

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South



46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE - OUR TIME PROMOTING GOD'S HOSPITALITY

This week's readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11; Gospel Luke 3:1-6

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

Historical Context – At this time This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

Have you thought? Baptism We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

Living the Gospel – Make way! Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

Raise your voices ...

Entrance antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

We are Companions on the Journey ...

www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

**Rev Father Gerard Johnson
Parish Priest**

Sonya O'Farrell

**Part-time Parish Secretary
Wednesdays, Thursdays &
Fridays**

10.00am – 2.00pm

Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au

Website:

www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

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.
*(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@slblackburnst.catholic.edu.au

Website:

stlukes@slblackburnst.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 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, may they all rest in peace.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Advent. **Tuesday:**
St Damasus I, pope. **Wednesday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe.
Thursday: St Lucy, virgin, martyr. **Friday:** St John of the Cross,
priest, doctor. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of Advent 1, Eucharistic
Prayer III. Eucharistic Acclamation No. III.

A VOCATION VIEW: John the Baptist cried out and made ready
for the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community, (Luke 3:1-6).

2019 BREAK OPEN THE WORD books for Parish

Lectors/Readers on our roster are now available from the Priest's sacristy. Please pick
yours up after Mass this weekend and please make sure you have marked your name
on the list so that the Parish Office knows that you now have your copy.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever
more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of
value..." PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10 Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values
and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying
we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that
are in need.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM new dual pledge
commitments took effect a fortnight ago and to avoid any confusion please destroy
any old envelopes that you may still have. *Parishioners are not required to tear their
New Envelopes in half as it makes it easier for the Counters and no sticky tape on them
please; they can be placed in either collection bag. Some Parishioners have chosen
not to support their Parish or Parish Priest in this way and of course Visitors who join us
from week to week will not have Envelopes so the second collection encourages them
to financially support the Parish and the Parish Priest too.*

**THE LAST ARCHDIOCESAN COLLECTION AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES THIS
YEAR** is next weekend for Melbourne Overseas Mission.

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

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF US IN AUSTRALIA AT
THIS TIME?** The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

decisions for the future. All people are invited to
contribute to the Plenary Council agenda by
sharing their experience of faith and of the
Church. The Plenary Council agenda will be
developed from the stories you share and the
questions you raise. Our questions about and our
hopes for the Church will arise from hearts that
listen to the Spirit. This week, we are inviting all
our Parishioners to pray the Advent Plenary
Council Prayer at the end of our Prayers of the Faithful and throughout the coming
week. A number of Parishioners gathered this past week in a lively manner and many
points emerged during our conversation. Another opportunity awaits You during **the
season of Advent on Thursday evenings each week at 7.30pm till 8.30pm (13th & 20th
December) to meet in the Parish School Staff room to spend Advent this year answering
this question. Please come along.**

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PC2020ParishGuide.pdf>

"The real newness is the newness which God mysteriously brings about and inspires,
provokes, guides and accompanies in a thousand ways." Pope Francis
Evangelii Gaudium 12. <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Be still and know, Be still and know that I am, Be still and know that I am your God.

God of this Advent time,

As we watch, wait, long and hope, awaken our hearts to your presence.

Encourage us in our efforts to listen humbly to each other.

Inspire in us the words to speak boldly with each other. Create within us a spirit of discernment.

Give us hopeful hearts as we continue our journey to the Plenary Council.

We ask this in the name of Emmanuel - - - God-with-us. Amen.

IN WHAT IS AN HISTORIC DECISION, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
have endorsed an Acknowledgment plaque for use in Schools, Parishes and
organisations across Australia. The plaque is produced on a steel substrate and can be
displayed both inside the Church or outside in a prominent location. "For us, Country is
a word for all the values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations associated
with that area and its features. It describes the entirety of our ancestral domains."
Professor Mick Dodson [http://www.natsicc.org.au/acknowledgement-and-welcome-
to-country.html](http://www.natsicc.org.au/acknowledgement-and-welcome-to-country.html)

NATSICC & ACBC AGREED RECOGNITION: We acknowledge the Traditional
Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We
acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing
journey of Reconciliation. (Our sign will be installed in our Church foyer soon.)

PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	8 AND 9 DEC. 2018	15 AND 16 DEC. 2018
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Melina Barcellona	Terry Wells
	10:30 AM	Godfrey Thong	Engelina Nyhuis
		Val Gardiner	Margaret Gearon

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	8 AND 9 DEC. 2018	15 AND 16 DEC. 2018
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Ian Holmes	Mia Perang
	10:30 AM	Rosemary Donaldson	Melina Barcellona
		Jess Kilroe-Smith	Marg Yore

WELCOMER'S ROSTER

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	8 AND 9 DEC. 2018	15 AND 16 DEC. 2018
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Greg Grant	Lorraine Kermond
	10:30 AM	Don McKenzie	Rosemary Donaldson
		Leigh Kelly	Margaret Gearon

SLIDE OPERATORS

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	8 AND 9 DEC. 2018	15 AND 16 DEC. 2018
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Tony Lobo	David Prabha
	10:30 AM	Megan McLean	Darren McLean
		Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

CHURCH CLEANING

15 DEC. 2018
Team 6 (Sonya's Team)
Sonya O'Farrell, Rose Knight,
Joe Brogno & Shirley Prabha

MAINTENANCE

15 DEC. 2018
Team 3
Sean Harford & Joe Brogno

ANTICIPATING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: Parishioners are cordially invited to attend Carols in the Quadrangle of our Parish Primary School this Thursday evening, 13th December from 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Please B.Y.O. travel rug and chair.

END OF PARISH SCHOOL MASS will be held this Friday morning 14th December, @ 9.00am. It will be an opportunity for the Parish to farewell Michelle Scott – one of our long serving teachers and Margaret Carmani one of our Teacher's Aids. All Parishioners welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL LOCAL CONFERENCE: A very genuine and sincere **thankyou** to all Parishioners who supported our Annual Christmas Appeal last weekend. The \$2174.55 will go a LONG way - enabling us to now offer more practical Christmas Joy to the people in our community whom we support, for with Joy this Christmas, it will be Christmas indeed.

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES/MASS ROSTER: Parishioners who are available to be Ministers of the Word and/or Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for Christmas Masses this year **please** record your name and contact details on the clip board situated on the notice-table in our Church foyer this weekend.

A NUMBER OF MAINTENANCE ROSTERS are still available for collection on the notice table in our Church foyer this weekend.

ADVENT WEEK 2: PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: WHAT IS GOD ASKING OF US IN AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME?

• Our questions about and our hopes for the Church arise from hearts that listen to the Spirit. Having spent time in prayer over the past week, this week, we are inviting all our Parishioners to share their hopes for the Church. Our Parish group that gathers during the week is encouraged to enter into a listening and dialogue process, responding to the question of 'What is God asking of us in Australia this time?'

- See www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for more information.

PARISH CARE GROUP: It is that time of year again and the Care Group is starting to collect for our annual Christmas Hampers Raffle. The funds raised enable the Care Group to continue to support the St Luke's community. Tickets can be purchased in the foyer after each of the weekend Masses. Donations can be left in the hamper located in the foyer up to and including **Sunday 23rd Dec 10:30am. Some donations and festive food idea items such as:** biscuits, fruit cake, puddings, chocolates, lollies, Chips (snack food), wine, soft drinks **Gift items such as: (please nothing too fragile)** Mugs, Hand cream, Gift cards, Glasses - in packaging. **Please note:** Food products that are out of date or will be past the expiry date before Feb 2019 cannot be used in the hamper.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 9 Dec 2018 This week on The Journey, the Gospel reflection is from the Dioceses of Wollongong Advent reflection booklet, Marilyn Rodrigues, The Peaceful Parent reminds us of the importance of "One On One Time" and The Pirolos in their "Smart Loving" God spot encourages us to make a change for the better. Our music selection goes hand in hand with our Journey Catholic Radio program, where faith hope, love and life come together. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS PROTECT THE MIRACLE OF MOTHERHOOD THIS CHRISTMAS:

When you choose a Global Gift card to give to family or friends this Christmas, you are supporting women give birth safely with access to expert care before and after babies are born. **Order Global Gift cards online at www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413** See Church noticeboard and notice table for more details.

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

Do not our hearts burn within us as we walk 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

Stewardship 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 Committee
Steve Brennan
Parish Accountant

Hall Hire
Parish Office - 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 0419 347 693

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 & School Liaison
Sonya O'Farrell

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

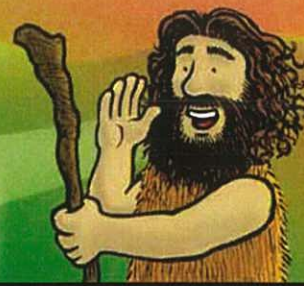
St Vincent de Paul Conference
For Assistance: 1800 305 330
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

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?

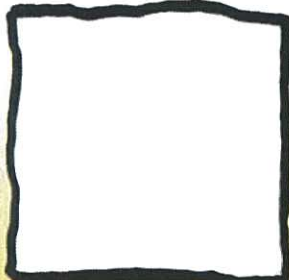
Make a straight path for the Lord



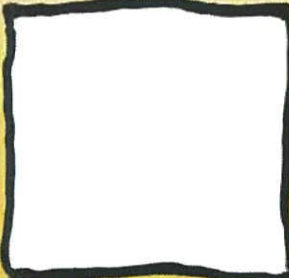
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

There have been many people who came before Jesus to prepare the way for his arrival.

There are special people in your life who are helping you prepare the way for Jesus. Draw a picture of 2 of these people helping you. Write their names and how they are helping.



ABRAHAM Abraham was called by God from his home in the east to a new land called Canaan. God promised that this land would belong to the family of Abraham forever. Abraham is often represented with a symbol of a tent. Draw a picture of Abraham's tent.



DAVID David was a young shepherd who was chosen by God to be the new King of Israel. The prophet Jeremiah told how one day a great ruler from the family of David would come into the world. As we know, that great ruler is Jesus. Draw a picture of King David's Crown.



MARY Write down the things you know about the mother of Jesus



JOHN the BAPTIST Write down the things you know about John the Baptist

_____ is helping me _____

_____ is helping me _____

Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus





Ten ways to Invite People Home this Christmas

“Come home for Christmas!” There are people who have lost touch with the Church who long to come back, especially at Christmas time, but are hesitant to take the first step. In this leaflet we explore the practicalities of inviting people ‘home’ to their local parish this Christmas.

1. Pray for them

During Advent, light a candle each night and pray for one special person who has lost touch with their parish community. As part of your prayer ask God to show you the best way to reach out to this person.

2. Ask forgiveness

Advent is a season of renewal in preparation for Christmas. This Advent, let's examine the ways in which we have made it difficult for people to belong to the Church, whether by our lack of love, judgmental attitudes or by simply ignoring them. Ask God's forgiveness and say 'sorry' to an individual who is distanced from the Church.

3. Write a letter

Thoughtfully and prayerfully write a letter or Christmas card to a loved one, expressing what's in your heart and what it would mean to you if he/she joined you at Christmas Mass this year.

4. Host drinks after Mass

Arrange for drinks to be held (at home or at a local venue) after the Christmas Vigil Mass this year. Then invite your friends, including those who are far from the Church, to join you—for drinks *and* Mass!

5. Involve children

Children have a natural ability to soften hearts. Involve them in your efforts to welcome, invite and reach out to people this Christmas.

6. Hold a nativity play

A children's nativity play held in your home or street is a friendly way to proclaim Christ to the neighbours. Send out invitations, prepare the children, welcome people as they arrive, and finish with Christmas carols. To top it off, warmly invite your 'audience' to visit their local church on Christmas Day.

7. Send an invitation

Design a Christmas card on behalf of your local parish and include Christmas Mass times. Then letter-box-drop all the Catholics in your area. By joining with other Christian churches in your locality, a strategy like this can work well as an ecumenical venture.

8. Advertize widely

As well as letter-box-drops, check that Mass and Reconciliation times and other parish activities during Advent and Christmas are well publicized. Is there a clear sign outside the church? Are they listed in the bulletin? Submit an attractive advertizement to local media outlets.

9. Affirm and empower gifts

One way to involve 'distanced Catholics' in the life of the parish is to acknowledge their talents and put them to work. Whether it be serving meals to the poor, collecting for Christmas hampers, assisting with the children's liturgy or organizing the parish Christmas party, let people know that they are needed and valued.

10. Proclaim Jesus at home

When visitors enter your home, do they 'catch' the spirit of Advent and Christmas? Display symbols of faith, light the Advent wreath each evening, decorate a Jesse Tree, display a nativity scene, fill your home with beautiful Christmas carols and a spirit of love.

Helpful Hint

During Advent hold an evening of welcome for people who have been away from the Church and who wish to reconnect. Two simple ways to invite people to share their story: E.g., "How did you come to be here tonight?" "What happened that led you to lose touch with your Catholic community?" Invite parishioners to share their experience of belonging to this parish.

Worth pondering ...

T'was the night before Christmas
God glanced over the earth.
God looked to and fro,
All over it's girth.
They missed it again God said with a sigh,
A heavy heart and a tear in God's eye.
I gave them my son,
So they could be free.
My greatest gift,
To them from me.
They traded me in,
For a man in red.
A little tree,
And horse drawn sled.
How do I save them,
And make them see.
My love is complete,
My grace is free.
How do I help them,
When all they know.
Is a talking snowman,
And a box with a bow.
Maybe next year,
They will stop and see.
The biggest gift of Christmas.
Is the little child from me.