



**Sunday 13th November 2022**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

**St. Mary's**

204 Grimshaw St.,  
Greensborough, 3088

**Parish:** 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

**Email:** [Greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough)

**Secretaries:** Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday to Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.30pm

**Sunday:** Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening Mass

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**  
[principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday** 7.15pm

**Sunday:** Mass 9.00am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Friday:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**  
[principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth)

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass 10.30am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**  
[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**



A message of hope for those who stay faithful to God's love.

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

**13th November 2022.**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection--for-you-the-sun-of-righteousness-will-shine-out-with-healing-in-its-rays>

**Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.**



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

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

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



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

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### 94TH FESTIVAL OF FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2022

After an absence of two years because of Covid, the Carols are back again at St Mary's on **Sunday, 4 December at 7:30 pm!** St Mary's will sing two songs and practices will take place on **Tuesdays 15/22/29 November** from 1:30-2:30pm in St Mary's Church. Everyone from our combined parishes are welcome to join us for this festive occasion. Please contact Megan Mitchem via email: [mamitchem@gmail.com](mailto:mamitchem@gmail.com) if you would like to attend practices so that music can be arranged.



### A CHARISMATIC MASS ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass and supper. All welcome. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

### JOIN US ON A JOURNEY THIS ADVENT

Join us as we continue on a contemplative journey on Zoom this Advent.

We are privileged to have these sessions led by Dr Susie Hii who is a doctor, an author of two books, a member of Christian Life Community (a lay Ignatian community) and a member of the Christian Meditation community.

This week 17th November at 7.20pm we will be reflecting on, The Visitation & The Magnificat.

All are welcome.

For further details and to register, please contact:

Jo on 0411045572. Iris on 0411409968 Michelle on 0432316777



### ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH GREENSBOROUGH

9 lessons & carol service Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 2:30 p.m. All Saint's Church Choir will sing 7 Carols, Congregation will sing 8 carols, Accompanied by Pipe Organ. Free admittance, \$5.00 donation for afternoon tea.

All Saints Anglican Church Corner. Grimshaw and Church Streets, Greensborough 3088.

### FLOOD APPEAL-SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St Vincent de Paul's Flood Appeal for those who have been effected by these devastating floods particularly in the north of the State.

Contributions can be made by: Calling 131812. Making a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase:

Visit: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

Via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods

Please keep those who have been impacted by the floods as well as the volunteers and emergency workers assisting them in their needs at this challenging time in your prayers.

Advent begins Year A & the Gospel of Matthew, to prepare, meet

## **Matthew, his Gospel & his Jesus**

3 Wednesday evenings:

23 & 30 Nov, 7 Dec. 7.30 - 9.30pm

On Zoom

book at: <https://app.tickets.org.au/CSOE/Matthew>

booking fee \$10

Overseas participants use code OVASEA

Further information: Sandra Bishop [sandraebishop@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sandraebishop@optusnet.com.au)

This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



**Baptisms:** we pray for Dulcie, Mila, Hunter and Lacey who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in November.

**Passionist Family Group:** November 22nd is the 37th anniversary of our Passionist Family Group.

Over the 37 years we have had up to six groups at Sacred Heart, and although we currently have only one group, this group is very active, as we support and care for each other. We gather together each month for a meal or other activity. Our next activity is a weekend away at St Leonard's on the 25th, 26th & 27th November.

If you would like to know more about the Passionist Family Group please contact Claire or Frank on 0438058619

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27th has been set aside as a **REMEMBRANCE MASS** FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR. You are invited to come and remember them, you will also have the opportunity to remember those you have loved and lost. Frank on behalf of the funeral ministry.

Annual Diamond Creek Combined Churches **Quiet Christmas Service:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm at St John's Anglican Church Diamond Creek. Details to follow.

**Senior Moments:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 12 pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch 12pm in the Parish Centre.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

### Rosters

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November** 9am Sacred Heart

**Reader:** Y. O'Brien **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Ledda, P. Leonard

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November** 7.15pm St Peter's

**Reader:** R. Nicolaisen **Commentator:** M. Frisby **Eucharistic Ministers:** Volunteers

***Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:***

*Lina Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Vi Hurley, Kevin Hurley*

***We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of November that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:***

*Ros Thomas, Geraldine Nihill, Bev Camilleri, Kevin Doherty, Vincent Atkinson, James Burke, Lena Finlayson, Grace Jones, Lena Anderson, Haydn Chapman, John Prendergast.*

## LEARN ABOUT THE LITURGY OF THE WORD DURING ADVENT. CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS RENEWED

### BY THE WORD OF GOD.

After Mass, have you ever wondered what was the gospel I heard today? Personally I find distractions slip into my mind easily in prayer and the Mass is no different.

In was in 2018 that Pope Francis chose to speak about the Holy Mass to the gathered pilgrims. In the coming weeks, everyone will be offered an opportunity to read and reflect on what he said about the Liturgy of the Word. It's an occasion for us to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the Masses of the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

For all who listen to the scriptural readings each week, it is a time to hear and be renewed by Pope Francis' words of explanation about the Liturgy of the Word.

Further, for those engaged in the ministry of Reader it is further formation and hopefully a renewed commitment to this special ministry. For some among us it may be an invitation to join the ministry of Reader to begin initial formation.

Over the coming weeks three short talks about the Liturgy of the Word will be offered for your personal reading and reflection at home. These will be emailed to your address or you may request a copy. Fr Steven has suggested a few questions to guide further reflection. (See Sign-On sheets at the back of the church.)

On Thursday 15 December, Readers from both Sacred Heart and St Peter's are invited to gather at Sacred Heart Church from 7.00pm. Both Frs Steven and Martin are planning to be with us on this evening.

Completion of online Safeguarding training is available now for Readers at [safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login](https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login) and in early February we will prepare a Safeguarding Risk Assessment for this ministry and offer a group training session.

Further enquiries [Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au](mailto:Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**Baptisms:** We pray for Esme and Isla who will be baptised later this month.

**Square Tap Machine:** Now that our property has been connected to the NBN we are now able to process donations on the Square Tap Machine more efficiently.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The next meeting of our PPC will be on Wednesday 16th November at 7.00pm

Email: [stthomasppc@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasppc@gmail.com)

**The new sets of thanksgiving envelopes commencing 6th November are now ready for collection. Could parishioners please have a look and see if there is anyone that lives close to you and you could assist by dropping them in their letterbox.**

### **BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP**

Our coffee catch ups will be held every 4th Thursday of the month. Our next catch up will be 24th November at Phoenix Diamond Creek Rd Plenty at 1.30pm. Could you please email me [stewmarg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stewmarg@bigpond.net.au) or ring mobile 0408370685 **RSVP on or before 21st November** so I can book numbers. **ALL WELCOME!**

Marg



**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass and supper. All welcome. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

**COLUMBAN CALENDAR:** The calendar's are now available at St Thomas, \$10.00 each, cash or by the Square tap machine. Pay to Church.

### **Rosters for Weekend 19th & 20th November**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** T. Holland

**Commentator:** J. Bohan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Carty, D. Haesler, M. Bedford

**Set Up:** K. Salm

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** S. Millar

**Commentator:** J. Kerr

**Eucharistic Ministers:** F. Landy, A. Letzia, C. O'Brien

**Set Up:** C. & B. Riordan

**St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:**

**Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:**

Peg Wilcox, Miran Kasalo, John Iacobucci, Andelko Korculanin, Robert Kasic

**We pray for those who have died including Peg Willcocks and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of November that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

Nick Piccolo, Maura Coyle, Lena Brullo, Ray Tipping, Lawrence Meilak, Theresa Meilak, Marcel Bishara, Frank Mercieca, Thomas Iacobucci, Fr Kelvin Kenny, Christopher Kenny, Joan Campbell, Serge Teychency, Joan Chadzynska, Rocco Di Pierro, Haydn Chapman, Francis Mc Mennemin, Carmel McCrorie, Michael Munforte

## **PALMS AUSTRALIA**

Roll up your sleeves; make a difference overseas.

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more.

Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home.

Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles.

Enquire about those roles via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.



**Palms Australia**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**—Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

Due to continuing CAM training of the office staff, the office will be unattended most Thursdays during November and possibly early December from 10.00am to 1pm. We shall do our best to let you know in advance if we know the dates and times. A note shall also be placed on the office doors to let you know. In the meantime we thank you for your patience. Please call and leave a message or email on those days and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you.

## LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS:

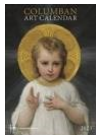
As we are unable to have a Parish Fete this year we are planning a number of stalls in the Gathering space after weekend Masses.

**26th/27th. November** Variety stalls lots of bargains & sale of plants.

If you are available to help in any way please phone Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990

**CAKE STALL 12/13th November** A cake stall will be held on this weekend in the gathering space after all Masses.

Proceeds to the liturgy Group. Enquiries Judy 9435 4506.



### **COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2023**

The 2023 edition of the Columban Art Calendar is now available for purchase in the Sacristy or from the Parish Office. Calendars are \$10.00.

### **CALENDARS FOR SALE**

Dom La Ferlita, our talented Saturday night pianist, has printed up a beautiful 2023 calendar with photos he has taken throughout Victoria. Calendars will be available for \$20 at Mass on Saturday night.



## **AFTER 2 YEARS - OUR REMEMBRANCE MASS IS RETURNING TO ST. MARY'S**

When? **7:30pm on Friday 25 November** - light refreshments afterwards. All are welcome, but particularly those whose loved ones have died this year or during the COVID period.

To assist in preparations please let us know if you are coming - Jackie Corcoran 0422 125 321.

**WEDDING CEREMONY INVITATION** Kristel Roxas and Andrew Duncanson warmly invite you to their wedding ceremony on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2022 at 10am at St Mary's Church.

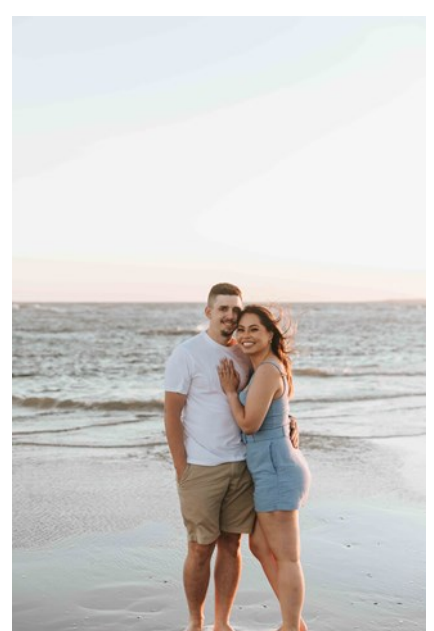
St Mary's has been Kristel's second home for as long as she can remember. She has been blessed to have celebrated all of her sacraments at St Mary's, and cannot wait to tick another one off the list.

Andrew, since his first time attending mass at St Mary's, has felt welcomed and at peace, which is one of the reasons why he became Catholic in 2016.

*Choosing to have our wedding at St Mary's was the easiest decision we made, besides saying yes! We have met so many wonderful people who have supported us throughout the years, and we are excited to invite the parishioners of St Mary's to attend our wedding ceremony.*

*If you plan on attending please come 30 minutes before the start of the ceremony (9.30am)*

*We also hope to share some tea/coffee and refreshments after the ceremony with you and our other guests. If you would like to volunteer to assist with setting up and clean up on the day, please reach out to Kristel on 0409 231 648.*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can.

All Welcome.

**ST MARY'S PRAYER SHAWL GROUP:** Meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquires: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**November Baptisms:** Lachlan Phillips, Logan Connelly, Mikaela Rae De Vera, Audrina and Elodie Inserra, Emily Tan, Cara Rose D'Alessi, Giulia Medcalf, Elijah Smith

***Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:*** Peter Mejak, Michael McAleer, Helen Sinnott, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Noah Thorley, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, John Mullins, Margaret Bramley, Mark Madio, Sr Estelita Manabo

**Recently Deceased:** Doris Marcus, Mercedes Mateos Carro

***We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:*** Evelyn Conway, Patrick Francis Smith, Max Stimpson, William Black, Antonietta Giusti, Marc Bourdet, Ross Pendry, Mgr John Murphy, Betty Taylor, Herbert Thomson, Lucy Nolan, Dusan Ribar, Jessie Busch, Peter Fox, Alex Fereday, Harry Darroch, Maureen Goral, Sylvia Leach, Patrick Leach, Florence Laidler, Harold Laidler, Steve Murphy, Shirley Coleman, Rita Chivers, John W. Smith, Sidney Stimpson, Mary Ellen Exton, Aniela Guzowski, Joan Lawler, Fr. P. Smark, Jane Doherty, Aleykuty Kurian, Poppy Stanton, Catherine Margaret Joyce, Max Rosewall, Ron Prendergast, Reginald Jowett, Noreen O'Callaghan, Leo Early, Genesia Pacione, Francis James LaBrooy, Robert Hallam, Greg Mackenna, Adrienne Martin, Mary Cummins, Molly Reid, Molly Creeley, Phillip Testagrossa, William Jarvis, Margaret Brady, Saundary Fernando, Mary Fraser, Colin McLean, Tom Duffell, Patrick Keeny, Joan Healy, George Hoey, Hazel Bedford, Sr Patrick Donahoo, Fred Pendry, Brian Albert Bardsley, Rosemary Miles, Anne Payne, Antonio Fajardo

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS.

**HEART OF LIFE: Advent Anticipation' reflection day (in person event), Saturday 26 Nov 2022, 10am-3.30pm.** This reflection day is an invitation into prayer and time to make space for anticipation and hope. A time to pay attention to yourself in the midst of many demands... Led by spiritual directors Gail Crisp and Cathy Beaton. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern VIC. Cost \$60. Book and pay via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), email [office@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:office@heartoflife.melbourne), or tel (03) 9890 1101.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** Red Wednesday, 23 November 2022 - You are invited to a Red Wednesday Prayer Vigil at St Patrick's Cathedral on 23 November, 7.30pm. Joining many other cathedrals and churches around the world, St Patrick's will be floodlit in red on this night. Red Wednesday is an international initiative of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). It is a day to stand up for faith and freedom; to gather and pray for the 200+ million Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

You can also visit [www.aidtochurch.org/RedWednesday](http://www.aidtochurch.org/RedWednesday) to learn more.





**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close** Jesus draws a picture of terrifying challenges that his followers will have to face in the future. However, they will have the 'words and wisdom' of Jesus to rely on when the time comes. The symbolic moment for the Jews is the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem; but perhaps for today the symbolic moment is the destruction of the World Trade Centre. It is significant for us that Jesus speaks of 'words' rather than weapons, 'wisdom' rather than revenge, and 'endurance' rather than violence.

## Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

13 November 2022

### First Reading Mal 3:19-20

*The sun of righteousness will shine on you.*

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9**

*(R.) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.*

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)
2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples.  
Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. (R.)
3. For the Lord comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.  
He will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness. (R.)

### Second Reading 2 Thes 3:7-12

*Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.*

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

### Gospel Acclamation Lk 21:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lift up your heads and see;  
your redemption is near at hand.  
Alleluia!*

### Gospel Lk 21:5-19

*Your endurance will win you your life.*

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'



### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Day of the Lord was believed to be the time when God would come in majesty and power to set all things right. We must remember that the descriptions in today's readings are metaphoric or symbolic in nature. As with all metaphors or symbols, we miss something of their profound meaning if we merely understand them literally. It is not helpful to relate elements of the description with particular aspects of the contemporary world. Belief in the Day of the Lord is a way of testifying to our faith in the righteousness of God.

Although the narrative readings for today concentrate on the disruptions that will accompany the coming of God, they also contain hints of the salvation that will finally arrive. Malachi speaks of the sun of justice that comes with healing rays; Luke promises that the faithful disciples will escape without a hair of their heads being destroyed. Just as the descriptions of the upheavals should not be understood literally, neither should these descriptions. It may be that the faithful followers of Jesus will suffer terrible agonies. The point here is that even in the midst of their pain, they will be protected. The healing rays of justice and the rescue of the lives of the upright are references to salvation. God does not come at the end to condemn, but to save. Furthermore, the suffering that precedes the end is intended for purification and refinement, not punishment. Christians are exhorted to live in this endtime with patient endurance of difficulties.

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