

Sunday 15th December, 2018

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo

Pastoral Associate: Jacinta Bright

Assistant Priests: Fr. Dong Tran & Fr. Tao Pham

Pastoral Workers: Sr. Margaret Sapsford and Christina O' Connor

Sacred Heart, St. Mary's & St. Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery. www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au; Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne: www.cam.org.au

The Partnered Parishes of:

<u>St. Mary's</u>	<u>Sacred Heart</u>	<u>St. Thomas the Apostle</u>
204 Grimshaw St., Greensborough, 3088 Parish: 9435 1543 Presbytery: 9432 2515 Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au Website: www.pol.org.au/greensborough Secretaries: Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser Communications Officer: Denise Chang-Faux	25 Gipson Street, Diamond Creek 3089 Parish: 9438 1159 Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek Secretary: Pat Guatta	251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough Nth 3088 Parish: 9434 7373 Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth Secretaries: Mary Gargan & Lisa Leahy
<u>Mass Times</u> Monday: Liturgy of the word 9.15am Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am Saturday: Mass 8.30am & Vigil Mass 6.30pm Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm	<u>Mass Times</u> Monday: Communion Service 9.15am Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am 1st Saturday of the month: Vigil Mass at St. Peters Hurstbridge 7.15pm Sunday: Mass 9.00am	<u>Mass Times</u> Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday: Mass 10.30am
<u>Reconciliation Times</u> Saturday: 9.00am & 5.45pm	<u>Reconciliation Times</u> Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am	<u>Reconciliation Times</u> Saturday: 9.30am to 10.30am
<u>Baptisms</u> 2nd & 3rd Sunday 11.30 am. Please see Fr. Steven or Fr. Dong to make the necessary arrangements after any Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening.	<u>Parish School Principal</u> Mr. Jim O'Sullivan Ph: 9438 1590 or Email principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au	<u>Parish School Principal</u> Mr. David Delaney Ph: 9434 4565 or Email Principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au
<u>Parish School Principal</u> Mrs. Helen Anderson Ph: 9433 4000 or Email principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au		

Communion to the Sick:

Any parishioner who cannot attend Mass due to illness and would like to receive Communion is asked to contact the parish office.

Third Week of Advent

LISTEN!



Listen to what to do

**How are we called
to be the voice,
heart and hands of Jesus
to the world?**

Our Partner Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

What's Happening in St Mary's Parish?

Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"

IT IS WITH SADNESS that we will farewell Fr. Dong Tran who has completed three years of ministry among us and has been appointed to St. Kevin's, Hampton Park, as an Assistant to Fr. Des Moloney (who several years ago served as an Assistant at St. Mary's, Greensborough). This is to be effective on January 9th. I know Dong has enjoyed his time among us and I am personally grateful for his warmth, friendship and support – and that smile with which he deals with everyone. I wish him well in his new appointment in a huge, multicultural parish. Fr. Lenin Thenamirtham has been appointed to replace Fr. Dong and will be moving into St. Thomas Parish house around Christmas. I am sure that he will also be warmly welcomed and received among us. We shall farewell Fr. Dong with a special morning tea next **Sunday 23rd December after 10am Mass**. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Fr. Dong, please drop your donation at the Parish Office during the week. Also, if you are able to bring a plate along for the morning tea, let the Parish Office know by Thursday. Thank you. I would also like to announce that after 19 years of service to St. Thomas Parish, Mary Gargan has decided to retire from her role as secretary. I have been amazed by her capacity to deal with anything and everything with great competence. She will certainly be a great loss to me and us, but she has also very generously and graciously prepared Lisa Leahy to take over from her.

CHRISTMAS BULLETIN – On behalf of all Parish Groups, the Parish Office will prepare a Christmas Message for the Christmas Day Bulletin. If your group has a specific message it would like to include and share, please submit it into the Parish Office by **Wednesday 19th December 12 Noon**, on greensborough@cam.org.au. Please limit your message to 100 words or less. Thank you.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE This Advent, as we continue to build the community of our partnered parishes – Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, St Thomas' the Apostle North Greensborough and St Mary's Greensborough – parishioners of all three parishes are invited to attend a **combined Communal Penitential Service at St Thomas' Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd. Greensborough, on Tuesday 18 December at 7.30pm, followed by a cuppa.**

THE THREE KINGS in the Christmas story were wise men from the east, famous for their learning and wisdom. When they saw a strange star in the sky, they knew from the Scriptures that it meant the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. They travelled for some time following the star so that they could worship the baby King and bring him gifts. The Kings of our nativity scene will move slowly each week towards the star. They will finally arrive in the crib on 6 January - the Feast of the Epiphany which celebrates the visit of the Kings.

SCRIPTURE STUDY (BIBLE STUDY) we will have Scripture Study groups running as **from February next year**. In order that we have enough resources, **please indicate your interest by phoning the parish Office on 9435 1543 or email Jacinta Bright at Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au as soon as possible**. At this stage we look like having an evening group and at least one daytime group.

UPDATE - PLENARY NEWS To date over 20,000 submissions have been received by the pastoral Research Office. This research project has ethical approval. Every word of every submission is being read with responses placed under themes. Please take this project seriously. The outcomes for the future of the church in Australia depends on all of us taking part. If you are interested in joining a Listening and Dialogue Group in the Parish, please place your name on a sheet in the Gathering Space, or contact the Parish Office. Please consider asking your family and friends who no longer connect with the Church, to consider the question before us: What is god asking of the Church in Australia at this time? This means what do people think the Church needs to do or become in order to be the Church God wants us to be. They or you can submit their responses online at www.plenary.org.au.

MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR There will be a practice for the choir for singing for Midnight Mass on **Wednesday 19th December from 7p.m. till 8.30pm**. All welcome. Enquiries: Tony Roberts 0429 584 927.

CHILDREN'S WALL Children are invited to bring back their completed Gospel colouring pages/activity sheets each weekend and pin them on our new Children's Wall. We look forward to enjoying the children's vibrant work.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND COMMUNION, PRAYER LEADERS, PROJECTIONISTS and SACRISTANS If you are available to exercise your ministry at Christmas masses you are invited to add your name to the roster on table in the Gathering Space. Thank you

WELCOMERS at Christmas masses Parishioners are invited to consider extending the hospitality of Christmas by greeting visitors and fellow parishioners in the Gathering Space as they arrive for Christmas masses. If you wish to do so, please add your name to the roster on the table in the Gathering Space. Thank you.

LADIES AUXILIARY The winner of our Christmas stocking is parishioner Brian Emery of Watsonia. Thank you to all for your support.

THANK YOU TO ROB HOLBERRY who is a copperplate sign-writer and our parishioner. Rob has generously graced the entry to our church with this beautiful and graceful message *A Blessed & Joyous Christmas*. Rob's art has been admired by parents as they came to collect children from school and all others passing by. Rob will soon be painting another sign, on the opposite window. It will be permanent and will read *Welcome to St Mary's*. There is a wonderful story about Rob, which featured in The Age last year. You might like to read it. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/the-last-signwriter-robbie-holberrys-butchers-windows-a-notice-christmas-is-near-20171116-gzmtq7.html>

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE is very grateful for the support received from St Mary's. Each week, about 600 people receive help from the Centre. Many have no work rights or receive any help. Over January less goods are received due supporters being on holidays. Can you help this coming week. Food and toiletries most welcome. Social Justice Group.

Bookings for Hall , James Kierce Centre, Parish Club Rooms— via Parish Office: greensborough.bookings@cam.org.au/9435 1543.

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 10am –4pm. If office unattended, please leave a message via phone – 9435 1543 or on a note at the office window or email at greensborough@cam.org.au, and we will contact you as soon as we can.

When Your Spouse Dies by Cathleen Curry (1985) 248.866 CUR. This book has sound advice on action to take during this sad and lonely journey; what works and what does not help. In the discussion on grieving, Cathleen Curry describes the 5 classic stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance – with insightful anecdotes to encourage both adults and children. We are shown that with the help of prayer, exercise, keeping a journal and even humour, there can be an easing of the overwhelming loss. *Borrow from our library.* **Library catalogue available online at cloud.collectorz.com/247780**

St Mary's Parish News Continued:

BENEVOLENT FUND FUNDRAISER—This year St. Mary's School Advisory Board completed work on the formation of a Benevolent Fund to support school families who require immediate financial assistance in a time of crisis. On celebrating St. Mary's Feast day this week, the students held a Fun Run to raise money for the Fund. A total of \$10,108.45 was raised. This, with a donation of \$1000.00 from Le Pine Funerals in Eltham/Greensborough, has enabled the school's dream of having a Benevolent Fund to support others to come to fruition.

URGENT HELP NEEDED—A St Mary's Parishioner is in urgent need of an experienced home cleaner for her home. She lives in the Bundoora area. Please contact the Parish Office on 9435 1543 for further details.

WELCOME Parishioners are invited and always welcome to come in and make a cuppa and have a biscuit in the gathering space kitchen. We ask that you please clean up after use. Thank you and welcome.

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER –8am until 9am-parish house using Ignatian style prayer, contact Jacinta Bright - parish office on 9435 1543.

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament first and third Friday of every month, from 10.00am to 9.00pm or starting at 11.00am when there is no Mass - every 2nd, 4th and 5th Friday 8.00-9.00am.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TIME OUT from a busy lifestyle? Join silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at the Irish Martyr's Chapel Loyola College Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm. All welcome-queries Brian Rooney 0413 885 168.

Community News

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP Welcome for our final Charismatic Mass for 2018 and Christmas break-up on **Thurs, 20 December** at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Henry Street, Eltham 7.30pm. Please contact Emilia on 9435 7475 or Sandra 9434 7553 with any enquiries.

CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM **Mon 7 -Fri 11 Jan** Experience college life and a taste of the Campion College course. **Contact:** study@campion.edu.au or (02) 9896 9300 **Bookings:** register online at www.campion.edu.au/summer.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS – 2018 ST MARY'S, SACRED HEART and ST THOMAS

Reconciliation:

Tuesday 18 December 7:30 pm Parishioners from ALL partnered parishes are invited to a Communal Penitential Service at St Thomas', Nth Greensborough followed by a cuppa

St Mary's individual Reconciliation: Saturdays 15 and 22 December 9:00 - 10:00 am & 5:45 - 6.15 pm

Sacred Heart individual Reconciliation: Every Friday 9:45 - 10:15 am

St Thomas individual Reconciliation: Every Saturday 9:30 – 10:00 am

Christmas Eve – Monday 24 December

St Mary's 7:30 pm (7:00 pm Carols) Midnight (11:30 Carols)

Sacred Heart 6:00 pm & 9:00 pm

St Thomas 7:30 pm

Christmas Day - Tuesday 25 December

St Mary's 8:00 am and 10:00 am - NO 5:00 pm MASS

Sacred Heart 9:00 am

St Thomas 10:30 am



Mass Times	6.30pm	8.00am	10.00am	5.00pm
Data Projection	Volunteer	J. McDonough	J. Corcoran	J. Ganter
Reader	J./M. Hartigan	J. Ellis	J. Giudice	T. Roxas
Prayer Leader	L. Kempen	E. Smiddy	J. Hartigan	T. Roxas
Special Minister	Group A— 5 Volunteers	Group D—7 Volunteers	Group G—4 Volunteers	Group J—6 Volunteers

Counters Morning: K. Haberman

Altar Society A. Marshall

Baptisms G. Schokman – 16/12/18

Sacrificial Giving: \$3,081.60

Thank you to contributors to the Parish Support Program

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

16 December 2018

First Reading Zep 3:14-18

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your
midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and
Holy One of Israel.**

- Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
- Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to
his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the
peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
- Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One
of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 4:4-7

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in
the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your
happiness. Let your tolerance be evident

to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is
no need to worry; but if there is anything
you need, pray for it, asking God for it with
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of
God, which is so much greater than we can
understand, will guard your hearts and your
thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.**

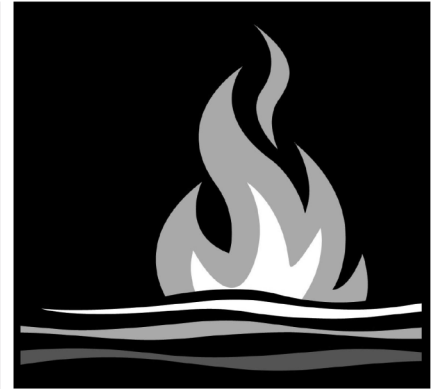
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 3:10-18

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What
must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has
two tunics he must share with the man
who has none, and the one with something
to eat must do the same.' There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and
these said to him, 'Master, what must we
do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than
your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in
their turn, 'What about us? What must we
do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No
extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among
the people, who were beginning to think
that John might be the Christ, so John
declared before them all, 'I baptise you with
water, but someone is coming, someone
who is more powerful than I am, and I am
not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he
will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his
threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into
his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire
that will never go out.' As well as this, there
were many other things he said to exhort
the people and to announce the Good News
to them.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Is it any wonder that there was a
growing sense among the people that
John might be the Christ? His teaching
in the first part of this week's gospel
might just as easily have come from the
mouth of Jesus. It demonstrates for us
just how much John was preparing the
way for Jesus: even his teaching was in
line with what Jesus would later say. In
this instance, the people gathered
around John (presumably having been
baptised by him) are asking how they
should live out their new-found
conversion of heart. John's response to
the three groups is about the need for
generosity and justice. It is about not
taking more than your share when
someone else does not have sufficient.
To the crowd of people, he instructs
them to give away a second tunic to
someone who doesn't have one at all
and to share their food with those who
are hungry. To the tax collectors, he
cautioned them to collect no more than
what they were supposed to. Tax
collectors made their profit by
overcharging taxpayers. Together with
the fact that they worked for the Roman
occupiers, this made tax collectors one
of the most despised groups in society.
John's caution to them is to be just in
their dealings. He also cautions the
soldiers against intimidation and
extorting money from the people to
supplement their pay. The themes of
justice and hospitality that will echo
throughout the gospel of Luke are
clearly evident in this episode with
John. When the people start to talk
about him being the Christ, John is
quick to point them to the one who is
still to come; the one who will share
with them more fully the love of God
and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

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