

# St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South & St Timothy's, Forest Hill



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Third Sunday of Easter

Year A - 19th April 2026



Acts of the Apostles 02:14-33, Ps 15: 1 Peter 1:17-21  
GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35

**Understanding Salvation History:** Reading the Old Testament is very important to understanding Christ. Jesus helped his disciples on the road to Emmaus to understand the Old Testament Scriptures that pointed to his coming, mission, and final redemptive gift of himself on the Cross. He was surprised at their lack of belief and perhaps at their knowledge of the Scriptures: "How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!" Later, when he appeared in the Upper Room, he did the same thing for his Apostles. He helped open their minds to understand his words: "He said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:44).



Our first Mass reading tomorrow from the Acts of the Apostles (3:11-26) shows Peter imitating Christ in this way. He showed the people how the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—were part of salvation history, and how Moses and Samuel prophesied about Christ and how he was to suffer. These Old Testament accounts are meant to be read through the lens of salvation history. Jesus is truly present in his word, both the Old and New Testaments. If we ignore the Old Testament, we are ignoring a huge part of the word of Christ. As St. Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

**Called to Communion:** These two disciples were journeying to Emmaus, away from the rest of the disciples. They were "downcast" and disappointed at the death of Jesus. But, as a Good Shepherd, Jesus called them back to the fold with his physical presence on that Easter Sunday. In the same way, when Catholics fall away from their communities in the Church, Jesus calls them back with his physical presence in the Eucharist. Many Catholics who return "home" to the faith say that they missed receiving Holy Communion. Do you notice how full the pews are on Easter Sunday compared to the other Sundays of the year? Perhaps this is because Jesus extends a special grace on the day of his Resurrection, calling lax Catholics and even interested and open-minded non-Catholics to come to him. This thought might help us feel more charitable about the crowd. Whether they were there before Easter or will come back next week, they were called to Mass on Easter Sunday and they answered that call. We can pray for all those who felt called to Communion on Easter, that they might come back this Sunday and the next.

**Remain in Him:** Jesus revealed himself to them in the Eucharist. The disciples' eyes were opened in the breaking of the bread. We can ask ourselves if we truly recognize Jesus in his real presence in the Eucharist. However, many Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. There is much confusion about this teaching, yet Jesus told us plainly, without a parable, "my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (John 6:55-56). Notice here that the two disciples wanted Jesus to remain with them, asking, "Stay with us." He agreed and then gave them Holy Communion. This is how we are to "remain" in him: by receiving the Eucharist worthily and frequently and by adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament. May Catholics everywhere appreciate the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist!

**Conversing with Christ:** Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. My physical eyes see bread, but the eyes of my soul see you. Lord Jesus, how you come to me in a humble piece of bread is still beyond the comprehension of my mind, but my soul knows and believes. Thank you for nourishing me with your very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Thank you for imbuing the Eucharist with your divine essence and for dwelling physically inside me, even for a few minutes. May I never neglect your Presence, but instead, receive you with thanksgiving and joy.

**Resolution:** Lord, today by your grace I will pray for your holy presence to be recognized and adored in the Eucharist. I will make a visit to adore Jesus in the Eucharist or plan to make a special trip sometime this week.

Walking to Emmaus, Painting by Fritz von Uhde (1891) © Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden  
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Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

**Parish Priest**

Fr Alex Chow

**Parish Secretary**

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

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**SUNDAY MASS**

**Saturday Vigil:** 5pm (SL)

**Sunday:** 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

**Tues.** 6:30pm (SL)

**Wed.**

**Thurs.**

**Fri.** 6.30pm (ST)

**Sat.** 9.15am (SL\*)

\*Rosary after Mass

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**RECONCILIATION**

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9.45 - 10.15am

Sat 4.30 - 4.50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

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**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER**

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

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**HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S**

Second weekend of each month - bring a plate to share (optional)

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP -**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April @

7pm at St Luke's

Presbytery

**LEGION OF MARY -**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April @

10.15am at St Luke's

Parish Hall Kitchen



**30 APRIL 2026**

*Thinking about life, purpose, and what really matters.* If you're asking

big questions about faith or simply curious — you are very welcome.

**ALPHA Australian Edition, ALPHA Chinese Mandarin** (adults) and **ALPHA Youth** (ages 13–17) offer a relaxed, no-pressure space to connect with others, enjoy a free dinner, watch engaging short videos, and have honest conversations about life and faith. Come as you are, bring your questions, and see where the conversation leads. No pressure, no strings attached.

Email us at [Alphastlukesbbs@gmail.com](mailto:Alphastlukesbbs@gmail.com) or register your interest via the QR code  
We'd love to see you at Alpha!

**Next Week's Daily Readings 20 Apr - 26 Apr**

**3rd week of Easter**

**MONDAY Apr 20** Acts 6:8-15 Ps 118:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

**TUESDAY Apr 21** Acts 7:51 - 8:1: Ps 30:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21: Jn 6:30-35

**WEDNESDAY Apr 22** Acts 8:1-8 Ps 65:1-7 Jn 6:35-40

**THURSDAY APR 23** Acts 8:26-40 Ps 65:8-9, 16-17,20 Jn 6:44-51

**FRIDAY APR 24** Acts 9:1-20 Ps 116 Jn 6:52-59

**SATURDAY APR 25** Wis 3:1-9, Ps 114:5-6, 115:10-11, 15-16: 1 Cor 1: 18-25 Jn 12:23-28

**Anzac Day**

**SUNDAY APR 26** Acts 2:14, 36-41 Ps 22:1-6: 1 Pet 2:20-25 Jn 10:1-10

**FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

**ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY**

Are you interested in assisting as an altar server? If so, or if you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Chris Lim on 0419 470 267

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST

**18 and 19 APR**

Olive Hammill  
Michael Ballek  
Joelle Roussety

**25 and 26 APR**

Melina Barcellona  
Lucas Thong  
Alfred Lee

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST

Kevin Rogers  
Liliana Restrepo  
Eleanor Mendes

Godfrey Thong  
Margaret Gearon  
Chin L Tay

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST

Choir  
David Prabha  
Lee Min Yee

Choir  
Megan McLean  
Manny Gonzalez

**SL WELCOMERS 18 - 19 Apr**

5pm John Ryan  
8.30am Janette Clark  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

2nd May - Kellie's team  
Kellie McCarthy, Emma Brodawka,  
Toni Wynne & Daniella Manolopoulos

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

18th April - Edna Lee  
25th April - Jo Adams

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Easter: Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 25 - 26 Apr**

5:00pm Edna Lee  
8.30am Marie Pekish  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

24th April  
Theresa Patrick, Joelle Roussety,  
Anico, Ryan & Trevis Yee

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 3:  
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang  
Next week Team 4:  
Pabs Gonzales & Chris Lim

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**All who are sick**, especially Helen MacKay, Frances O'Donoghue, Brian McHugh, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

**All who have died**, especially Kathleen Barritt who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Daniel Buenadbra, Rogelio Hare, Jarrod Anderson, Sarah Louise Rose, Sabatino Di Giantomasso, Mary Watson, Marlene Beatty, Ann, William & Frances Reynolds, Anna Zboril, Ellen McKenna, Claire Tudor, Antonia & Bruno Marin, Doreen Parslow, John Andrew, John Bradley & Dawn Berry. May they rest in peace.

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## POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL:

For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

**THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** New sets of thanksgiving envelopes are available in the foyer of both churches this weekend for those who donate to the parish in this way. Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our parish.

**PARISH & SCHOOL FETE:** The next fete committee meeting will be held on Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. We are currently asking all parishioners and school families if they run a market stall and would like to take part or have a business that would be interested in sponsoring our fete. We are also looking for stall coordinators for our Pre-loved Books, Silent Auction, Beer Garden/Wine & Cheese & BBQ stalls. Contact Sonya in the parish office or email [stlukesfete@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesfete@gmail.com). **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

**LIGHT INTO THE CITY:** The Archbishop has launched the restoration & redevelopment project for St Patrick's Cathedral. For more information please visit: <https://lightintothecity.org.au/>

**SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING:** All church volunteers must complete this training which can be done online via this link: [Safeguarding Essentials training module | Melbourne Catholic](#) Please email your certificate to the parish office when you receive it.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Baskets are available on the altar of both churches for parishioners to leave their Project Compassion boxes and donations. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Resources ....

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** Bishop Rene Ramirez Ramirez RCJ: 'God does not choose the perfect'

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** Staying Fit and Well

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## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

*The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.*

*The Second collection is for parish expenses.*

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

## Parish Groups & Contacts

### **Volunteers and Rosters:**

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),*

*Margaret Gearon (SL)*

**Baptism Preparation:** *Fr Alex*

### **Parish Collection Preparers**

*ST: Barry Silvester &*

*Michael Kawalevski*

### **Parish Safeguarding Committee**

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,*

*Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

### **Parish History**

*SL: Margaret Gearon*

### **Parish Accountant**

*Bernard Negline*

### **SL & ST: Hall Hire**

*Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292*

### **Church Sacristan**

*ST: Roster of Parishioners*

*SL: Greg Grant*

### **Church Cleaning & Flowers**

*SL: Megan McLean*

*ST: Susan Chen*

**Church Linen:** *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

### **Parish Garden Maintenance**

*ST: Des Connors*

*SL: Darren McLean*

### **Parish Choirs**

*ST: Miguel Ilagan*

*SL: Fr Alex*

**Bible Timeline:** *Chris Lim*

**ALPHA:** *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

### **Young Adult Ministry:**

*Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto*

**RCIA:** *David West*

### **St Vincent de Paul Conference**

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330*

*(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)*

*ST: John McCoy*

*SL: Margaret Gearon &*

*Steve Kilroe-Smith*

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**Response to the Psalm:** Lord, you will show us the path of life.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

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

**Communion Antiphon:** The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 26th April at the 10.30am Mass. This will run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.



**ST LUKE'S:** Saturday 9th May at the 5pm Mass. This will run on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

### SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2026

**First Reconciliation** - May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> from 3.30 to 5.30pm

**Confirmation** - June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

**First Eucharist** - August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm

Parents of children who do not attend Catholic schools are asked to contact the parish office asap to enrol in preparation sessions for any of the above sacraments.

### GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Next Sunday we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to say a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.

### WEEKDAY MASSES FOR APRIL & MAY

Kindly note the following:

No 9.15am mass on Wednesday 22/4, 29/4, 06/5 & 13/5 as well as on Thursday 23/4, 30/4, 7/5 & 14/5 at St Timothy's.

NO 9.15am mass on Friday 24/04, 01/5, 8/5 as well as Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at St Luke's.

### A GROWING HUNGER FOR GOD

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has seen a significant rise in those entering the Church this Easter, with around 550 new Catholics—a 57 per cent increase from 2025. This reflects a deep hunger for God being felt in parishes across the region. In our parish of St Luke the Evangelist and St Timothy's, five RCIA participants were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, each with a unique journey of faith and homecoming. Here, in this issue, we share one testimony of our newly initiated members, **Isaac**, a unique story marked by searching, discovery, and ultimately, a sense of coming home.



At just 20 years of age, former non-denominational evangelical Christian Isaac has made a deliberate journey to the Catholic Church through an exploration of history and theology that he feels was guided by the Holy Spirit. *'I've come to see that the Holy Spirit was at work in my life long before I recognised it. Even from a young age, I had a desire to follow the truth and a natural interest in theology. It wasn't until the end of 2024 that I began intentionally exploring historical Christianity,'* he explains. *'Through various Catholic and Orthodox voices online, I was challenged to examine their claim to apostolicity—continuity from the apostles. This made me realise how little I knew about the early Church and my own Christian heritage. I became convinced that Roman Catholicism was where I was being led, even if I didn't yet have every answer.'*

Isaac started to read more widely on the early councils, heresies and great saints of the Church. *'Over time, I noticed clear differences between the Christianity I had grown up with and that of the early centuries—especially in teachings on Baptism, the Eucharist and divine revelation. This led me to seek what the Church calls the "deposit of faith", the true teaching handed down from the apostles.'* By the beginning of 2025, he knew he needed to make a decision. *'I could no longer remain where I was, and so I began discerning between Eastern Orthodoxy, Oriental Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism,'* he explains. *'While I was initially drawn to Orthodoxy, especially its spirituality and beauty, I continued searching for clarity. Later in the year, through further study and prayer, many of my questions were resolved. I became convinced that Roman Catholicism was where I was being led, even if I didn't yet have every answer.'* St Luke the Evangelist Church was just a short walk from Isaac's home, and in November he paid a visit. After that, *'everything fell into place,'* he says. *'At the Easter Vigil in 2026, together with four others, I was received into the Church and confirmed. 'Looking back, I can see God's guidance throughout this entire journey, even in ways I didn't understand at the time. And now, after all the searching, I can honestly say: it feels like I'm home.'*



# Jesus is always with us

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A

Life is like being on a journey of faith, but sometimes we encounter obstacles along the way. What are some of the toughest obstacles on your path of life?



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How does Jesus help you and guide you along that path?

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Jesus is always with us, even when we don't realise he is there. Where or when can we recognise Jesus in our everyday life?




Colour the shapes that contain a white dot ◦ in red. Colour the remaining shapes in colours that you find in a loaf of bread.

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 19 APRIL 2026



## COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Normally the Gospel of the Easter Season is taken from John. An exception is made for the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus which is read in two parts on the Third Sunday of Easter for Years A and B. It is a key narrative for understanding the resurrection.

The reality of the resurrection is palpable, and yet it is elusive... the disciples do not recognise the Lord until the very end, in the breaking of the bread. Meanwhile they have had the opportunity to begin to understand the scriptures and they come to know that the risen Lord is with them. For them – and for us today – an encounter with Christ who has risen from the dead takes place through word and sacrament. Real, yes, but shrouded in mystery. He is to be found, not in a place, but in the sacramental action we call Eucharist.

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:14, 22-33

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.'

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

or

R. Alleluia.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' R.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:

since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. R.

## First Reading

Peter's enthusiastic speech on Pentecost Day is a testimony to the risen Lord. It falls into three parts.

Part one tells how God worked through Jesus in his ministry. He was taken and crucified, but God raised him to life.

Part two quotes Psalm 15 which is today's Responsorial Psalm. It is a different translation, but you can identify the phrases. God brings life and joy.

Part three explains that this psalm refers to Christ. Christ fulfils the prophetic words of David, and the Holy Spirit given him is poured out on us all.

Next week in the first reading, we will hear how this proclamation of Peter led the people to conversion and faith.

The reader should present this (long) text with vigour and conviction in the hope that the hearers today will also respond with renewed faith. It will help if the assembly can hear in the reader's voice the threefold structure of the reading.

Peter's address should be in turn "People of Israel" and later "Brothers and sisters".

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15/16 celebrates God as the giver of life and joy. God does not leave us to decay in the place of the dead (Hades in the first reading); rather, as we sing in the response, the Lord shows us the path of life!

The first reading applies this to Christ in his death and resurrection. The cantor/reader at Mass affirms that this is also the reality for us. In the risen Christ, the Lord is with us, gives us light and life, and offers us joy and happiness.

This Christian interpretation of the psalm fits with our continuing celebration of Easter. The proclamation should take care to cue the response after the final three-line stanza.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life,  
and the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Peter 1:17-21**

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back

**Second Reading**

The reading begins without context making the first part difficult to understand. The phrase immediately before verse 17 is 'Be holy, for I am holy'. This is why we must be careful: because our holiness (in Christ) dislocates us from the world in which we live.

The second half is more familiar. We are saved (ransomed) by the blood of the Lamb of God, Christ who is now revealed as the risen Lord. Coming to faith is also our hope that we will be glorified with Christ.

The reader would do well to emphasise the second, more familiar, part of the reading, especially the final triumphant sentence.

**Gospel**

Jesus' death was devastating for his followers. The two disciples, downcast, are walking away from Jerusalem. As they point out, their hopes were dashed. Even after their friends' stories of the resurrection, all the disciples can say is: 'they saw nothing'.

Once again, this story points to the utterly mysterious reality of the resurrection. There is something radically different in the risen Christ – these friends of his do not recognise him. Even when he walks with them, speaks to them and explains the scriptures to them, showing them how the Christ was to enter his glory through the path of suffering, they do not know him.

The reality of the risen Christ explodes like a blinding light in the breaking of the bread. It is then that they recall how their hearts burned as the Scriptures were opened for them. The pattern of the table fellowship is familiar and eucharistic: 'he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them'. Ah, recognition! The story makes it clear that encountering and knowing the risen Christ is a matter of faith – the person who walked with them vanished from their sight – but they have seen and experienced a different kind of reality.

to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

So do we when we celebrate the Eucharist. We know Christ in mystery, in word and sacrament. Like the two disciples, we too are empowered to go out and share the good news.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

### Solemn Blessing (Easter Sunday)

May almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity  
and, in his compassion,  
defend us from every assault of sin.

**Amen.**

And may he, who restores us to eternal life  
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,  
endow us with the prize of immortality.

**Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close,  
may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast  
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,  
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

**Amen.**

*(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for the Easter Vigil, Roman Missal p. 422)*



ST. LUKES SCHOOL  
BLACKBURN SOUTH



# St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

## We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO  
BOOK A  
TOUR



St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Blackburn South  
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# We are Companions on The Journey

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