

# Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

46 Orchard Grove Blackburn South Vic 3130

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**WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY) – YEAR A**  
*YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW 5:7 – REACH OUT IN LOVE AND MERCY*

*This week's readings: Is 35:1 – 6, 10; James 5:7 – 10; Gospel Matthew 11:2 – 11*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER:** Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus. **The** indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!' **The** reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

**Historical Context – Least and Greatest:** Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

**Scriptural context – John the Baptist:** Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

**Living the Gospel – Gaudete!** The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

**Raise your voices ... Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. .

**Response to the Psalm:** Lord, come and save us.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring the Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

Reach out in ...  
[www.cam.org.au/blackburnsouth](http://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](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 @ 9.00am (this week only)**  
**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@slblackburnstth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@slblackburnstth.catholic.edu.au)

Website:  
[stlukes@slblackburnstth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stlukes@slblackburnstth.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, Jim Maguire, Nadia Tarquino, Elaine Chapman, Therese O'Donoghue, Nadina and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For all who died recently, especially Chris Adams, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Victoria Emery, may they rest in peace.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK:** Advent. **Saturday:** St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor. **Sunday Masses:** Preface of Advent II. Eucharistic Prayer I. Eucharistic Acclamation No. II.

**OUR PARISH'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE** is one half of our supplement this weekend. Please take it with you as you go.

**A VOCATION VIEW:** Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Be resolute in following the Lord, whether convenient or difficult. (James 5:8)

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8) Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all our year 12 Parishioners who completed their exams recently. May the work you have done all your school lives now be reflected in your ATAR Scores.

**LITURGICAL ROSTERS THROUGHOUT JANUARY 2020:** Your able witness and assistance is requested please for the Minister of the Word and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Rosters. Clipboards are available in our Church Foyer on the trestle for you to sign up please.

**MEMBERS OF OUR NEXT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE) ARE:** Sonya O'Farrell, Nigel Tauro, Linda Kilroe-Smith, Hock-Hin and Peng-Sim Yeoh, John Rhynehart, Melina Barcellona, Toni Wynne, Dale Dixon, Dean Stone – Saint Vincent de Paul (ex officio), T.B.A. - Parish School Advisory Board (ex officio), Liz Sullivan – Principal (ex officio) and Fr Gerard – Parish Priest (ex officio). We thank all these Parishioners for accepting the responsibility of being members of our next Parish Pastoral Council. Please catch up with us over a cuppa after the 10.30am Sunday morning Mass in our Church foyer.

**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?

**STANDING INVITATION TO ATTEND TRAINING - EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEES:** The (Archdiocesan) 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 PARISH 'TAP N' GO':** For Parish Supporters who would like to continue to do so according to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century our Parish has installed this new way of inviting your financial support in our Church foyer. It is set for **\$5 a tap** and is quite simple to use. Like the ones we use when we go shopping, just wave your Visa, Mastercard, Debit card (no Amex or American Express) across the screen and wait for the beep – all done. If you would like a receipt please let Sonya know in our Parish Office at your convenience. We hope this will be another way for supportive Parishioners and particularly Guests, can enable our Parish to continue to be financially secure for years to come.

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** 2020 Study Options Now Available! Please see our Church noticeboard for more details.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA:** We've extended our early bird rates for the 2020 national Catholic social services conference, **Serving Communities with Courage and Compassion**, in Melbourne from 26-28 February for another 2 weeks! Secure your early bird tickets and make your workshop selections **on Trybooking, here.** (Single early bird: \$385 each; Group early bird - 4 or more: \$340 each). And don't forget our 2-for-1 deal for YOUNG Catholic professionals and emerging leaders, working in the sector. This is our big Catholic social services event where you'll: \* get up to date with the latest issues affecting our sector, nationally; \* strengthen relationships and working partnerships; \* be inspired and challenged by leaders in the sector. All of the details can be found on the conference website: [www.css.org.au/Serving-Communities](http://www.css.org.au/Serving-Communities)

**CATHOLIC MISSION** thanks you for your response to the World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity empowers us to witness Christ's love in 160 countries of the world. The focus to our World Mission Day Appeal this year was to highlight the work of Catholic Mission in Nagaland, India. In contributing **\$1,038.80** you have joined fellow Catholics throughout the world, even in the poorest areas, in supporting Christ's mission to all people.

**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

	<b>14 AND 15 DEC 2019</b>	<b>21 AND 22 DEC 2019</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00 PM Ian Holmes	Lorraine Kermond
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:30 AM Beryl Chelliah	Kana Chelliah
	10:30 AM Lizzie Dixon	Margaret Gearon

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

	<b>14 AND 15 DEC 2019</b>	<b>21 AND 22 DEC 2019</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00 PM Melina Barcellona	Bernie Brennan
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:30 AM Kana Chelliah	Beryl Chelliah
	10:30 AM Dale Dixon	Marg Yore

### WELCOMER'S ROSTER

	<b>14 AND 15 DEC 2019</b>	<b>21 AND 22 DEC 2019</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00 PM Terry Wells	Rita Gibb
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:30 AM Don McKenzie	Joe Brogno
	10:30 AM Pamela & Michael	Leigh Kelly

### SLIDE OPERATORS

	<b>14 AND 15 DEC 2019</b>	<b>21 AND 22 DEC 2019</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00 PM Tony Lobo	David Prabha
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:30 AM Rosemary Donaldson	Megan & Darren McLean
	10:30 AM Manny Gonzalez	Manny Gonzalez

### CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

### CHURCH CLEANING

**28 DEC 2019**  
Team 2 (Monica's Team)  
Monica Hodder, Marie Parker,  
Filomena Manley, Beryl  
Kanagalingam & William Stephens

### MAINTENANCE

New roster starts in 2020

## 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

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

T.B.A.

### **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?*

**THE MELBOURNE OVERSEAS ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL 2019:** Our Parish dispatched \$523.75 during the week as our contribution this year.

### **AUSTRALIA MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE OF 2020 PLENARY COUNCIL PREPARATION - HERE'S A PRECIS OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL REPORT:**

**THE JOURNEY SO FAR ...** More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. This gathered data also reveals some deeper hopes and questions, and the diverse yearnings, that we are now challenged to consider together. **What happens next?** The six National Themes for Discernment are inspired by the data and call us toward the future. The newly updated [Plenary Council website](#) provides more information on each theme. In coming months, the Church of Australia will move through a listening and discernment process that will draw on the six National Themes for Discernment as determined by what has been said around the country. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is: **WITH SIX NATIONALLY IDENTIFIED WAYS** - Missionary and evangelising. Inclusive, participatory and synodal. Prayerful and Eucharistic. Humble, healing and merciful. A joyful, hope-filled and servant community. Open to conversion and renewal.

**ENTERING PHASE TWO - LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT:** 'To discern means first of all to listen to God, to pay attention to God's active presence, and to obey God's prompting, direction, leadings, and guidance.' — Henri J. Nouwen, *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*, p. 5 **Listening and Discernment:** The next step towards the Plenary Council is the listening and discernment phase, where the country is asked to delve deeper into what has been said during the earlier listening and dialogue phase. In this short video, <http://www.cam.org.au/plenary/News/Article/22976/Entering-Phase-Two-listening-and-Discernment> Br Ian Cribb SJ, Sr Grace Roclawska CSFN and Fr Ormond Rush offer some general principles around the idea of Christian discernment: What is it? What are its origins? And how does discernment differ from decision-making? The other half of our supplement this weekend identifies "**What People talked about around the country**" or see the poster on our Church noticeboard. **THIS DISCERNMENT PROCESS** will involve establishing Working Groups for each National Theme for Discernment. Also, people in faith communities across Australia will be called to participate locally in their own communal Listening and Discernment encounters. The fruits of what is discerned during this time will shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council in October 2020. As we move into this second stage of preparation for the Plenary Council, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Please see <http://www.cam.org.au/plenary/> for further details.

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM:** Are you looking to reflect on this week's Gospel? Or need a bit of wisdom and inspiration? The Journey has a terrific Reflection from Pete Gilmore this week on the show as well as talks from Mother Hilda Scott, Fr Dave Callaghan and Marilyn Rodrigues. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://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.

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

**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>

Jesus is  
coming to  
save us



3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A

Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

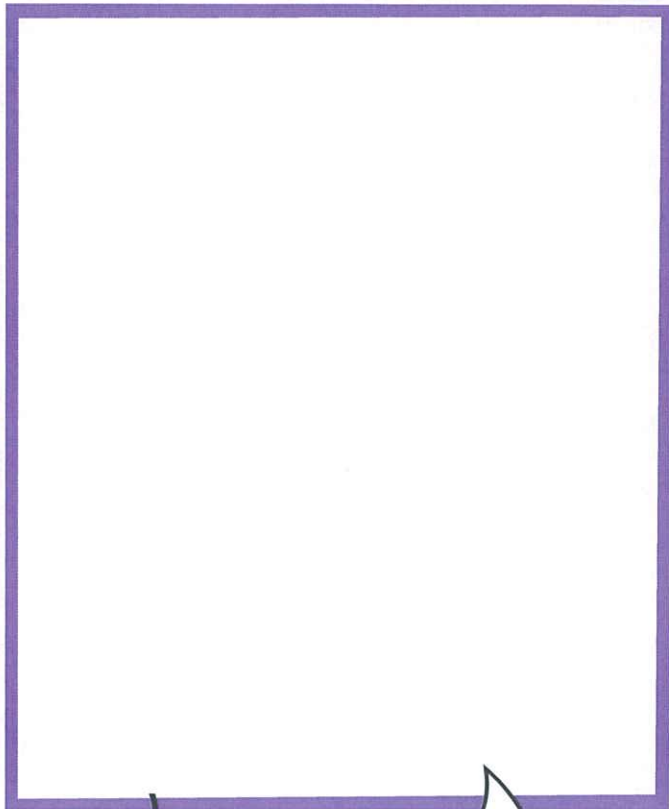
Draw Jesus bringing the good news to the poor

Blind People

Deaf People

Lame People

Lepers



# Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath.

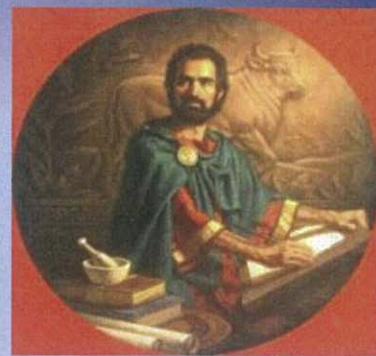
The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Colour in the Advent Wreath.



**ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST  
CATHOLIC PARISH**

**BLACKBURN SOUTH**

*Reach Out in Love and Mercy ... (Mat. 5:7)*



## **2019 CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS**

**24 DECEMBER 2019 6.00PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, MASS DURING THE NIGHT**

**24 DECEMBER 10PM**

***(WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS FROM 9.30PM)***

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

**25 DECEMBER**

**8.30AM & 10.30AM**

***(WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS FROM 10AM)***



***Please travel safely on all our roads this festive season and our Parish extends to you one and all - a VERY HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS, for it is laudable to put Christ back into Christmas.***

*... for I desire mercy, not sacrifice. [ Mat. 9:13]*

Support same sex marriage  
Outreach to the wider community  
Servant Leaders  
Allow contraception birth control

Diocesan Pastoral Control  
Call to repentance for clergy sexual abuse

Renewed call to holiness  
Lay led parishes: invited and decision making  
Radical change in governance and decision making  
Transparency in governance and sacramental programs  
More chaplains and local ministries and sacramental programs  
Lay led liturgies and music

Better formation for liturgical ministries and sacramental programs

Better use of finances  
Ordination of women  
Fight for human rights  
Christ on Jesus

Better supporting priests  
Greater focus on Jesus  
Love God, Love Neighbour  
Greater involvement

Better Holy Spirit  
Greater inclusion of all people  
Greater leadership and Church governance

Better Leadership and Church governance

Restore the Inclusion of the divorced and remarried

Better communication of what the Church does

Greater concerns for survivors of clergy sexual abuse

Mass to be appealing to youth and children

Women Deacons  
Defend right-to-life issues

New translation of the mass (inclusive language)

Bring the Church into the 21st century

Be a witness in society  
Remain faithful faith teaching and accountability

Authentic faith teaching and accountability

Greater transparency and support for youth leaders

More implementation and support for youth leaders

Better role for women  
Greater role for women

More welcoming parishes  
Better faith formation

Work together in unity  
More youth facilities in parishes  
Welcome back priests who have left to marry  
Encourage vocations

Public acts of reparation for clergy sexual abuse  
Youth to be involved in planning for the future  
Greater focus on the Word of God

Share the faith with others  
Care for the environment  
End Clericalism  
Heal and move beyond the clergy sexual abuse scandal

Better interface between parish and school  
Greater focus on the Word of God

Parishes involved in planning for the future  
Better interface between parish and school  
Greater focus on the Word of God

Focus on being missionary disciples  
Parishes involved in planning for the future  
Better interface between parish and school  
Greater focus on the Word of God

Charismatic spirituality  
Baby Boomer generation to listen to young Catholics  
Use social media to engage people  
Charismatic spirituality

Defend religious freedom  
Concerns for diminishing parish communities  
Return to traditional latin mass

Community of liturgy  
Focus on marriage couples  
Pray the Rosary

Community of prayer men to be priests  
Keep the commandments  
Communion for all

Greater leadership from priests  
Greater focus on permanent deacons  
Evangelisation in and of the family

Better faith formation for young people  
Greater leadership from bishops  
Evangelisation in and of the family

Special care of rural parishes  
Reduce margins between rich and poor  
Appointment of bishops

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