

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE - BEING THE GOOD NEWS & PROMOTING GOD'S HOSPITALITY

This week's readings: Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Gospel Luke 1:39-44

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: The gospel passages of the second and third weeks of Advent this year featured John the Baptist in his role of preparing the way for the coming of Jesus; the one who announces the arrival of the Christ. In this week's passage, which goes back to an earlier point in the gospel of Luke, we might say that the as yet unborn John is already recognising the presence of the Christ. When Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, the child within Elizabeth's womb – John – leaps for joy. At the time of the Annunciation, when Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she was to give birth to a child, Mary is also told that Elizabeth and Zechariah, although very old, were to also give birth to a child. Mary rushes to visit Elizabeth, not to make sure that the angel was telling her the truth but because the fact that Elizabeth was also pregnant was a sign of confirmation to Mary that she had indeed made the right decision. Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy confirms for Mary the even greater truth of her own pregnancy. These two women, separated by age and distance, share a common experience of God acting in their lives to bring about unlikely events. The lives of their two children will be inextricably linked such that the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb will eventually baptise the other and announce the arrival of his ministry to the people of Israel. The joy expressed by Elizabeth and her child reflects the joy of all people of faith as we draw so close to the celebration of Christmas and the greatest expression of God's love – to enter into the world as one just like us and share our experience.

Gospel Focus – Blessed are you: *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.* Elizabeth's greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer, the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke's gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

Scriptural context – John the Baptist: The gospel of Luke pays greater attention to John the Baptist than any of the other three gospels. In this gospel the foretelling of John's birth precedes the foretelling of the birth of Jesus and then the birth of John immediately precedes the birth of Jesus. In the gospel of Luke, John is the forerunner of Jesus. The story of his miraculous birth is paralleled with that of Jesus but always comes first. Luke makes it abundantly clear that John came first and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus.

Living the Gospel – Looking for signs: When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

Dear Parishioners: I write to notify you that Mrs Jackie Purcell has accepted a new role in Catholic education. Her years here have certainly made our Parish School an outstanding educational community and we thank her for her considerable and significant contribution. Please be assured that the leadership structure that exists in our Parish School will continue to serve us all well as 2019 begins. Mr Ed Weekes has kindly accepted the role of Acting Principal for the foreseeable future.

This will be a transition time for all of us. Ms Purcell takes up her new role on the 4 March 2019.

Raise your voices ... Entrance antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**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 (currently on leave)
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

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Mon. 6.00pm (Family) & 10.00pm

Christmas Carols from 9.30pm

Tues. 8.30am & 10.30am

Weds. - Sat. @ 9:00am

Rosary prayed after Mass times
Weds. - Sat. All welcome.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.30am & 5.30pm

EXPOSITION & BENECTION

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@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.*

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 Carmel Mcphee-Lam
and Franceshina Cicchitto and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time,
may they all rest in peace.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Christmas Time.

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord; **Wednesday:** St Stephen, the
first martyr; **Thursday:** St John, apostle, evangelist; **Friday:**
The Holy Innocents, martyrs; **Saturday:** St Thomas Beckett,
bishop, martyr. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of Advent II, Eucharistic
Prayer II. Eucharistic Acclamation No. II.

A VOCATION VIEW: Mary was called to be open to the
extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to
God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide

you always. (Luke 1:26-38).

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my
ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." LUKE 1:44 When you hear the scripture
readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame
the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or
do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active
participants, not passive by-standers.

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.

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. **OUR** next
opportunity to gather for this conversation will be **Thursday evening next February**
7th 2019, at 7.30pm till 8.30pm to meet again in the Parish School Staff room. 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/>

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and celebration

Open our eyes to the songs of the angels as they tell of Good News

Give us joyful hearts as we sing and pray and celebrate

Awaken our hearts anew to your presence

Encourage us in our efforts to speak boldly and with prayerful discernment

Lead us in our work toward the Plenary Council 2020

That we may continue to proclaim 'Joy to the world, the Lord is here!'

Our Lady Help of Christians: pray for us; St Mary MacKillop: pray for us;

St Luke the Evangelist: pray for us.

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.

PARISH MAINTENANCE & ROSTER: If there is a Parishioner wanting to be responsible for
this role of co-ordination please let Fr Gerard know asap.

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>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u>	<u>29 AND 30 DEC. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	Monica Hodder
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Kana Chelliah	Megan McLean
	10:30 AM	Lynda Kilroe-Smith	Marg Yore

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

		<u>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u>	<u>29 AND 30 DEC. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Mia Perang	Oliva Hammill
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Beryl Chelliah	Godfrey Thong
	10:30 AM	Steve Kilroe-Smith	Margaret Gearon

SLIDE OPERATORS

		<u>22 AND 23 DEC. 2018</u>	<u>29 AND 30 DEC. 2018</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Tony Lobo	David Prabha
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Rosemary Donaldson	Darren McLean
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

CHURCH CLEANING

29 DEC. 2018
Team 7 (Bernard's Team)
Bernard O'Malley, Darren Owens,
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsop

MAINTENANCE

22 DEC. 2018
Christmas break

CHRISTMAS MASSES EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

		<u>24 AND 25 DEC. 2018</u>	
MONDAY	6:00 PM	Elizabeth Dixon	10:00 PM Terry Wells
TUESDAY	8:30 AM	Godfrey Thong	
	10:30 AM	Lynda Kilroe-Smith	

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

		<u>24 AND 25 DEC. 2018</u>	
MONDAY	6:00 PM	Annie & Caitlin	10:00 PM Melina Barcellona
TUESDAY	8:30 AM	Margaret Gearon	
	10:30 AM	Steve Kilroe-Smith	

SLIDE OPERATORS

		<u>24 AND 25 DEC. 2018</u>	
MONDAY	6:00 PM	Marg Yore	10:00 PM Megan McLean
TUESDAY	8:30 AM	Rosemary Donaldson	
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	

CONGRATULATIONS to all our Year 12 Parishioners who received their results recently.

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 4 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? 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 we share and the questions we raise.
- Our questions about and our hopes for the Church will arise from hearts that listen to the Spirit. Everyone is invited to be part of this process.
- Information about how to be involved is available at the back of the church of via www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au
- You can also respond via making your own submission by visiting the following site: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>

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 Dec 2018: 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

T.B.A.

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?



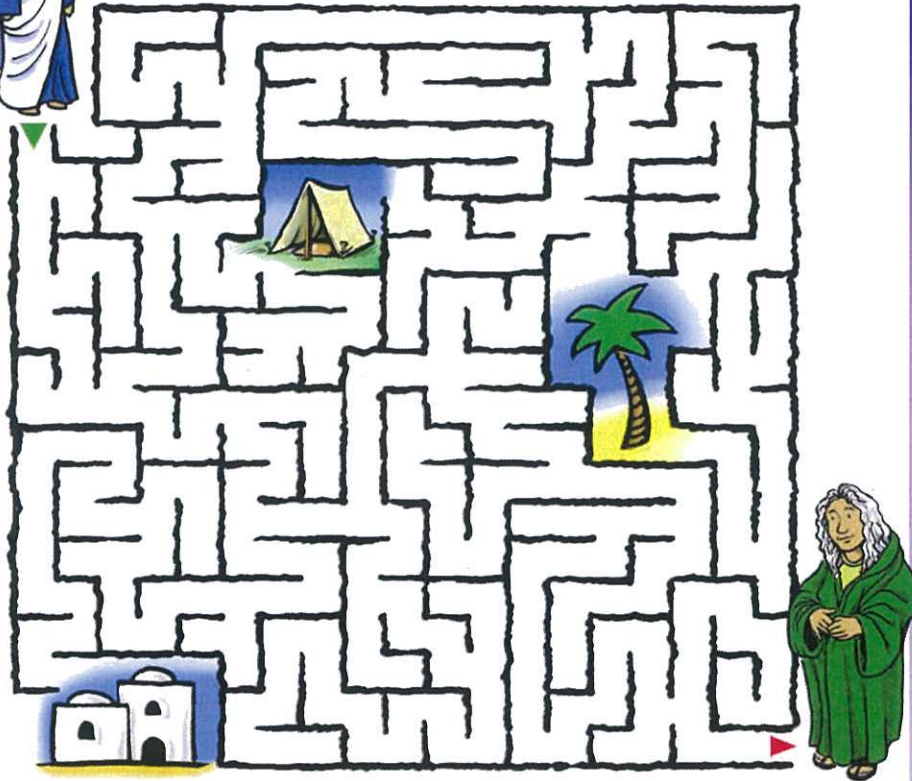
The Lord will keep His promise



4th Sunday of Advent, Year C



When Mary heard that her much older cousin Elizabeth was with child, she hurried to Elizabeth and Zechariah's house in the hills of Judea. Can you help Mary find the correct path to her cousin Elizabeth?



At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by doing special things. Write down why you think it's important to do each of the following things as well as adding one of your own.

I celebrate Christmas by giving gifts to others.

I celebrate Christmas with a family meal.

I celebrate Christmas by going to mass.

I celebrate Christmas by

DE-CODE ELIZABETH'S MESSAGE

Use the key below to find out what Elizabeth said to Mary.

A - 20	E - 18	I - 9	M - 14	Q - 26	U - 5	Y - 23
B - 12	F - 25	J - 24	N - 11	R - 2	V - 4	Z - 16
C - 6	G - 1	K - 19	O - 7	S - 15	W - 13	
D - 10	H - 3	L - 22	P - 17	T - 8	X - 21	

20 15 15 7 7 11 20 15 9 3 18 20 2 10

23 7 5 2 1 2 18 18 8 9 11 1

14 23 12 20 12 23 12 18 6 20 14 18

3 20 17 17 23 20 11 10 14 7 4 18 10

13 9 8 3 9 11 14 18