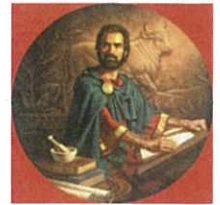


Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: 03 9877 2292 | Tel: 03 9894 3359

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW 5:7 – REACH OUT IN LOVE AND MERCY

This week's readings: Is 2:1 – 5; Rom 13:11 – 14; Gospel Matthew 24:37 – 44

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER: The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.) Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means 'coming'; it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today's reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation. It may seem a little confusing that we begin our year-long exploration of the gospel of Matthew by taking a reading from chapter 24. However, the need for readiness and alertness that Jesus speaks about in relation to the coming of the Kingdom is equally suitable for a modern audience when preparing to celebrate once again the coming of Jesus into the world. Jesus is the best expression of the Kingdom that we have yet experienced and so rather than seeing the choice of this passage as a confusion, we should recognise the alignment that exists between the anticipation of the Kingdom and the anticipation of the Nativity. **The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter** – are each preceded by a period of preparation: **Advent and Lent**. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world. **Gospel Focus – Get Ready!** Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself. **Scriptural context – Burglars in the night:** The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly. **Historical Context – The Advent Wreath:** One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

Raise your voices ... Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Response to the Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

Reach out in ...
www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard
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 Weekday 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

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. Liz Sullivan: Principal

Email:

principal@slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au

Website:

stlukes@slblackburnstn.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 this weekend all who are sick, especially Gerald Chia, Bernardine O'Meara, Keith Yelland, Peter Murphy, Kathryn Holmes, Tony Grieve, Jim Maguire, Nadia Tarquino, Elaine Chapman, Therese O'Donoghue, Bill Grant, Nadina and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For all who died recently especially Margaret Stone and Greg Jansen (*People who belong to Families in our Parish School*) and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, may they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Advent. **Tuesday:** St Francis Xavier, priest; **Wednesday:** St John Damascene, priest, doctor; **Friday:** St Nicholas, bishop; **Saturday:** St Ambrose, bishop, doctor. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of Advent I. Eucharistic Prayer II. Eucharistic Acclamation No. III.

OUR PARISH SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be joining us for Sunday 10.30am morning Mass this weekend.

ADVENT - THE TWOFOLD COMING OF CHRIST: This is what the Church says about Advent. "Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight." (UNLYGRC #39, 1969) The spirit of Advent is one of hope, patient expectation, joy and contemplation. Its successive emphases on the coming of Christ – first his parousia and then his incarnation – are held together by the constant coming of Christ in word and sacrament. It is in the eucharistic celebrations of Advent that that Christ is experienced as "the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13). From both a secular and a liturgical point of view Advent is also a suitable time for the sacrament of reconciliation. The looming end of the calendar year and the season's focus on the two comings of Christ combine to invite believers to take stock of their relationships – with God, self, others and creation.

ST V. DE P LOCAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL will be held this weekend. "Mum didn't eat last night so I could. You can help a family put food on the table this Christmas". A local Member will address us about how best we can support this appeal for Christmas 2019.

A VOCATION VIEW: Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord! In God's House is found true joy, blessed are those called to minister in His Temple. (Psalm 122)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42) People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

CALL FOR HELP TO ABLE PARISHIONERS: The current Parish Maintenance Roster finishes on 7th December and the next one will begin in 2020. In the meantime our Parish Lawns will require regular attention. If you are able and willing to help please indicate by recording your name and number in the Red Folder on our notice table in the Church foyer or make contact with Darren McLean or Sonya O'Farrell asap.

THE 6PM SATURDAY VIGIL CHOIR will serve again this Saturday 30th November.

DISCERNING WHO THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF OUR NEXT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE)

WILL BE + FIVE EX OFFICIO (by virtue of one's position or status) = **12 PARISHIONERS IN TOTAL:** The Steering Committee is Darren McLean, Margaret Gearon, Fr Gerard and Mike Yore. The Steering Committee is finalising the arrangements for membership of the next Parish Pastoral Council. We hope to present the new members to the Parish prior to Christmas.

ATTENTION ALL LECTORS/READERS: Please pick up your 2020 copy of 'Break Open the Word' from the Priest's Sacristy at your earliest convenience.

2019 CHRISTMAS CARE GROUP RAFFLE: A **HAMPER** is in our Church entry/foyer with a sign on it for donations for the raffle this year. **Please note** that suitable and appropriate items wanted this year have a 'use by date' no earlier than mid to late January 2020, PLEASE?

ALL DAY SERVICES SPECIALIST TREE SERVICES: Thankyou to Paul and Belinda Rose, one of our Parish School Families, for making the time to trim our Parish Pine trees at the entrance to our Church. Manicured and sculptured in time for our Parish School Carols this week, Year 6 Graduation next week and Christmas around the corner for all of us. Paul can be contacted on 0418 338 690.

THE MELBOURNE OVERSEAS ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL 2019 is next weekend throughout the Archdiocese. To better understand what your support does and where it goes please see information on our Parish noticeboard in our Church foyer.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: 2020 Study Options Now Available! **Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation:** Meditation in the Christian Tradition; Applied Meditation; Meditation and Wholeness Audit and Credit options available Contact the Academic Records Office for enrolment information and appointments. +61 3 9412 3309 – AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au – 278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne ctc@ctc.edu.au For more details, please see poster on our Church noticeboard.

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

30 NOV AND 1 DEC 2019

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Olive Hammill
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Megan McLean
	10:30 AM	Marg Yore

7 AND 8 DEC 2019

Monica Hodder
Melina Barcellona
Jenny Dixon

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

30 NOV AND 1 DEC 2019

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Mia Perang
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Darren McLean
	10:30 AM	Jess Kilroe-Smith

7 AND 8 DEC 2019

Terry Wells
Rosemary Donaldson
Lizzie Dixon

WELCOMER'S ROSTER

30 NOV AND 1 DEC 2019

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Rita Gibb
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Joe Brogno
	10:30 AM	Mary Taranto

7 AND 8 DEC 2019

Lorraine Kermond
Marie Pekish
John LoGiusto

SLIDE OPERATORS

30 NOV AND 1 DEC 2019

SATURDAY	6:00 PM	Choir
SUNDAY	8:30 AM	Liliana Poropat
	10:30 AM	Manny Gonzalez

7 AND 8 DEC 2019

Terry Wells
Anthony Fernandez
Manny Gonzalez

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

CHURCH CLEANING

7 DEC 2019
Team 8 (Judy's Team)
Judy Noy, Chelsea Brown,
Debbie Brown & Sarah Santilli

MAINTENANCE

7 DECEMBER 2019
Team 9
John Ryan, Darren Foster &
Anthony Fernandez

OUR PARISH SCHOOL'S ANNUAL FAMILY CAROLS AND PICNIC EVENING is on Thursday 5th December this year. The children have been practising two Christmas songs to perform on the evening. Please arrive by 5:45pm for a 6pm start time. Families are invited to sit behind the students, on or near the hill.

INVITATION TO ATTEND TRAINING - EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING

COMMITTEES: The (Archdiocese) Professional Standards Unit is pleased to announce upcoming Effective Safeguarding Committees training. **Why is this training necessary?** The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's new Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework requires parishes, agencies and entities to utilise Safeguarding Committees to implement and strengthen child safety efforts. Whether your parish has a Safeguarding Committee already in place, or is just starting to think about setting one up, this training is essential. Darren Mclean, our Parish Child Safety Officer will attend a February 2020 workshop in Ringwood. Other interested Parishioners are encouraged to discuss with Darren their interest and their availability to attend with him please.

OUR COLLECTIVE THANKS to Kate & Godfrey Thong for organising our gathering for lunch last Thursday at the Manhattan with the St Peter Claver Sisters. A good time was had by all.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM: Kicking off advent we involve our local priests and reflect on the Gospel each week with reflections from our Advent Reflection book, *The Way*. This week, Fr Gregory Pine OP takes us on a journey from the Gospel of Matthew. We also hear from Pete Gilmore, Mother Hilda Scott and Sam Clear, just to name a couple of the great inputs on the show. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email

FRIAR ALESSANDRO AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: You are invited to an evening of Christmas music & readings with internationally acclaimed Franciscan tenor Friar Alessandro. Friar is on his first ever tour to Australia and will be accompanied by Vivian Choi (Piano) and the Artes Christi Choir & Orchestra. ENTRY FREE or By Donation with all donations supporting the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. DETAILS: Sat 7 Dec (7.30pm), St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL at www.voicefromassisi.org.au There is a yellow Parish sign-up sheet on the notice-table in the foyer of the Church and fliers to take with you as well.

THEOLOGY IN THE PUB: The debate of the year as two teams get ready to tackle one of the great theological questions of our time: "Do Cats Go to Heaven?" Monday December 2nd. Doors open on Level 1 at 6:30pm. The debate will commence at 7:30pm **Where:** European Bier Café Level 1, 120 Exhibition Street CBD MELBOURNE **Audience:** 18 to 35 year olds; Priests and Religious of all ages welcome **Visit us on Facebook:** [<http://www.facebook.com/tapmelb/>] **Website:** www.theologyatthepub.com.au Please see the poster on our Church notice board for more details.

CAMPION CENTRE OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: Six day silent retreat, just before the busyness of the year begins. It is from January 17th until January 25th, at Campion in Kew. Please check poster on Church noticeboard for more details.

HEART OF LIFE - 2020 PROGRAM: The Heart of Life 2020 Program is now available and can be downloaded [here](#). Our offerings range from ministry formation programs, to seminars and workshops, as well as reflection mornings, days and weekends. Please consult the brochure for more information. For Spiritual Direction or Pastoral Supervision, please contact the Centre at any time on telephone (03) 9890 1101.

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

... love and mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

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

Parish History

Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Whitehorse Deanery

Finance Committee

Bernard Negline

Parish Accountant

Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the 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

Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

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

Liz Sullivan - 9877 4023

Parish School

Education Advisory Board

Liz Sullivan - 9877 4023

Parish School

Parents' Association

Liz Sullivan - 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?

Stay Awake! Be Ready!



First Sunday of Advent, Year A

During the season of Advent we prepare for the arrival of Jesus.
What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this first week of Advent?

Try to decipher this teaching that Jesus gave to his disciples. Draw yourself listening to Jesus.



Always  e!
U don't  the
 of  will come.

Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.

