

# Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

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**WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2019**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C**

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

*This week's readings: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; I Cor10:1-6, 10-12; Gospel Luke 13:1-9*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER:** When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

**Scriptural context – Parables:** The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

**Living the Gospel – Bad Things / Good People:** Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

**Gospel Focus – Repent:** Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

**Raise your voices ... Entrance antiphon:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Gospel acclamation:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

**Communion antiphon:** The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



**Saint Luke the Evangelist  
Catholic Parish  
Blackburn South**  
*Being the Good News ...*

[www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth](http://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](mailto:blackburnsouth@cam.org.au)

Website:  
[www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth](http://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,  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS &  
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

Mr Ed Weekes: Acting Principal

Email:  
[principal@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au)

Website:  
[stlukes@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au](http://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, especially Vicki Bowes and for those  
Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For those who died recently and all  
those whose anniversaries occur about this time, may they all rest in peace.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK:** Lent – **Monday:** The Annunciation of the  
Lord. **Wednesday evening:** Stations of the Cross. **Sunday Masses:** Preface for Lent II,  
Eucharistic Prayer III. Eucharistic Acclamation No. III.

**A VOCATION VIEW:** Moses heard God's call from a burning bush. What is your  
passion, your burning bush? Take time to know what God is sending you to do and be.  
(Exodus: 3:18, 13-15)

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** "He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have  
come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" (Luke 13:7) We can all be  
like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously  
share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with  
all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we  
are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase.

**THE 6PM CHOIR** will serve again this Sat 23rd March.

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

**EACH SUNDAY THROUGH OUR LENTEN SEASON TO  
EASTER SUNDAY,** we are asking ourselves the question

"What is God asking of me/us in St Luke's Parish  
Community at this time?" The collation of our responses will  
guide us to become all God imagined we, and our parish,  
could be for the people of our times. *(Last Week's 'post-it  
notes' feedback will be available for all to read next week)*  
This week we listen to God's voice telling us "let it alone for  
one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If  
it bears fruit next year, well and good but, if not, you can  
cut it down".

This Weekend's readings are asking us to take a good look  
at ourselves and let us reflect on the following for we are  
the Church, the People of God....

Every Lenten season is our chance to fertilise our tree and to  
see how it can be more fruitful.

I am being called not merely to survive personally as a Christian,  
to "hang in there" (just staying out of sin and being in the "state  
of grace"). I am being called to grow continually in being a truly  
loving person, loving God and loving all those around me.

To take a few examples:

- What kind of influence am I within my family circle?
- In work, how do I relate with my colleagues and is my  
presence a positive element in our workplace?
- What is my attitude towards strangers, that is, people I  
do not know and who are not "useful" to me?
- What kind of contribution (apart from giving money and  
being physically present in church) do I make to the life of the  
Christian community here at St Luke's?
- In general, what kind of contribution could I be said to be  
making in my society or do I expect society to satisfy only my  
needs and those of my immediate family?

**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.



## PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

	<u>23 AND 24 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY 6:00 PM	Ian Holmes	Lorraine Kermond
SUNDAY 8:30 AM	Melina Barcellona	Kana Chelliah
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	Val Gardiner	Elizabeth Dixon

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

	<u>23 AND 24 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY 6:00 PM	Tony Lobo	Bernie Brennan
SUNDAY 8:30 AM	Rosemary Donaldson	Beryl Chelliah
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	Margaret Gearon	Dale Dixon

### WELCOMER'S ROSTER

	<u>23 AND 24 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY 6:00 PM	Greg Grant	Lorraine Kermond
SUNDAY 8:30 AM	Marie Pekish	Don McKenzie
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	Margaret Gearon	John Logiusto

### SLIDE OPERATORS

	<u>23 AND 24 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY 6:00 PM	Choir	David Prabha
SUNDAY 8:30 AM	Anthony Fernandez	Liliana Poropat
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

### CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Lent

### CHURCH CLEANING

**30 MARCH. 2019**  
Team 4 (Joanne's Team)  
Joanne Nolan, Melissa O'Mara,  
Tina Tempamy & Jesse Barrett

### MAINTENANCE

**30 MARCH. 2019**  
Team 4  
Frank Melville, Rodney Caple  
& Danny Nolan

**LENT WEEK 3 - TWO-WAY LOVE:** I need to realise that God always and everywhere loves me. But that love is only fully completed in me when I become a genuinely loving and caring person, one who loves both God and others in word and action.

**THE INSIGHTFUL WORK** of our Parish Plenary Council 2020 attendees at the end of last year identified some of the challenges for the Catholic Church and some are shown below. Many of these can be addressed at parish level:

- ***Work on becoming relevant and take a leaf out of those dynamic places of worship which attract young people***
- ***Need to appeal to people on a different level especially the young***
- ***Strengthen family life and encourage less focus on the world and more focus on our encounters and seeing God in one another***
- ***Support our clergy to engage again with their people***

**PARISHIONERS PLEASED BE ADVISED** that the Panel to recommend the appointment of our next Parish Primary School Principal has been established. It will meet next Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> for the first time. The members are: Rob Scanlon (Principal Consultant and Catholic Education Melbourne), Suzi Brotherton (School Parent and current School Advisory Board Member), Denis Daly (Experienced Catholic Primary School Principal), Jo Adams (School Parent and current School Parent's Association Member), Fr Gerard (Parish Priest), Margaret Gearon (Parishioner and Deputy Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council). *Please keep us in your prayers as we make the best decision for all stakeholders.*

**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

*by ... Promoting God's Hospitality*

**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

**Parish Garden Maintenance**

TBA

**Holy Communion**

*to the housebound*

**Emmaus College**

**Education Board Parish Reps**

Maureen Mac Mahon &

Bernard O'Malley

**Parish & School Choirs**

Maria Pinto, Lina Mafi

0411 136 043

Marg Yore & Kat Bergin

9877 4023

**Parish and School**

**Fete Committee**

T.B.A. - 9877 4023

**Parish School Advisory Board**

Ed Weekes - 9877 4023

**Parish School**

**Parents' Association**

Ed Weekes - 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?*



# God will help us bear fruit

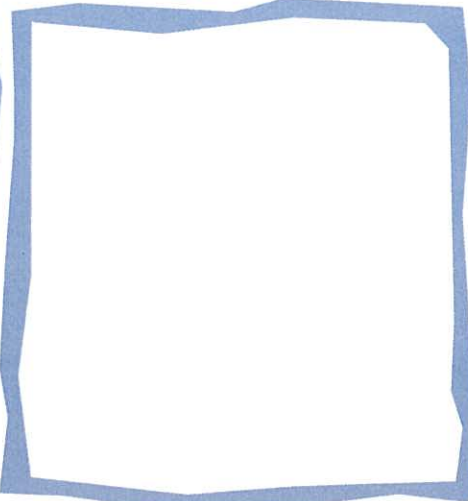
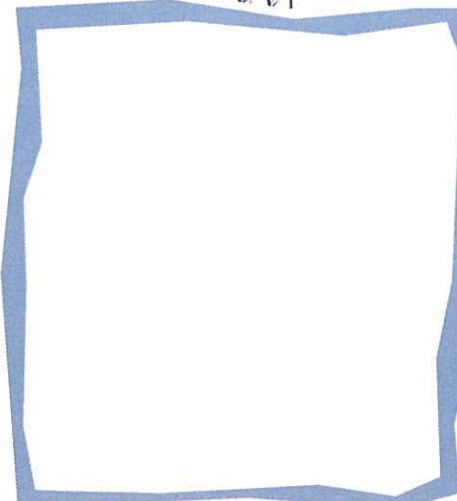
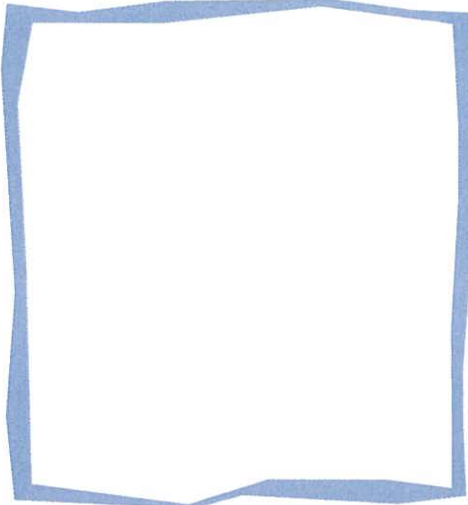


3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C

Jesus told his followers the story of a fig tree that would not bear fruit. The gardener said he would try hard for one more year to help it grow. God wants us to try hard so that we too can grow, and 'bear fruit'. What are four things you can do during Lent that help you be a better Christian and bring you closer to Jesus?



Jesus told parables to help his followers understand his teachings more clearly. Can you draw pictures from three different parables?



Can you spot the eight differences between these two pictures?

