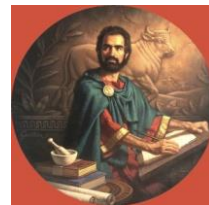


Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2019 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR C

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

This week's readings: Is 40:1-5. 9-11; Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Gospel Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

Historical context – Baptism: John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

Gospel focus – My Son, the Beloved: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

Have you thought? Trinity: The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

Raise your voices ... Entrance antiphon: After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Response to the Psalm: O, bless the Lord, my soul!

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Communion antiphon: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of 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

Wed. - 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 & Benediction
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
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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 and for all those whose
anniversaries occur about this time, may they all rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Ordinary Time. **Thursday:** St Anthony, abbot.
Saturday: Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary. **Masses:** Preface of the Baptism of the Lord,
Eucharistic Prayer III. Eucharistic Acclamation No. III.

A FORTNIGHT AGO THIS WEEKEND on the Feast of the Holy Family Parishioners
were offered homework after each Mass that weekend. "What is it that you admire
most about your family?" and "What is it that appeals to you most about this Parish
Family of Families?" I have received some very positive feedback from Parishioners who
completed it and hope that you have too.

OUR COLLECTIVE THANKS to the Parishioner(s) who has(ve) attended to our Parish
Gardens and Lawns this past week while the Maintenance Roster is in recess over January.
A job well done, for your labour and effort, speaks for itself.

ORDINARY TIME: Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character,
thirty-three or thirty-four weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a
specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are
devoted to the mystery of Christ in its fullness. This period is known as Ordinary Time.
Ordinary Time begins on Monday after the Sunday following 6 January and continues
until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday inclusive. It begins again on Monday after
Pentecost and ends before Evening Prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent. This is also
the reason for the series of liturgical formularies found in both the Missal and The Liturgy
of the Hours (Vol. III-IV), for Sundays and weekdays in this season. (GNLYC 43-44)

A VOCATION VIEW: Like Jesus, you are called God's beloved. Renew your baptismal
commitment and pray for those discerning a call to married, priesthood, single or
consecrated/religious life. (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

CHURCH CLEANING 19 JAN. 2019: Team 2 (Monica's Team) Monica Hodder,
Marie Parker, Filomena Manley and Beryl Kanagalinggam.

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. Parishioners are invited to pray
the Plenary Council Prayer at the end of our Prayers of the
Faithful and especially throughout the coming week: *Lord,
in this holy season of prayer and song and celebration, Open our
ears 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!' Amen*



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

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. "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>

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.)

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>

Where was Jesus baptized?	_____
Where were you baptized?	_____
Who baptized Jesus?	_____
Who baptized you?	_____
How old was Jesus when he was baptized?	_____
How old were you when you were baptized?	_____