



Sunday 23th December, 2018

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo

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

Pastoral Associate: Jacinta Bright

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.

Fourth Week of Advent

Listen to signs of hope

LISTEN!



**How can we read
the signs of turmoil and struggle
to be places where God
can bring us hope for new life?**

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"

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.

FAREWELL TO FR. DONG— A farewell card for Fr. Dong is available for all to sign on the table in the gathering space.

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.

PLENARY 2020 @ ST MARY'S As we get together with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we will share stories looking back over the past years and our plans for the coming year. In October 2020, the Catholic Church is gathering to make plans and decisions for the future. Your voice is needed to help create the agenda. What are your experiences of God in your life, your faith and the Church? 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 us in Australia at this time?* Perhaps it could even be part of your conversations as you gather around the table on Christmas Day. Responses can be made online at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au and opportunities will be offered at St Mary's to gather for listening and dialogue sessions in the coming months. To express your interest in attending, please provide your name and contact details on a 'sign up' sheet in the gathering space or contact the Parish Office. The following listening and dialogue sessions have already been scheduled for those interested in discussing issues of:

- **Open session on 16 January**
- the role of women in the Church at **7.30pm on Monday 11th February** and
- for those with a "social justice heart" at **7.30pm on Tuesday 5th February**.

We strongly encourage all to 'have your say' for Plenary 2020.

VOLUNTEERS SURVEY forms are still available to be completed to express interest in joining an existing St Mary's Parish group, suggest something new or if you are wanting to find out more about what's available. Please complete and place in the box in the Gathering Space. Thanks to those who have completed forms already. Details will be forwarded to the appropriate groups soon.

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.

THANKS TO ROB HOLBERY a copperplate sign-writer and parishioner. Rob generously graced our church entry with a beautiful message *A Blessed & Joyous Christmas*. Rob's art has been admired by parents as they came to collect children from school and others passing by. 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-holberys-butchers-windows-a-notice-christmas-is-near-20171116-gzmtq7.html>

THANKYOU to all my friends at St Mary's for your prayers and thoughts on my recent stay in hospital. Margaret Baird.

INVITATION Parishioners of the Partnered Parishes of Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek, St Mary's Greensborough and St Thomas' North Greensborough are invited to join the staffs of our three Parishes' schools, at a Mass at **4.30pm on February 6th**, at St Thomas Parish church, to mark the beginning of the school academic year, at which teachers will be inducted. Following the Mass, parishioners are invited to stay for drinks and nibbles and to get to know the school staffs. Please contact Jacinta Bright on 9435 1543 or at Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au by the 4th of February, so that catering arrangements can be confirmed.

ST MARY'S DIGITAL CONTENT PRODUCER (VOLUNTEER ROLE) One of the key aspects of providing hospitality is offering a welcoming presence—be it in person or online. St Mary's is currently redeveloping its website to ensure that it reflects the mission and diversity of our parish community. As such, we are looking for someone who would be able to volunteer their time to perform the role of a Digital Content Producer. Under the direction of the St Mary's Website Development Team, this person would be responsible for: 1) **ongoing maintenance** of the website using the DotNetNuke (DNN) platform. This includes updating event-related information (on a weekly basis) and liaising with groups to ensure pages are kept up-to-date (on a quarterly basis) and; 2) In consultation with the Website Development Team, **curate online content** that would further the mission of St Mary's to be 'a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world'. This position requires a high degree of organisation, an understanding of website platforms and a keen interest in the wider life and work of the parish. Training will be provided in the DotNetNuke (DNN) platform and tasks can be done remotely. If this sounds of interest to you or you know someone who would fit this role, please contact the Parish Office on 9435 1543 for more information.

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.

COMMUNION ROUND MINISTERS—you will find the new Communion Round Roster for 2019 on the table at the back of the Church. If yours is missing, please contact the Parish Office for a copy. Thank you.

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

Christmas Eve – Monday 24 December

St Mary’s: 7:30 pm (7 pm Carols) Midnight (11:30 Carols); **Sacred Heart** 6 pm & 9 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



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.

God is Near us: the Eucharist, the Heart of Life by Joseph Ratzinger, 2003 234.163 RAT Cardinal Ratzinger shows us the biblical, historical, and theological dimensions of the Eucharist. He focuses on the importance of one’s personal devotion to and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. *Borrow from our library.*

St Mary’s Parish News Continued:

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

PLANNING A TRIP TO SYDNEY IN JANUARY? Why not stay at Mary MacKillop Place, in the heart of North Sydney! 30 minutes from the Airport, close to Ferries, Trains, Sydney Harbour foreshore, Opera House and more! Enquiries please call 02 89124800. See noticeboard.

Mass Times	6.30pm	8.00am	10.00am	5.00pm
Data Projection	Volunteer	P. Goulding	J. Corcoran	T. D'Souza
Reader	C. De Costa	B./J. McDonough	J. Branagan	N. Ridler
Prayer Leader	M. Roberts	B./J. McDonough	M. Malicse	N. Ridler
Special Minister	Group B— 5 Volunteers	Group E—7 Volunteers	Group H—5 Volunteers	Group K—5 Volunteers

Counters Morning: R. Coyle

Altar Society A. Marshall

Baptisms G. Schokman – 10/2/19

Sacrificial Giving: \$3,324.50

Thank you to contributors to the Parish Support Program

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

23 December 2018

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

*(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall
be saved.*

- O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
- May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of
the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey
your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin,
and you took no pleasure in them; and then
he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey
your will. He is abolishing the first sort to
replace it with the second. And this will was
for us to be made holy by the offering of his
body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from
the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in
her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said,
'Of all women you are the most blessed,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why
should I be honoured with a visit from the
mother of my Lord? For the moment your
greeting reached my ears, the child in my
womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who
believed that the promise made her by the
Lord would be fulfilled.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This little gospel story tells us that 'the
baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and
not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'.
Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have
a wonderful effect on life in the womb.
Good vibrations. Here, the presence of
Jesus, being carried by Mary in her
pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on
the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good
vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of
Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out
to all human beings. The good news is
that you and I and every human life ever
conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord
Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit
as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth.
Every mother or father who has lost a
baby too early needs to know that the
same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's
presence was felt by your baby. That
Divine Presence conferred a powerful
Original Blessing on that little life within
the womb, and that same Presence
accompanied your baby into the
everlasting embrace of Divine Love in
Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using
the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with
thee.

*Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.*

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us
sinners

now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

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mtate@bigpond.com