



Sunday 17th February, 2019

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo

Assistant Priests: Fr. Lenin Thenamirtham & 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 Secretary: 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. Lenin 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.

Treated as the prophets.

As part of his sermon, Jesus announces, 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man... This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.' The prophets of the Old Testament were the chosen spokesmen of God. Their message was often unpopular and they were often threatened and berated for challenging the social order. To be treated in this way is in fact something of an affirmation that one's words and actions are reflecting the message of God. The Word of God is confronting and challenging.



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"

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE OF PARISH AGM TO 11AM ON SUNDAY 31ST MARCH. MORE DETAILS SOON.

LADIES AUXILIARY Our first meeting for 2019 will be on **Wednesday 20th February at 10.15am** in the Parish House. New members most welcome. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990.

PLENARY 2020 @ ST MARY'S – What is God asking of us in Australia at this time? Listening and Dialogue sessions are being offered to provide an opportunity for people to listen and share their experiences and to reflect on the questions they may have about the future of the Church in Australia. 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. If you are not able to attend a session but would still like to have your say, individual responses can be made online at: plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or submission forms can be completed and returned to the Gathering Space and the PPC will submit them on your behalf. **We strongly encourage all to 'have your say' for Plenary 2020. Stay tuned for more details as they are available.**

Thank you to those from our community who delivered the Plenary Flyers to homes in the Greensborough/Watsonia area.

SCRIPTURE STUDY - The Gospel of Mark will be the first topic of exploration for the new Parish Scripture Study groups. Groups will begin shortly on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Sessions run over 10 weeks. There may still be room in the Tuesday and Wednesday groups if you are interested. Enquiries - Parish Office 9435 1543.

MUSIC MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN - 6.30pm Mass on the first Saturday evening Mass of the month and at 10.00am Mass on the second Sunday of the month. Children will be encouraged to come forward, near the choir area and they will choose an instrument and play along with the choir and musicians. Enquiries - parish office 9435 1543.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will be starting on **March the 10th at 10.00 Mass** and will continue at 10.00am Masses each week after that. More information will follow in next week's Bulletin.

CHILDREN'S TAKE HOME GOSPEL ACTIVITY SHEETS are available in the Gathering Space each week. Children are invited to bring back their completed sheets and pin them on the Children's Wall in the church.

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE is on sale again this year. 1st, Prize is a new Kia Rio, 2nd and 3rd Prizes are 2 new Kia Picantos, and 4th to 14th Prizes are Coles Myer Gift Cards. **Cost still only \$2 per ticket.** All proceeds go to our Parish Community. Tickets selling now. Raffle drawn 4th May, 2019.

THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY The Greensborough Conference thanks all parishioners at St Mary's and St Thomas' for your support of our 2018 Christmas Appeal. As of last Thursday, the total sum donated in the two parishes was \$13,238 – which is an increase on the 2017 Christmas Appeal. This figure might still increase over the next week or two. We also delivered 58 Christmas hampers and toys to families with young children, the majority of which were prepared by the school communities – children, staff, and families of our two primary schools. Thank you all, from Greensborough Vinnies.

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.

BEST WISHES John Vespa, a past student of St. Mary's (graduated 1996) will be entering the Melbourne Archdiocese Seminary this Sunday 17th February 2019. St. Mary's has been a part of John's foundation in the faith since a young age. John is very grateful for being a part of St. Mary's parish, the friendships made and is looking forward to sharing stories with many of you as he grows throughout seminary life. Please keep John in your prayers.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH- next Community Lunch is back on next week starting **Wednesday 20th February** at: All Saints Anglican Church 14 Church St Greensborough. 12.00 – 1.30pm. So what do we do?

- We provide a nourishing 2 course meal to those attend at no cost/Fresh fruit and vegetables available (subject to availability)
- A listening ear for those who need one
- Referrals to other services if requested
- Dry food parcels (dependant on availability) – gold coin donation towards our overheads/ running costs
- Wheelchair friendly and easy access to public transport/Children's play area
- No referral required just turn up on the day

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact **Colleen Treacy, Community Meal Co-ordinator** 0435 107 633 or treacyc@optusnet.com.au

St Mary's Parish News Continued:

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 CONTEMPLATIVE 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.

AVAILABLE FOR RENT—Self Contained Bungalow. Non-smokers only to enquire. Contact: 94446023 or 0425741992.

Community News

CATHOLIC LADIES COLLEGE First tour for 2019. Meet Principal, explore facilities and chat with students and staff. **Wednesday 20th February at 9.00am.** Limited tour spots available, book online at www.clc.vic.edu.au. See noticeboard.

CHARISMATIC MASS on **Thur 21 Feb** at Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry Street, Eltham. Commencing 7.30pm with Praise & Worship followed by Mass including Sacrament of Anointing. Prayer Ministry and supper will be available afterwards. Contact Rose 9434 3962.

MARY - A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER: DVD AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS Filmed on location in the Holy Land, journeying through biblical narratives of Mary's earthly life and visit the places where key events in history occurred. You will understand what life was like for Mary. Last Saturday of the month, **11.30 am – 1.30 pm from Feb to Aug, except for March (16 March – Third Saturday) starting February 23**, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 290 Childs Road,,Mill Park. Everyone is welcome. See noticeboard.

LE PINE FUNERALS - morning tea presented by a Prepaid Funeral Consultant, to find out about benefits of planning ahead. **Tues 26 Feb-10am** at Le Pine Funerals, 513 Greensborough Road, Greensborough. RSVP: 22nd Feb. Contact: Sharraine Ballao 9434 1666 or sharraine.ballao@lepinefunerals.com.au. See noticeboard.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 1st March at 10.30am at Our Lady Help of Christians, 4 Henry Street, Eltham. This year's service focuses on Slovenia. See noticeboard.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND—Invest in your most precious asset.....**Your Marriage!** Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage. No group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. **2019 Melbourne weekend dates: 29-31 March, 31 May-2 June, 23-25 August, and 15-17 November.** Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Contact Mercy and James 0409 183 676. Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website:www.wwme.org.au

FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL: Journey with St. Paul as you relive the Acts of the Apostles and the various letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Greek islands in this 14-day pilgrimage lead by Catholic Priests that features Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Meteora for an all-inclusive price of \$5990. **The group departs on 1st October 2019.** See board.

Henri Nouwen Illuminated by Len Sroka 248 NOU In this beautiful book, some of the most significant words from spiritual guru Henri Nouwen are brought alive through the magic of graphic design. Len Sroka has manipulated photos and created background images that highlight the emotions and meanings behind Nouwen's words. In the ancient tradition of "illuminated manuscripts," the power of Nouwen's words are augmented by the power of the images. *Borrow from our library.* **Library catalogue available online at cloud.collectorz.com/247780**

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.

First Reading Jer 17:5-8

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. (R.)
2. He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. (R.)
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And

what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Lk 6:17. 20-26

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

We are perhaps more familiar with the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew in which the kingdom of heaven is promised to those who are 'blessed' because of their afflictions. Rather than the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke presents the same event and teaching as the sermon on the plain as it occurs on 'a piece of level ground'. This version may appear a little more confronting than the Matthew version. Rather than the afflicted being 'blessed', they are to be 'happy'. It seems odd that anybody should be happy to be poor, hungry, mourning or reviled and we would certainly regard these as states of sadness and difficulty; not times for rejoicing at our good fortune! However, this gospel in particular frequently reminds us that God does not think, feel and behave as we might expect. God's actions are frequently contrary to the expectations of society. The Gospel of Luke makes it plain that the reign of God will upend the structures of society. The lowly will be raised and the mighty will be brought low. It is in this context that the poor, the hungry and the outcast are regarded as happy. Their happiness comes from the reassurance that although they are rejected and dismissed by society, they are indeed the most favoured of God. Whatever the world dishes up to such as these, they can rejoice in the knowledge that in the reign of God their fortunes will be reversed and they will be favoured. However, just as the fortunes of the poor and afflicted will be reversed for the better, those who are rich, well fed, happy and well regarded will also have their fortunes reversed. Alas to them! Their comfort and joy leaves no room for the generosity of God!

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