



# ST. MARY'S PARISH

[www.cam.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam.org.au/greensborough)

Member of Diamond Valley Catholic Deanery

[www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au)

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne: [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)

204 Grimshaw Street, Greensborough 3088

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Parish Priest: FR. STEVEN RIGO, Assistant Priest: FR. DONG TRAN,

Pastoral Associate: Jacinta Bright: Communications Officer: Denise Chang-Faux

Parish Secretaries: Frances Olofsson, Sharon Prosser:

School Principal: Helen Anderson,

## VISION STATEMENT

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

### Mass times

Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 5.00 pm

Tuesday to Friday 9.15 am

Saturday 8.30 am and 6.30 pm (Vigil)

### Liturgy of the Word

Monday 9.15 am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 9.00 am, 5.45 pm

### Baptisms

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.

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.

*St Mary's Parish acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.*

This Week: Third Sunday of Advent 16/17 Dec 2017

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Advent 23/24 Dec 2017

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



### *Gospel Reflection*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**John ... came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.**

John 1:7



**Witness**

*John the Baptist identifies himself as "a voice in the wilderness".*

*His role is preparatory.*

*He is content to be the first witness, the herald, and nothing more.*

*We are called to witness to the light of Christ by living the Good News. Our actions speak so much louder than anything we might say.*

# *What's Happening in our Parish?*

**THE ROYAL COMMISSION** Dear Parishioners with the delivery this week of the final report to the Federal Government from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we move as a Church to the next stage of the painful process of atoning for the sins of the past. The stronger Advent light reminds us that we draw nearer to the great feast of Christmas, when we will once again celebrate the goodness of God born anew in our hearts and our world and the hope that Jesus brings. This is the God who journeys with us as we search to understand, accept and acknowledge the wrongs of the past. Importantly we now have the task of ensuring that we move forward in a manner that brings hope, accountabilities and healing. We continue to hold in our thoughts and prayers all those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy, religious, teachers and volunteers in our Catholic schools and homes. It is for these children, women and men that we offer our humble prayers for their healing and health as they, too, move to this next stage in their journey of their story. As a faithful people who join in prayer this Gaudete Sunday the first reading from Isaiah reminds us of our sacred task to 'bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives.' Let us pray that the coming of Jesus, the Emmanuel, will bring peace, hope and healing to all who are in need of his gentle companionship and care. Fr. Steven, Fr. Dong, Jacinta Bright

**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 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 7 January on the Feast of the Epiphany which celebrates the visit of the Kings.

**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

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR PRACTISE Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 7.30-9.00pm.** All Welcome. Enquiries Tony Roberts 0429 584 927

**ALTAR SERVERS** Christmas is coming very soon. As you may notice we are lacking with altar servers for the weekend masses so could I invite some young people to consider this. Please contact Fr. Dong 9435 1543

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

**SPECIAL MINISTERS FOR COMMUNION TO THE SICK –** If you have not already done so, please collect your rosters for February to June 2018, from the table at the back of the church. Thank you for your help.

**PARISH SURVEY-** Thank you to all who have filled in and returned online and hard copy surveys, Some hard copies of the survey can be found out in the Gathering Space and to be returned by **31 Dec.** For those who wish to fill in the survey online, the link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StMarysParishGreensborough2017>.

**ST MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY** Can all Library borrowers please check your loans and return any that are overdue? Extensions of loans are available when Library is open. Please note return box is at left of Library door.

**PARKING** You will have noticed extensive work done in Church and school grounds, to improve traffic flow and parking. This provides better traffic flow and safety for pedestrians. It has been noted however, that while there are several disabled parking positions, there are some members of our community who on a temporary or permanent basis, do not qualify for a disabled permit but still have difficulty walking the distance from some of the car parks, across our undulating terrain, to the Church. These include elderly, families with very young children and those recovering from accidents, illness or medical procedures. With this in mind we ask that at Mass times, the 12 parking spaces closest to the Church, be left free for them to use. We would like to remind anyone who is using these parking spaces that you may find it easier to enter the Church by the side door on the Presbytery side.

*Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values.*



**The Agapè Prayer Group** – The Agapè Prayer Group has concluded for 2016 and will reopen in February 2017. Enquiries: Sam on 0412 401 572. Wishing you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas with family and friends and a New Year filled with hope and love

**ST MARY'S LIBRARY** Brian Boyle, Friendly Guide to the Prophets, 224 DOY. This book introduces the reader to the prophetic movement in ancient Israel. It looks at prophecy as a charismatic phenomenon often in conflict with monarchy and established religion. The prophets were the messengers of the Lord, commissioned to take a word of judgement, often enough, to their communities but always with an eye to hope. *Borrow from our library. Library catalogue available online at [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)*

*What's Happening in our Parish - Continued...*

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME** a single bed with base on castors and a toddlers ¾ bed with mattress. Linen included. Both beds in excellent condition. Please contact Megan: 9435 1551

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE** Available in the Piety store for \$4.00 and well worth a read.

**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.

**WILLIAM STREET PEDESTRIAN GATE** - will be locked other than between 8.00– 9.15am and 3.30- 4.30pm. If you wish to enter the property during the times it is locked, please use code **2100**. Please re-lock after you have entered.

**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 0413885 168

*Community News:*

**ADVENT MORNING PRAYER, ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL** Wednesday 20 December, 8.40–9am St Patrick's Cathedral. 1 Cathedral Place, Melbourne .You are warmly invited to join the archdiocese for twenty minutes of Advent prayer on this remaining Wednesday morning before Christmas. The devotions take place in the Sacred Heart chapel at the right of the main altar. Everyone welcome.

**YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR FINAL HEALING MASS FOR 2017** and Christmas break-up on **Thursday, 21st 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.

**THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION COURSE, "THE FRINGE OF HIS GARMENT"**, will be presented on **24 & 25 March** at St Thomas the Apostle, Nth Greensborough. **THE FRINGE OF HIS GARMENT** is a journey of inner healing with Jesus, the doctor who heals the deepest wounds of our life. Contact: Sandra Bishop 9434 7553.

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 24 December 2017** This week on the Journey, our Christmas Eve edition, we have our very own Bishop Peter Ingham sharing his Christmas message with us, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom and wishes us Happy Christmas from the Nuns at Jamberoo Abbey, and during this very busy yet very Holy time, Marilyn Rodrigues, The Peaceful Parent, reminds us to Pray, Hope and Don't worry. It has been our pleasure to bring you Journey Catholic radio this year, and look forward to 2018. God Bless and Merry Christmas. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017**  
**AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, GREENSBOROUGH**

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 23 December 9.00 - 10.00am & 5.45pm - 6.15pm

**Christmas Masses:**

Christmas Eve Vigil - Sunday 24 Dec 6.30pm and Midnight  
**No 5pm Mass**

**Carols will commence half an hour prior to the masses**

Christmas Day - Monday 25 Dec 8am and 10am only  
**NO 5pm mass**



**All are most welcome to come and celebrate. Please pass this information on to those who do not regularly attend our parish. This information is also available on the Archdiocese and Deanery websites. Visit: [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au), [www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au)**

