

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 2018
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

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

This week's readings: Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Gospel Luke 3:10-18

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: Is it any wonder that there was a growing sense among the people that John might be the Christ? His teaching in the first part of this week's gospel might just as easily have come from the mouth of Jesus. It demonstrates for us just how much John was preparing the way for Jesus: even his teaching was in line with what Jesus would later say. In this instance, the people gathered around John (presumably having been baptised by him) are asking how they should live out their new-found conversion of heart. John's response to the three groups is about the need for generosity and justice. It is about not taking more than your share when someone else does not have sufficient. To the crowd of people, he instructs them to give away a second tunic to someone who doesn't have one at all and to share their food with those who are hungry. To the tax collectors, he cautioned them to collect no more than what they were supposed to. Tax collectors made their profit by overcharging taxpayers. Together with the fact that they worked for the Roman occupiers, this made tax collectors one of the most despised groups in society. John's caution to them is to be just in their dealings. He also cautions the soldiers against intimidation and extorting money from the people to supplement their pay. The themes of justice and hospitality that will echo throughout the gospel of Luke are clearly evident in this episode with John. When the people start to talk about him being the Christ, John is quick to point them to the one who is still to come; the one who will share with them more fully the love of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Have you thought? – A change of heart: The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

Living the Gospel – Generosity of spirit: John's words to the crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers are about adopting a spirit of generosity and a generosity of spirit. A generosity of spirit can be expressed simply in the attitude with which we approach other people: a positive, hope-filled and generous attitude will often turn around a potentially negative situation. As we approach the Christmas season, there is a need for practical actions of generosity as well. Those in need can approach Christmas with dread rather than joyful expectation. It can be the hardest time of year for struggling families. Acts of generosity can make all the difference.

Gospel Focus – Baptised with the Holy Spirit: John makes clear to his audience the difference between himself and the Messiah who is still to come. His ritual of baptism will pale in comparison with the baptism with the Holy Spirit that the Christ will offer. Compared to a symbolic action of baptism, Jesus will offer the people a tangible experience of life in the Holy Spirit. He will give them not only a glimpse of the reign of God, but an invitation to enter fully into it. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a lived experience, not just a ritual action.

Raise your voices ...

Entrance antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Response to the Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring the Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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
Reconciliation will be available too
during this time.

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!

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and for those Parishioners unable to be
among us this weekend. For those who died recently, especially Karlis Mundeciems and
for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, may they all rest in peace.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Advent. **Friday:**
St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of
Advent II, Eucharistic Prayer I. Eucharistic Acclamation No. 1.

AVOCATION VIEW: Rejoice always! Our Saviour is near! The call
to priesthood and/or consecrated/religious life is a source of
great joy to those who embrace their call with their whole heart,
mind and soul. (1 Thes 5:16)

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: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." PHILIPPIANS 4:6 St. Paul
reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to
give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to
share what we have been given.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM new dual pledge
commitments took effect three weeks 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.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION annual collection at all Masses this weekend.

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

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 is an opportunity to gather responses. The
challenge still stands to ask all our Parishioners to
pray the Advent Plenary Council Prayer at the end

of our Prayers of the Faithful and especially throughout the coming week. More Parishioners
gathered this past week and many diverse yet complimentary points emerged during our
conversation. With the Feast of Christmas being so close, a **CONSENSUS** was reached to
postpone **OUR** next opportunity till **Thursday evening next February 7th 2019, at 7.30pm
till 8.30pm to meet again in the Parish School Staff room to answer this question. Please
come along in the New Year. In the meantime, if you would like to make your own
submission please visit the following site:**

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>

"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>

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

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>15 AND 16 DEC. 2018</u> | <u>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u> |
| SATURDAY | 6:00 PM Terry Wells | Lorraine Kermond |
| SUNDAY | 8:30 AM Engelina Nyhuis | Kana Chelliah |
| | 10:30 AM Margaret Gearon | Lynda Kilroe-Smith |

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>15 AND 16 DEC. 2018</u> | <u>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u> |
| SATURDAY | 6:00 PM Mia Perang | Mia Perang |
| SUNDAY | 8:30 AM Melina Barcellona | Beryl Chelliah |
| | 10:30 AM Marg Yore | Steve Kilroe-Smith |

WELCOMER'S ROSTER

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>15 AND 16 DEC. 2018</u> | <u>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u> |
| SATURDAY | 6:00 PM Lorraine Kermond | |
| SUNDAY | 8:30 AM Rosemary Donaldson | |
| | 10:30 AM Margaret Gearon | |

SLIDE OPERATORS

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <u>15 AND 16 DEC. 2018</u> | <u>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u> |
| SATURDAY | 6:00 PM David Prabha | Tony Lobo |
| SUNDAY | 8:30 AM Darren McLean | Rosemary Donaldson |
| | 10:30 AM Manny Gonzalez | Manny Gonzalez |

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

CHURCH CLEANING

22 DEC. 2018
Professional Cleaning

MAINTENANCE

22 DEC. 2018
Team 4
Frank Melville, Rodney Caple
Danny Nolan, Judy Noy &
Jennifer Raeburn

AFTER 37 YEARS Bill Goodwin has decided to 'hang up his Maintenance spurs'. On behalf of the Parish may we take this opportunity to thank him most genuinely for his significant contribution to the Parish and its' grounds over those many years coordinating the Roster, the Parishioners on it and the tasks done by them for our benefit, making the place look presentable each week for us and for our visitors. If there is a Parishioner willing to step into this role of co-ordination please let Fr Gerard know asap.

2019 MONTHLY LITURGICAL TIMETABLE: Parishioners who are residents at Regis Inala have invited us to join them on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for Weekday Mass beginning on February 12th 2019 @ 11.00am and concluding on November 12th @ 11.00am. Please come along and join us each month in the Chapel, all Parishioners are welcome. **Parishioners** may also like to know that on the First Friday of every month @ 10.30am beginning February 7th 2019 Weekday Mass is celebrated in **Mecwacare** 13- 25 Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North Victoria 3129. All Parishioners are welcome to join us there too. Signing in is required at reception.

WEEK 3 TO BE ON THE FIRST THURSDAY EVENING OF FEBRUARY 2019, 7TH:
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 listening to each other's stories over the past week, this week, we are inviting all our Parishioners to pray for what it is they think God is asking of us at this time.
- You can also respond via making your own submission by visiting the following site:

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>

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.

GENUINE APOLOGIES for any inconvenience caused to Parishioners for being unable to notify you of the last-minute cancellation of the Parish School Family Christmas Carols which the School Administration made due to concerns regarding the wet unpredictable weather.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM –AIRS 23 Dec2018: This week on The Journey, the Gospel reflection is from the Dioceses of Wollongong Advent reflection booklet, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from the Abbey with her Christmas reflection, Bruce Downes the Catholic Guy reminds us to be still before God, and The Pirolas encourage us to Make A Change For The Better. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we say thank you for your support with Journey Catholic Radio for another year. God Bless, and Merry Christmas from all of us here at the Diocese of Wollongong. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

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?



What must we do?

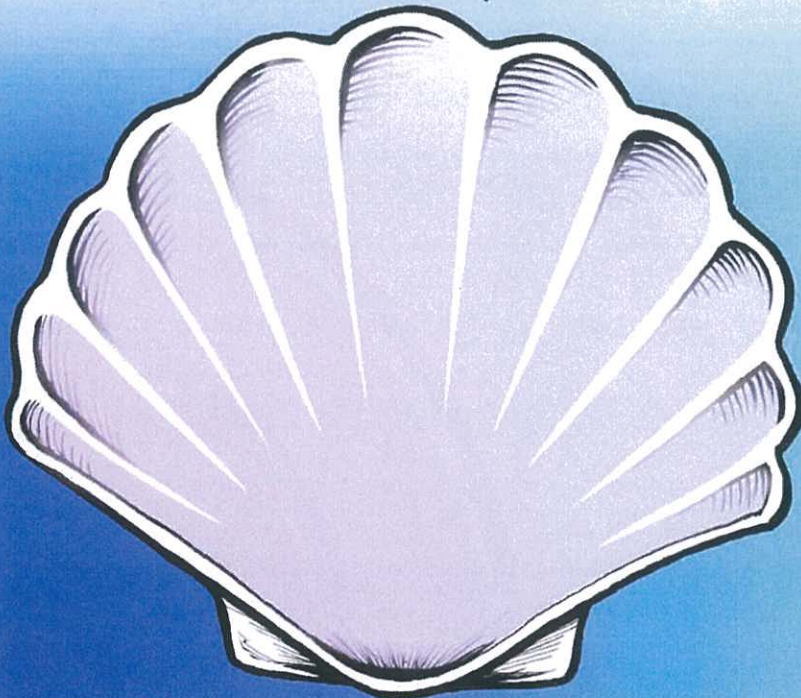


3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C

John, the son of Zechariah baptised people in the River Jordan to prepare them for the arrival of God's chosen one, Jesus. Draw John baptising one of the people in the river.



John the Baptist had great respect for Jesus. He told people, "Someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals." Write down in the shell how you can show your respect for Jesus.



Water is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of life and purity. Below there are clues to six hidden words that are all symbols used in Baptism and Mass



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | F | A | Y | I | H | I | Q | K |
| F | T | M | W | J | O | Q | G | W |
| D | G | P | V | Z | Z | U | F | I |
| Z | G | W | A | T | E | R | I | N |
| Z | G | X | P | K | F | T | R | E |
| Q | E | S | L | U | Q | H | E | N |
| Q | D | K | C | R | O | S | S | X |
| Q | Z | Q | K | U | G | H | M | B |
| N | C | A | N | D | L | E | B | J |
| B | H | B | R | E | A | D | D | Q |

The art of making memories

It was a bleak day, raining and cold. Vic and Liz were out shopping with their three year old son. Liz pushed the child's stroller while Vic walked along side holding the umbrella. 'Next stop's the post office,' said Liz. 'I've got some letters to post.'

As they approached the red box Vic reached for the letters which, like them, were slowly being soaked. Liz held on to one envelope.

'C'mon,' said Vic impatiently. 'Let's just mail it and go.'

'I want Francis to post this one himself,' said Liz gently but firmly. So there in the midst of the drizzling rain Vic stood and waited while Liz lifted Francis from his stroller and held him as he struggled to push the envelope down the mail chute. Vic was becoming irritated. He was about to say how stupid he thought the whole exercise to be when Francis reached across and gave him a hug saying, 'I send Gramma her birthday card myself!'

Vic recalls that the incident left him speechless. 'Liz had often talked about creating memorable moments for our kids,' he says. 'Here she was creating one for me. It was with my own mother that our son was developing a beautiful bond. If I had had my way, my haste and efficiency would have denied us all of a treasured grace in our lives.'

The gospel wisdom in this story shines a spotlight on our sense of priorities. Such an

incongruous scene. There in the midst of our comfort-obsessed, fast-everything society, stands a threesome huddled over a post box in the rain. The child reaches up to post a precious letter. He is held by his mother, sheltered by his father. It is an image of the Holy Family worth pondering as we begin preparations for Christmas.

Like the Christ-child in the nativity crib we can look upon such scenes as simply cute and endearing. On the other hand we can look to their deeper meaning: God is with us. When we stop and face our God-given capacity to love and be loved we experience our humanity as blessed and permeated by grace. One of the ways we communicate this truth is through the creation of loving memories.

What does it mean to create a loving memory? It means to take an ordinary situation and seize upon its potential as an occasion for joy, laughter, wonder and intimacy; to turn it into an event that will be spoken of with fondness in years to come. 'Remember the time we got creamed in the basketball final and we decided to celebrate "our worst score ever"? Dad popped the champagne and everything!' 'Remember when we were kids Mum would let us make our own birthday cakes. They tasted terrible but gosh we had fun.' If you are a family with 'remember whens' like these you are blessed indeed!

The approach of Christmas with all its 'must dos' - from

shopping and cooking to planning holidays and liturgies - is a rich opportunity for making memories. Paradoxically, the pressure-cooker feel at this time of year can make Christmas seem more like a litany of chores than a celebration of love. Surely a vital challenge for contemporary Christians is to develop the art of enjoying Christmas; an enjoyment that stems from a material simplicity that makes room for our delight in one another and the gift of our Saviour. Our joy will come at a price. We will have to sacrifice some of our efficiency and perfection for so-called 'wasted time' and 'poor results'. In years to come our material proficiency will be forgotten. Our memories of love and faith will be our enduring treasures. •



At Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation: God entering human history in the person of Jesus. How will our hearts and homes welcome Emanuel ('God-with-us')? Add your best ideas to the thoughts that follow.

1. Tell the Jesus story

The crib is a beautiful symbol of the Christmas message and a simple teaching tool for children and adults alike. Make this a sacred feature in your home. We can also familiarise our children with the Jesus story through books, CDs, DVDs, website, etc. Encourage them to create their own pictures, games and dramas based on the nativity theme.

2. Give gifts of self

What 'gift of the heart' will you give this Christmas? A gift of listening to a parent? A gift of playtime with your child? A gift of romance with your spouse? A gift of praise for your teenager? Choose a unique gift for the person you love, write it down on a card or scroll and tie it to the Christmas tree.

3. Make Advent prayerful

Prioritize moments of prayer during Advent: lighting the Advent wreath; prayer breaks (instead of coffee breaks); enter fully into the Advent liturgies and other parish celebrations. Sing Christmas carols—and mean it.

4. Cards that people keep

Write cards to be treasured. Don't settle for "Dear Pat, Happy Christmas, Love Alex." Add a few words that affirm, thank, build up and deepen bonds of faith. "Dear Pat, I thank God for our friendship. Your smile is uplifting. Love, Alex."

5. Share memories

What was your most memorable Christmas? How did Great Uncle Joe celebrate Christmas as a child? Simple table topics like these during the Christmas season are memory-makers in themselves.

6. Festivity with justice

Recall the simplicity of the crib. Rethink your material habits this Christmas. Cut back on commercial spending; pool your funds to assist someone in genuine material need. What other riches can we 'spend' on others this Christmas (time, love, family, faith)?

7. Make peace

Christmas: what better time to let go of old grudges and experience the peace of Christ? Take one of your deepest wounds and forgive the other from the heart; perhaps someone who has died. Receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Pray for peace in war-torn nations.

8. Take time

Relationships are essential to Christmas. Take time to nurture your key relationships. Cancel a work date to 'hang out' with your kids. Leave the shopping and write to a dear friend. Spend some precious, intimate time with your spouse. Or just sit in prayer and 'waste time' with God.

9. Lunch and love

Look for ways to infuse Christmas lunch with Christ's love. Pause to praise God in an extended grace. Pay attention to the person most easily overlooked at the table. Invite a neighbour. Choose conversation topics that are inclusive and lifegiving. Assist a parent struggling with a young child. Thank the cook!

10. Share the spirit

Share something of Christmas with a person you wouldn't usually see. E.g., a friend in a nursing home, in hospital, in jail. Help serve meals at a hostel for the homeless. Invite a neighbour to lunch.

Helpful Hint

Christmas Masses are often crowded so check Mass times well ahead and get there early. Allow time to mingle with the congregation afterwards. Take your child to the nativity crib in the church and say a prayer there. What prayer from the depths of your heart do you bring to the Lord this Christmas?