

# Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

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**WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2019**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C**

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

*This week's readings: Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Gospel Luke 15:1-3*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER:** Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the 'lost' of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any 'sinner' who returns to God.

**Historical Context – Customs and culture:** The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

**Have you thought? The Prodigal:** Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word *prodigal* is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

**From the perspective of ... The Older Brother:** We might have a little sympathy for the position of the older brother who has stuck by his father and done all that was required of him. All of a sudden his wayward brother returns and his father pulls out all the stops to welcome him home. The older brother is like the Pharisees and scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love.

**Raise your voices ... Entrance antiphon:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**Response to the Psalm:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel acclamation:** Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**Communion antiphon:** You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

**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 Jim Grant, Vicki Bowes, Iris Evans and 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 – **Tuesday:** St Francis Paola, hermit. **Wednesday evening:** Stations of the Cross. **Thursday:** St Isidore, bishop, doctor. **Friday:** St Vincent Ferrer, priest. **Sunday Masses:** Preface for Lent III, Eucharistic Prayer I. Eucharistic Acclamation No. I.

**MECWACARE FIRST FRIDAY MASS** occurs this Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am @ 13-25 Strabane Avenue Mont Albert North Vic 3129. **Parishioners are welcome, please sign in at the Reception Desk on your way through to where Mass is celebrated.**

**A VOCATION VIEW:** God welcomes us home with extravagant love. Let the call to holiness draw you home into a deeper relationship with God. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** "No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." (Joshua 5:12) Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need

**THE 6PM CHOIR** will serve again on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** this Sunday at the 10.30am morning Mass.

**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. Our 'post-it notes' feedback is available for all to read this week on the white posters across the glass panes at the rear of the Church.

- Part of the renewal experience of Lent is to become more truly disciples of Jesus, to share more deeply his values, his outlook, his attitudes. "It is not incidental that, in Christianity, we worship the humiliated one. St John of the Cross".

- Looking to the future, this weekend's Gospel is important. We normally call it the Prodigal Son but the emphasis is on the Father, who clearly represents God and Jesus. No one denies the appalling behaviour of the younger son. The reaction might be "served him right". However, this is not the reaction of the Father who has only one thought in his mind – **how to get his Son to come back to where He belongs.** He says: "My Son went away, is lost and I want so much to have Him back." And He stands at the door of His house watching and waiting.....His love for His wayward Son has not changed one iota.

**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>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>6 AND 7 APR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	Monica Hodder
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Kana Chelliah	Megan McLean
	10:30 AM	Elizabeth Dixon	Lynda Kilroe-Smith

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

		<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>6 AND 7 APR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Bernie Brennan	Olive Hammill
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Beryl Chelliah	Darren McLean
	10:30 AM	Dale Dixon	Jess Kilroe-Smith

### WELCOMER'S ROSTER

		<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>6 AND 7 APR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Lorraine Kermond	Terry Wells
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Don McKenzie	Rita Gibb
	10:30 AM	John Logiusto	Pamela

### SLIDE OPERATORS

		<u>30 AND 31 MAR. 2019</u>	<u>6 AND 7 APR. 2019</u>
SATURDAY	6:00 PM	David Prabha	Choir
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Liliana Poropat	Rosemary Donaldson
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

### CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Lent

### CHURCH CLEANING

6 APRIL 2019  
Team 5 (Kellie's Team)  
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,  
Toni Wynne & Daniella  
Manolopoulos

### MAINTENANCE

20 APRIL 2019  
Team 5  
Manuel Gonzalez &  
Mike Lockwood

## 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?*

**LENT WEEK 4 - 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:

- **Formulate ways/strategies to regain people's trust in clergy today**
- **Leaders of Church need to show God's love in their actions**
- **People need to be helped with the challenges of life, not judged**
- **Put the readings at Mass in a contemporary context, particularly to engage teenagers. Look carefully at what Jesus Christ taught us and explain the context of the scripture that is faithful to the contemporary context**
- **Let us call out true rights and wrongs but embrace those who are trying to live a good life**
- **Review seminary formation of clergy to better equip them for service in the Church of today and tomorrow**
- **Unreserved apology for the Church's wrongs and seek forgiveness from those affected**

**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>



# I was lost but now I am found



4th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Lent is a time to focus on the act of forgiveness. We ask God to forgive us for the wrong things that we do. In the story of the prodigal son....

What wrong things did the younger son do? \_\_\_\_\_

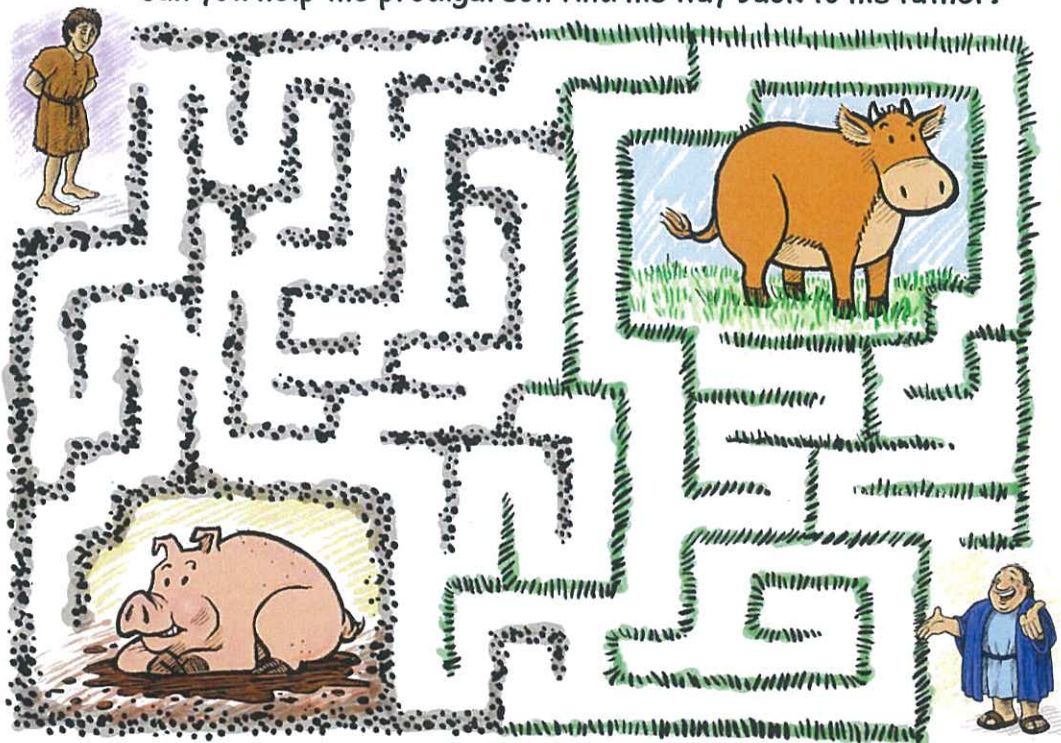
What did he do to show he was sorry? \_\_\_\_\_

When I do things against my friends, I can show them that I am sorry by...

When I do things against my family, I can show them that I am sorry by...

When I do things against God, I can show him that I am sorry by...

Can you help the prodigal son find his way back to his father?



## A Little Prayer

Dear God, help me when I turn away from you. You always call me back, help me listen to your voice. Give me the strength to forgive as you forgive. Amen.