baptist – Year B**

***The Year of Youth***

*This week’s readings: Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Gospel Luke 1:57-66, 80*

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** all who are sick especially Soane and for those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For those who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, R.I.P.

**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
Fr Zaher Mhanna

Sunday - 8:30am & 10:30am
Fr George O’Connor

**WEEKDAY MASS & ROSARY**Tues. 11.00am & Fri. 9:00am
Fr Jim Staunton

**Rosary prayed after Mass times as**

**listed above. All welcome.**

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 5.30pm

**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION**

The Blessed Sacrament is
exposed for Adoration
Wednesday now in recess
until further notice.

**WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS**

By appointment and
six months (6) notice, please. *(This helps with the planning of both celebrations and Parents usually know nine months in advance when their baby is to be born).*

**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@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au

**Website:**

stlukes@slblackburnsth.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.*



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Ordinary Time. Wednesday: St Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor; Thursday: St Irenaeus, bishop, martyr; Friday: Sts Peter and Paul, apostles; Saturday: First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church, BVM.**

**A VOCATION VIEW:** John was sent to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah. At the end of every Mass, we, too, are sent to prepare His way. May our lives follow the example of John that we may always point to Jesus.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** “…Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.” – ACTS 13:25 Stewardship is a lifestyle, it’s not a program or a process. It’s how we are called to live our lives twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week! It challenges us to live “God-centered” lives, not “self-centered” lives. Reflect on your daily activities, do you do them for the glory of God or for the glory of your own name?

**PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** certificates will be presented to our new Confirmees this weekend and next as well.

**THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OVERHEAD SCREEN** We have been offered two options: replace the one that is there with a new one at a cost of $1932 ***OR*** realign the right-hand overhead screen to enable people on the East side of the Church to see it clearly at a cost of $411. Please see Church noticeboard for the quotes. I have received conflicting advice from Parishioners and as yet no consensus: to realign the right-hand side has been recommended and save the money for other things at the same time as replacing the Left-hand side projector (if we have the money) and a Parishioner is prepared to help financially support this. Please remember that our Weekly Thanksgiving is currently around $700 a week on average, just short of the *National Minimum Weekly Wage*, so that will take three weekends to pay which does not account for other weekly outgoings - like utilities, Parish Secretary’s salary, ad hoc gardener and end of the month expenses. What do others think?

**THE 6PM CHOIR** will serve tonight Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass Sat 23rd June.

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

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 24 June 2018** Just a reminder, that all Journey Catholic Radio information is always a week in advance. This week on the Journey Fr Steve Varney reflects on the Gospel of Luke. Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from the Abby about “The Sun is rising”, Pete Gilmore reminds us to “Be Still” in his Living the Gospel God spot and Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, talks to us about “Overcoming Busyness”. We have some great music this week, creating a show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to[**www.jcr.org.au**](http://www.jcr.org.au/)or[**www.itunes.jcr.org.au**](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au/)where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES FOR JULY 2018 to JUNE 2019, LETTER FROM FR. GERARD JOHNSON & THANKSGIVING RECEIPT**

Please collect your envelopes from the church foyer. This time, we have only 1 set of envelopes to reduce cost. Please read Fr. Gerard’s letter for more details. Please contact the parish office if you are yet to be allocated a number for the Thanksgiving Envelopes. Your kind contribution is greatly appreciated and makes a difference to the upkeep of our parish.

**RETREAT in EVERYDAY LIFE – ‘INTO YOUR INNER ROOM’ –** An invitation to rest in your inner room while pondering the joys and sorrows of your everyday life. This is an opportunity to talk with a spiritual companion about what you are discovering. 5x Mondays: 23 & 30 July, 6, 13 & 20 August 2018 -1.15pm to 2.15pm. Please register your interest by 16 July to Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, 96 Albion Rd, Box Hill,

Vic 3128, on (03) 9890 1101. A small donation will be welcome.

**MARILYN ROBERT (Part-time PARISH SECRETARY) - FAREWELL**

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings of p;eace & joy! It gives me great honour to say that I have been with the Parish since May 2016, and it’s now been a bit more than two years. How time flies. It’s been a blessing from above for the great opportunity I have had working here at St. Luke’s Parish. During this time, I’ve had the privilege of journeying with you-the parishioners, Fr. Dishan Candappa and Fr. Gerard Johnson; all who have been instrumental in assisting me to execute my duties during this time. It’s been a real pleasure working with you. I have gained so much from your warmth, hospitality and friendship, and I’m richer by it all. I thank you sincerely for every moment, contribution and assistance in every way in making my time at St. Luke’s a happy, rewarding and memorable one. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to serve God in the adventures set before me. And I will continuously keep you in mine. I will be serving the Parish for another month until end of July 2018. I will certainly be in touch by visiting you whenever I have the chance. God bless you and your families evermore.

In Christ,

Marilyn Robert.

**Parish Ministry Roster**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **23 AND 24 JUNE 2018** | **30 JUNE AND 1 JULY 2018** |
| **Saturday** | **6:00 PM** | Ian Holmes | Melina Barcellona |
| **Sunday** | **8:30 AM** | Melina Barcellona | Godfrey Thong |
|  | **10:30 AM** | Sonya O’Farrell | Val Gardiner |

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **23 AND 24 JUNE 2018** | **30 JUNE AND 1 JULY 2018** |
| **Saturday** | **6:00 PM** | Ian Holmes | Bernie Brennan |
| **Sunday** | **8:30 AM** | Kana Chelliah | Rosemary Donaldson |
|  | **10:30 AM** | Jess Kilroe-Smith | Marg Yore |

**WELCOMER’S ROSTER**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **23 AND 24 JUNE 2018** | **30 JUNE AND 1 JULY 2018** | **2ND AND 3RD JUNE 2018** |
| **Saturday** | **6:00 PM** | Terry Wells | Greg Grant | Terry Wells |
| **Sunday** | **8:30 AM** | Joe Brogno | Marie Pekish | Joe Brogno |
|  | **10:30 AM** | Mary | Dixon Family | Mary |

**SLIDE OPERATERS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **23 AND 24 JUNE 2018** | **30 JUNE AND 1 JULY 2018** |
| **Saturday** | **6:00 PM** | David Prabha | Tony Lobo |
| **Sunday** | **8:30 AM** | Megan McLean | Darren McLean |
|  | **10:30 AM** | Manny Gonzalez | Manny Gonzalez |
| **CHURCH FLOWERS****30 JUNE 2018**Val Wells & Marie Parker | **CHURCH CLEANING****30 JUNE 2018**Team 6 (Sonya’s Team)Sonya O’Farrell, Rose Knight & Joe Brogno | **MAINTENANCE****14 July 2018** **Team 8**Don McKenzie & Charles Chin  |

**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** -9926 5710

**Finance Council**

Steve Brennan
Parish Accountant

**Hall Hire**

Marilyn Robert – 9877 2292

**Care Group & 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 Conference**

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

***(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)***

**Parish Contact:**

Margaret Gearon

***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?*

 **WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO:** 75 bite-size explanations of Catholic practices

 © The Story Source, 1993. TeresaPirola.net –

 ***Why do we have a Church calendar?***

Life can be hectic. So many dates to juggle: school holidays, birthdays, grand final day, election day... As a Church family, too, we have a busy calendar. We call it the liturgical year because it is comprised of the various Christian feasts and seasons celebrated over the course of a year. The Church year begins with Advent. Easter is the pinnacle. The readings in the Sunday Mass vary according to a three year cycle (A, B & C). This calendar allows our faith community to focus on the mysteries of our

faith in some kind of systematic and unified way.

 **Why do we have ‘ordinary’ Sundays?**

In between all the special festive occasions that occur in the life of a family there are many days which we might call ‘ordinary’. Filled with daily rituals - preparing meals, fronting up for work, dropping the kids at footy practice - they are an essential dimension of family life. Our Church calendar, too, has periods called Sundays in Ordinary Time or Sundays of the Year which are numbered consecutively. In between

all the ‘special occasions’ (the various Christian feasts and seasons) they are the

sustaining celebrations of our life together as a faith family.

 **Why the different colours?**

You may notice over the Church year changes in the colours of the vestments of the priest and the altar. This has nothing to do with the whims of fashion! Different colours are used to symbolize the truths and sentiments expressed by the various liturgical celebrations. Purple (symbolizing preparation and penance) is used for Advent and Lent; red (warmth and blood) for Pentecost and for feasts commemorating the sufferings of Christ and the martyrs); white (joy, purity, innocence, glory) for celebrations such as Christmas and Easter, weddings, baptisms and funerals; green (life) for Sundays in Ordinary Time.

**‘Today is the feast of...’**

When families and friends celebrate birthdays, graduations and anniversaries they are making a statement about a person or a value which is collectively important to them. The Catholic Church, too, is full of celebrations―saints’ feast days and holy days―that affirm certain people and truths that are important to us as a faith family. Such occasions help unite and keep alive important events and relationships which have shaped our very existence as a Church.

**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**](http://pol.org.au/blackburnsouth/Policies.aspx)