

The Gospel of Luke



Just like other books of the Bible, the Gospel of Luke has its own unique character. It reads like a continuation of the Old Testament, showing how God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Through him, salvation is extended to the Gentiles.

Jesus carefully instructed the Apostles, so that when they begin to teach, we can be sure that their message is accurate; they are preaching what Jesus himself taught them. By making this connection between what Jesus told his Apostles, and what they tell us, Luke is guaranteeing the fidelity of the Church's teaching. The Church, for Luke, is *the community of people who believe in Jesus*.

What does Luke's Gospel have to say to us? Luke's story of Jesus is historical, showing how God saved the world in him. In Chapter 4, Luke describes how Jesus stood up in the synagogue and read from the book of Isaiah. Jesus read,

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me; to proclaim freedom to the oppressed and sight to the blind."

When he finished, Jesus told the people in the synagogue that this reading has been fulfilled in him. Luke shows in a very explicit way that Jesus is a special person with a unique message, which was carefully passed on to the apostles.

Another example of how Luke uses history to show that God brings salvation through Jesus is in Chapter 18, verse 31:

"Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.'"

In scenarios like this, Luke makes it very clear that the mission of Jesus is a continuation of the Old Testament.

For whom was Luke writing? Luke wrote his Gospel for Gentile converts. He wanted to show Jesus to the whole world and to convince the people that Christianity was a viable and practical religion. This was a difficult task because he had to demonstrate that Christianity would work for all the people who lived in the Roman Empire.

One of the means that Luke uses to show the legitimacy of Christianity is to trace Jesus' ancestry back to Adam (Lk. 3.23-38). If Luke were just addressing the Jewish community, he would merely trace Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. But to address the Romans, he traced Jesus' ancestry back to the founder of the world, the first man. The genealogy is placed right after the Baptism of Jesus by John at the Jordan River.

What is unique about the Gospel of Luke? Luke describes the Church in his Gospel. He sees God's overall plan. God sent Jesus for our redemption, but He established the Church

to carry on his work. The Church is *the community of people who believe in Jesus*. For Luke, it is the instrument of redemption in the world. In the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, the companion book to Luke's Gospel, he tells the story of the Church in detail. The adventures of Paul are also chronicled here. So are: the miracles of Peter, the controversy over the Gentiles and the bringing together of the believing people into a Church to carry on the work of Christ. The Acts of the Apostles is truly a continuation of Luke's Gospel.

How can we apply this Gospel to daily life? Use the Gospel to strengthen your faith. The Church is not a coincidence; it was in God's mind from the beginning of time. The prophets spoke about it and Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophets. He came from the Father, He taught the apostles, and they, in turn, taught us. Luke shows how logical this is by outlining the connection between the present and the past, so we can have a firm foundation for our faith.

In Chapter 49, verse 45, we read:

Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures.

Also, use the Gospel of Luke to discover your vocation. You are a member of the Church that Jesus founded. Therefore, you are to continue Jesus' work in the world. Luke made it very clear that the Church continues to redeem people in the world. How do we do it?

(1) We do it, primarily, by loving God and loving our neighbor. When others see how we live, they, too, may become interested in Jesus and His message of love.

(2) We continue Jesus' work in the world through our actions. We can make sure not to harm or even talk badly about another person. Certainly, we should never condemn others, or do anything to isolate them. In this way we will do our part to bring people together. Too many aspects of human society, such as different languages or beliefs, are manipulated by those motivated by power to tempt us to separate people artificially. We end up *isolating* ourselves. In Luke, we are urged to *bridge* these human gaps.

(3) We can continue Jesus' work through involvement in organized ministry in our parish and diocese. For example, helping a Catholic Charity, in a soup kitchen or in a hospice are ways to help and get involved. Something as simple as helping with a youth retreat in the parish for a few hours, or visiting a shut-in might be all that is needed. For those with the competence and the time, a role in a RCIA or a youth Catechism program could be a life-changing experience.

In his Gospel, Luke shows how God's age-old promise to save us becomes real in Jesus Christ. While the message may be centuries old, it is up to all of us to make it a living reality in the world today. It all begins with love.

"In comparison with the writers of the other Gospel, St. Luke is the one who gives us a distinct, richly-detailed account of the ongoing interplay between God and humanity, heaven and earth; one that we can believe."

Bishop Robert Barron

Parish Week † Sunday, 18 August 2024

Saturday, 17 Aug.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Fr. Fred Schmidt (Carol Morra)
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving
Birthday & Anniversary (Anastasia)

SUNDAY, 18 AUG. / 20-B

- Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo
- Church Fair- ShareLife

- 9.00 am Mass: † Emiliana Mawirat (Fely)
10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving
for the Cenizal family (Maria)
12.00 pm Mass: † Glen Kelly (John & Louise Arsenault)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 19 Aug. / St. John Eudes, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Michele Passorelli (Emma De Cicco)
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Healing Daniel Coca (Geri Yin)

Tuesday, 20 Aug. / St. Bernard, abbot and doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Luigi De Cicco (Emma)

Wednesday, 21 Aug. / St. Pius X, pope

- 8.00 am Mass: † Cecilyammah Santhiapillai (Juliet)

Thursday, 22 Aug. / Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Benecio Gabales (Edison & Jiji)

Friday, 23 Aug. / St. Rose of Lima, virgin

- 8.00 am Mass: † Eileen Egan (Evelyn Walsh)

Saturday, 24 Aug. / St. Bartholomew, apostle

- 8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Ceba family)
12.00 pm Mass: † David Meunier
5.00 pm Mass: † Maria Corazon & Ernesto Lorenzo
(Julian family)

SUNDAY, 25 AUG. / 21-B

- Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea
- 2nd Collection: Maintenance

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. 25th Wedding Anniversary
Tevenc & Durin family
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Desmond Dias (Trevor)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Mass Intentions Requests for 2025

The *Mass Intention* book for 2025 is now open. The Parish Office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.

To serve parishioners well, there will be a MASS INTENTIONS table in the Vestibule at all morning Masses on **18 & 25 August 2024**.



Mother of Perpetual Help

Let Mary bring peace into your life. Pray for your special intentions at the Monday Novena Mass to *Our Mother of Perpetual Help*. The Rosary begins at 6.40 pm, and Holy Mass is at 7.00 pm.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

Focus on the Word

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Proverbs 9.1-6; Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which eye can see, fill our hearts, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Amen.

Parish Bazaar 18 August, 9 am – 2 pm

Our Parish is holding a Bazaar on Sunday, 18 August, beginning after the 9.00 am Mass and continuing to 2.00 pm. **Krispy Kreme** donuts are on sale: \$10 a dozen. Proceeds will support *ShareLife*. **Vendors:** To reserve a table, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425. Table rental is \$25. Preorder your donuts in the Vestibule at all Masses this weekend. For further details, call: **Peter**, 647-567-4081.

* In the event that the weather is not collaborative, the rain date will be: **25 August**.

RCIA, RCIC Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children

Coming Up:

RCIA meetings: 6 & 13 Sept.

RCIC meetings: 7 & 14 Sept.



Pope Francis in Canada

July 2024 marked the 2nd anniversary of the journey of **Pope Francis** to Canada, during which he offered an apology for the Church's collaboration with the federal government in administering the Residential Schools for Indigenous Canadians.

The Canadian Bishops have issued a special letter to mark this occasion. See page 3 in the website bulletin.



Rosary Sunday Midland, 8 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 8 September, the feast of Our Lady's birth. Please remember in your prayers the parishioners who will be taking part in this important witness to our faith.

COMING UP

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- 2 Sept. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
6 Sept. Wedding: Tang & Peralta (1:00 pm)
7 Sept. ► EWTN **Family Celebration Event**, 8 am – 6 pm,
Delta Conference Centre, 655 Dixon Road, Etobicoke
8 Sept. ► **Rosary Sunday** at Martyrs' Shrine, Midland ON;
- Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
8-15 Sep. ► INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, Quito, Ecuador
15 Sept. **Sunday School for Kids** resumes at the 10.30 am Mass
22 Sept. 2nd Collection: **Needs of the Church in Canada**

Canadian Bishops: Letter on the 2nd Anniversary of Pope Francis' Visit

On 24 July 2024, the 2nd anniversary of Pope Francis's penitential pilgrimage to Canada, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC), in a "Letter to the People of God," gave an update on the steps that the Church in Canada has taken to respond to the Pope's calls for a future of justice, healing, and reconciliation. It encourages Catholics across the country to continue to listen to and support residential school survivors and Indigenous communities on this journey.

"After years of listening, prayer, and dialogue, the Bishops of Canada were deeply grateful for the Holy Father's apology, and to the many Indigenous partners who shared their experiences and desires for a brighter future," said Bishop William T. McGrattan, President of the CCCC. "We believe this was a meaningful step in the reconciliation journey. The effects of the residential school system persist to this day. As we look back on the Pope's words, we must continue to confront this painful legacy and to walk alongside the Indigenous Peoples in the spirit of solidarity and hope."

In his various public and private addresses, the Holy Father not only expressed profound sorrow for the devastating effects of the residential school system on Indigenous communities, but also called on the Bishops of Canada to approach reconciliation through concrete actions and shared projects. Building on the important progress achieved in planning the pilgrimage of the Pope, the Bishops of Canada took tangible steps in this direction in the years since the papal visit, including:

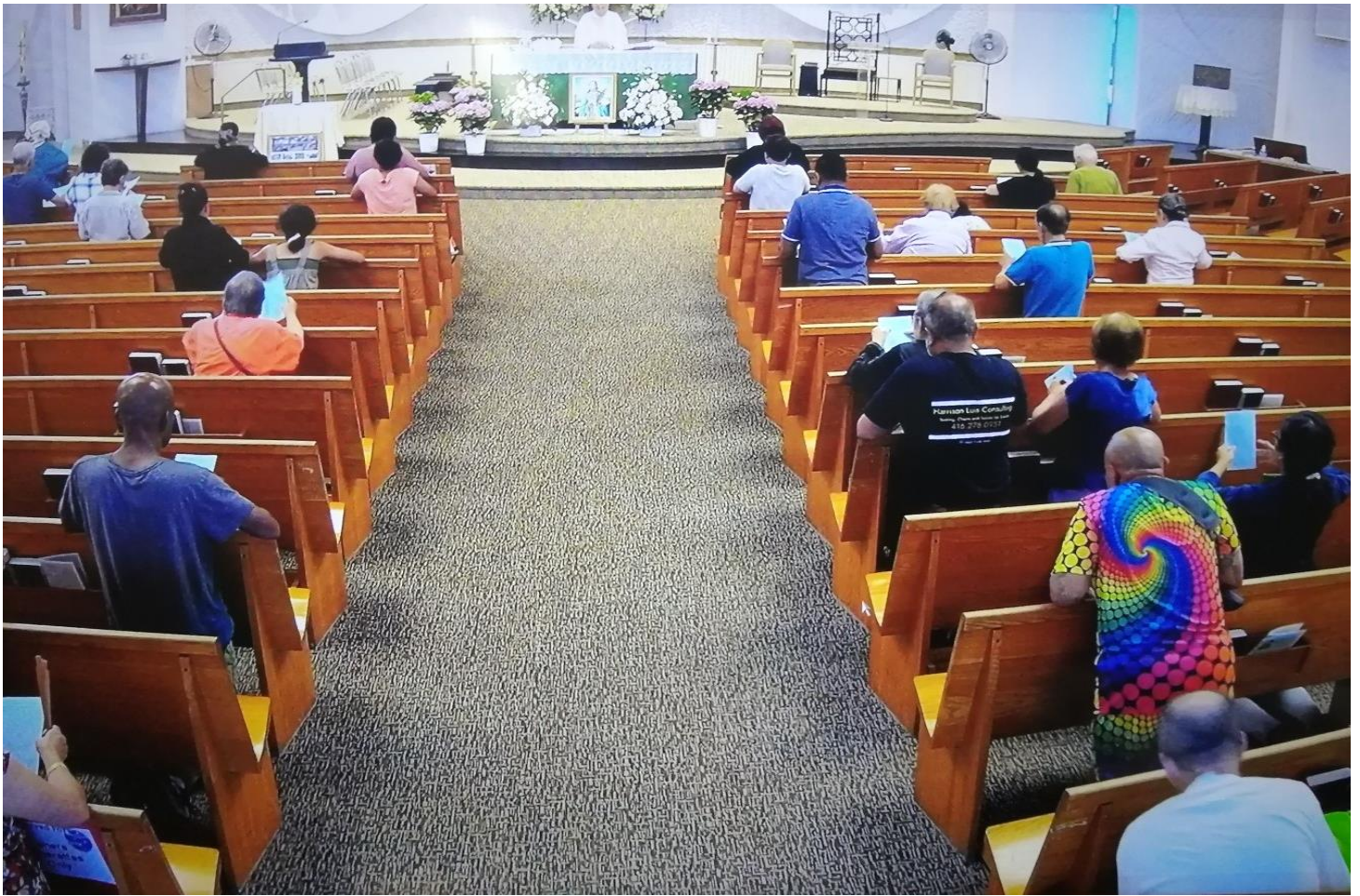
Financial support for Indigenous projects. In Sept. 2021, following their national apology, the Catholic Bishops of Canada pledged \$30 million for priorities that support healing and reconciliation. These projects are identified by local Indigenous people and overseen by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). To date, more than \$15 million has been raised. It is therefore ahead of its five-year timeline. It has approved 166 projects determined in collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners across the country.

Transparent access to records. The Bishops of Canada have pledged to make their relevant records available to Indigenous researchers, in order to help them find the truth that they seek. To support this work, the CCCC has approved a set of Guidelines to assist dioceses in developing policies for documentation and access to relevant records, including mission, sacramental and burial records, to help Indigenous Peoples identify the facts pertaining to their loved ones.



Continuing dialogue with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. The Bishops have established structures within the CCCC to support dialogues to foster greater understanding of Indigenous cultural, linguistic, and spiritual traditions. Discussions cover matters such as developing academic collaborations to understand the concepts commonly associated with the "Doctrine of Discovery," as well as engaging with the Canadian government on shared concerns, such as the Indigenous belongings currently held at the Vatican museums.

The Bishops of Canada are deeply grateful for the relationships they have established with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. As this journey of truth and reconciliation continues, the Bishops remain committed to walking in solidarity and listening to the experiences of Indigenous Peoples to move forward. Encouraged by the presence, words, and gestures of Pope Francis, the Bishops of Canada continue to make meaningful progress in the significant work that lies ahead.



Top: Monday evening Mass in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Above: Summer school students honour our Patroness, 26 July.



ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH

**THE BODY OF ST. MARIA GORETTI VISITS TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2012**



