



**Sunday 15th October 2023**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

**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:** Tanya O'Meara & Lisa Leahy

**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)

**Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**



May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works.

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,  
15th October 2023.

**Scripture reflection: I have my banquet all prepared. Come to the wedding! ([australiancatholics.com.au](http://australiancatholics.com.au))**

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

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

**St Mary's Facebook page**

[facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/](https://facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/)



**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



### THE SIGN ADVENT PROGRAM 2023

Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023, a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). Immerse yourself in the timeless words of Scripture, expertly curated to illuminate the true essence of these holy seasons heralding the birth of Christ. Whether you seek to deepen your faith, foster a sense of contemplation, or simply embrace the beauty of everything that Advent and Christmas brings, The Sign serves as a guiding light leading you through these sacred stories that continue to resonate throughout the ages.

**IF ANY OF OUR PARISHIONERS WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE BOOK COULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PARISH OFFICE ASAP. A DONATION OF \$5.00 WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

### ARCHDIOCESE TRAINING MODULE

For those of you who have been unable to complete your safeguarding training module, the error has now been fixed, you need to login with your WWCC or VIT card to begin.

To access the training follow the link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

### OBTAINING COMPLETION CERTIFICATE FOR ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

- ◆ Login to training link using WWCC number [www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org](http://www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org)
- ◆ They send a 6 digit code by email.
- ◆ Enter code and verify.
- ◆ You are asked if you are clergy – click 'Next'.
- ◆ The screen below comes up.
- ◆ Click the green 'Acquired' icon.



### REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR PROCLAIM 2023!

16th-18th November 2023 Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

Over three days, the Catholic Leadership Centre will become a vibrant sojourn to inspire, engage and equip ourselves to go out and proclaim the joy of the Gospel into our local communities.

**Thursday 16th November** - Encounter Christ Proclaim will begin in prayer as the young Church of Melbourne – whether young in age or young at heart – gather for Holy Hour. World-renowned Fr Rob Galea will lead music during this time of worship and adoration. Gather together for dinner where Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne will give a keynote address.

**Friday 17th November - Engage Leaders** This day is especially tailored to parish clergy and lay leadership and those employed in the Catholic sector eg. staff, and faith and mission leaders from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, social services, health care.

**Saturday 18 November - Embark** This day is for all Catholics, lay and clergy, especially those who are seeking more for themselves and their community. Hear inspiring speakers including international leadership coach Ron Huntley. Be formed in workshops and discover ways for ourselves and our communities to be bearers of the light of Christ to each other.

**More details including additional speakers and workshop presenters to be released in the coming days!**

**Registration** You are invited to book for all three days or each separate day you can attend.

Thursday - Free but ticketed, Friday - \$100, Saturday - \$100.

[Proclaim 2023 Tickets, Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne | TryBooking Australia](#)



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



**BAPTISMS:** we pray for Mabel and Asher who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in October.

**DIAMOND CREEK ST VINNIES CONFERENCE:** The Diamond Creek St Vinnies conference president's role, has come to its end of the four year term. We are asking if anyone is interested in the role. The service that St Vinnies provide for our area is so rewarding and helps those who are experiencing such difficult times, as we all understand. Should you require more information, please contact me. The conference meets every second Tuesday of the month in the Parish office. Ray Belli 0413185722

**ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS:** will be available for private reflection, or you are welcome to join the group who meet after 9.15am Mass Wednesday mornings throughout Advent. Please contact Moya Roadley.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm. Nominations are now being called for upcoming elections. Forms are available at the back of the church, or speak with a current PPC member for further information. Nominations close 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023. YOUR VOICE, MY VOICE, OUR VOICE! Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**HALL HIRE:** Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or [alisonpieper52@gmail.com](mailto:alisonpieper52@gmail.com)

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in the Parish Centre.  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November Lunch 12pm at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

**FAMILY GROUPS FUNDRAISING:** Enjoy a walk, a coffee and socialising when members of Sacred Heart Family Groups are again serving refreshments at the Diamond Creek Rotary Tram Café on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Thank you to those who volunteer as the Parish receives a generous donation.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL FETE, MARKET & CLASSIC CAR SHOW:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 11am-3pm. The Fete is a public event that will see us welcome the wider community to share in the fun and games and aim to raise money for our new playground.

### ROSTERS:

**Cleaning: Week 17<sup>th</sup> October.** M. Cusack, W. McEvoy

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October St Peter's 7.15pm

**Reader:** B. Flynn      **Commentator:** M. Frisby      **Eucharistic Ministers:** Amindha

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Sacred Heart 9am

**Reader:** A. Pieper      **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien      **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Garzia, P. Keenan

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

*Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard, Bernie Bourke, Lucy Cassin*

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

*Felicia Ongarello, Fr Leo Pascoe, Colin Elliott, Emma Goodge, Patrick Finlayson, Maurie Roadley, Wade Robinson, Dianne Galea, Mario Molinaro.*

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS:** Couples and their families are invited to join the celebration of the annual Marriage Anniversary Mass. Couples who register and are celebrating the following anniversaries – 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th or 40 years and above will receive a commemorative certificate.

Register by Sunday 15th October at [Anniversary Mass 2023 Tickets, St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne | TryBooking Australia](#)

**MAGI HOLIDAYS:** Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 14-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by Fr Richard Rosse. This pilgrimage features places from the Old & New

Testament and includes Petra, Mt Nebo, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem for an all-inclusive offer of \$7,590 AUD. The fare includes Airfare + Local Transfers in Deluxe Coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + English speaking professional guides. Departure from Melbourne on 20th May, 2024. For inquiries & bookings call 1300 721 561/03 8839 6615 or email us: [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm  
Thursdays 8.00am-12.00pm (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.30-3.00pm St Mary's**)  
Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

**BAPTISMS:** We pray for Florence, Shiva, Arian, Gia and Christian who are being Baptised later this month.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing and supper. All welcome. For further details, please contact Emilia 0418 120 902 or Rose 0411 650 339.

You are most welcome in joining The Way Prayer Group on Zoom in entering into the Mysteries of Christ and rediscovering the Power of the Rosary. Introducing the latest FREE online series from Paradisus Dei, "The Joyful Mysteries" filmed on location in the Holy Land. 7 weekly sessions, commencing Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 8-9.30pm. For Zoom link and further information, please contact Emilia 0418 120 902

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** Many of you may not know that our handyman has been off on sick leave. Andrew has had major heart surgery and will not be back until next year. If anyone is available to do some weeding or pruning in the garden beds near and around the Church it would be greatly appreciated. With the spring weather everything is starting to flourish.



You do need to have a current WWCC and have completed the Cam Safeguarding training to be on the school/ church property.

Please let me know if you assist in any way. Thank you. **Lisa**

**ST THOMAS PPC:** Next meeting Wednesday 20th September, 7.00pm in the Parish house.

### Roster for Weekend 21st & 22nd October

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** J. Bohan

**Commentator:** K. McMahon

**Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Holland, L. Carty, M. McKenzie

**Set Up:** M. McKenzie

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** S. Millar

**Commentator:** J. Kerr

**Eucharistic Ministers:** F. Landy, C. Riordan, A. Letzia

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

#### ***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:***

*Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager*

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

Guido Pariocco, Mary Moran, Helen Paul, Shirley Fraser, Katherine Biskup, Marianna Sacchetta, Reg Carr, Francis Bohan, Bill Watson, Pat Pelly, Frank Green, Grace Money, Betty Hannah, Rocco Di Pierro, Alfonso Ruggieri, Nediljka Paleka

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 10am-4pm.

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

**LADIES AUXILIARY:** Car raffle tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. Next Auxiliary meeting is on Wednesday 18th October at 10.15am in the Gathering space.

**"TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC" WITH MELBOURNE COMHALTAS:** You are invited to a night of Irish music on Friday 27th. October, 7.00pm. in St Margaret's Hall, Pitt St. Eltham. Enquiries. Mary 9435 1135 Tickets \$20 at the door or via trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/4446359>

**LAMP :** A Coffee Support Morning for All CARERS, will be held on Wednesday October 25th, 10-12 midday. All welcome.

**CHURCH SECURITY :** Group members and parishioners are reminded to check that ALL doors of the church and gathering space are securely locked and all lights are off when you leave after evening Masses and meetings. Thank you.

**HOLY ROSARY** is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays.

Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

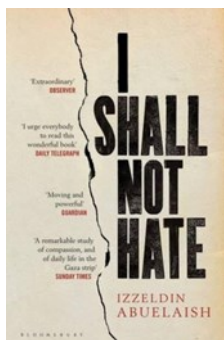
**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.



## TIME & TALENT INVITATION!

St Mary's PPC are inviting our Community to hear our call to you – help us serve God in our service to others. Let us ask God's Holy Spirit to speak loudly in our hearts opening our eyes to see how is entering into a time where we are being called to hear God's Spirit within us as invitation to serve Him. OUR PARISH NEEDS YOU! OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR GIFTS! Dedicating your time, your talent to actively live out the gifts loving bestowed upon you – enables our Parish to continue to be true to our Vision – *"To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world."* Let us begin here, within our community, to discover the ways in which God can truly move us to serve Him and spread the Good News. Information forms are in the Gathering Space!

*Be informed, inspired and entertained*



### Book of the Week

**'I Shall Not Hate: a Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity'** by Izzeldin Abuelaish

In light of the present crisis in the Middle East, this book tells the story of a Gaza based doctor who treated patients on both sides of the conflict in 2009. Three of his daughters were killed by Israeli shells. His account is an honest and courageous story not of hatred and revenge but a powerful plea for reconciliation.

Access to the catalogue is available at: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



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

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### September Baptisms:

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan , Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Lois Jones, Peter Miles, Leon Gray

#### Recently Deceased:

*We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:*

*Kevin Kelly, Edith Considine, John (Jack) Davis, Frank Cooke, Phyllis Fleming-Dowling, Lorna Parker, Maureen Anderson, Jean Tucker, Percylal De Zilwa, Carlo Lazzaro, John Doherty, Fr John Rogan, Ted Atkins, Salvatore Tullio, Amelia Mash, Sonia Haarburger, Stan Egan, Peter Folvig, Bernard Walsh, Bob Thomas, Michael O'Callaghan, Charles & Phyllis Baldrey, Kathleen Bowlen, Kelly Marsh, Serina Pillai, Pat Wright, Margaret Crow, Ida Cardamone, Loreto Lancia, Stanislaw Goral, Mario D'Angelo, Ramona Maceda, Pat Pelly, Lal Brown, Wendy Brown, Dora Davis, Kathleen Thomson, Jack McKenzie, Edward Neeson, Anne Harlow, Marg Godwin, Dorothy Sophia Oostinjen, Gert Claffey, Len Johnson, Bro. Raymond O'Regan FMS, Tom Weir, Chione Katsineris-Paine, Fr. Sean Sorahan, Maria Bivi, Tony Casarotto, Domenic Perrone, Zivko Sivkarovski, George Henry Pitts, Sylvia Pitts, Joseph Gallagher, John Mahony, Olive Kent, Fred Batchelor, Brian O'Neil, Marta Calinisan, Michelle Beks, Mary Short, Artin Emirzian, Encarcion San Agustin, Nita Pena Naza Geagea*

### ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**OCTOBER 31st - ALL HALLOWS EVE:** Commonly celebrated as an evening of ghosts and ghouls, scary looking costumes and trick or treating but what are we celebrating? All things Dark?

As Christians we have a choice, we can either celebrate this night as a night of darkness or stand with Jesus as the light of the world, and celebrate October 31st as All Hallows Eve, as a night of light.

All hallows eve can be part of a special three-day holy celebration in which we can contemplate, pray, attend mass and create new and meaningful catholic traditions in our parishes and families. We can honour God by Worshipping Jesus as the light of the World, by recognising his light in the lives of the Saints who reflected him to all of those around them, and by acknowledging and praying for all souls who have died in the faith, that they may receive his mercy, be reunited into his loving arms and live eternally in his light. There are some great resources online with lots of ideas for families and kids, as well as further information about these days.

**OCTOBER 31st** All Hallows Eve

**NOVEMBER 1st** All Saints Day

**NOVEMBER 2nd** All Souls Day

#### VERSES TO CONTEMPLATE

John 1: 1-9, 3:19-21     John 12: 27-36, 12: 44-46

1 John 1:5-7     Matthew 5: 14-16     1 Peter 2: 9-10

1 Thessalonians 5: 3 -5     2 Corinthians 4: 3-6, 6:14-18

#### WEBSITES FOR FURTHER IDEAS AND RESEARCH

<http://www.nightoflight.org/>

<https://www.effortlessfoodie.com/easy-soul-cakes/>

<https://www.littlewaychapel.com/blog/tag/all-hallows%27+eve>

<https://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-celebrate-all-saints-day-at-home/>



### **OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

**PLACE A LAMP OR LIGHT IN YOUR WINDOW IF YOU STAND**

**FOR CHRIST AND HE IS THE LIGHT OF YOUR WORLD.**

## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

The generosity of God and human self-interest are at odds in the parable of the marriage feast: a free invitation is answered with outrageous and insulting refusals. This is an extension of last week's idea that the kingdom will be taken from those who are not worthy. By contrast, the ability to accept God's open-handed invitation with reciprocal generosity is shown to be a worthy attribute.



## Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

15 October 2023

### First Reading Is 25:6-10

*The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.*

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people  
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine  
wines,  
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.  
On this mountain he will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
he will destroy Death for ever.  
The Lord will wipe away  
the tears from every cheek;  
he will take away his people's shame  
everywhere on earth,  
for the Lord has said so.  
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God  
in whom we hoped for salvation;  
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.  
We exult and we rejoice  
that he has saved us;  
for the hand of the Lord  
rests on this mountain.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 22. R. v.6**

**(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your  
staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

### Second Reading Phil 4:12-14.19-20

*I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to  
be rich too. I have been through my initiation  
and now I am ready for anything anywhere:

full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or  
plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with  
the help of the One who gives me strength.  
All the same, it was good of you to share  
with me in my hardships. In return my God  
will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as  
lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our  
Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Mt 22:1-14

*Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of  
the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be  
compared to a king who gave a feast for his  
son's wedding. He sent his servants to call  
those who had been invited, but they would  
not come. Next he sent some more servants.  
"Tell those who have been invited" he said  
"that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen  
and fattened cattle have been slaughtered,  
everything is ready. Come to the wedding."  
But they were not interested: one went off  
to his farm, another to his business, and  
the rest seized his servants, maltreated  
them and killed them. The king was furious.  
He dispatched his troops, destroyed those  
murderers and burnt their town. Then he  
said to his servants, "The wedding is ready;  
but as those who were invited proved to be  
unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town  
and invite everyone you can find to the  
wedding." So these servants went out onto  
the roads and collected together everyone  
they could find, bad and good alike; and the  
wedding hall was filled with guests. When  
the king came in to look at the guests he  
noticed one man who was not wearing a  
wedding garment, and said to him, "How did  
you get in here, my friend, without a wedding  
garment?" And the man was silent. Then the  
king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand  
and foot and throw him out into the dark,  
where there will be weeping and grinding  
of teeth." For many are called, but few are  
chosen.'



### Reflection by Greg Sunter

Who you ate with in Jesus' time was  
very important – it reflected your own  
status. To share table with people who  
were regarded as 'lesser' by nature of  
their lifestyle or illness was seen to  
lessen the status of other participants.  
Sharing table was as much a political  
action as it was a social one. This  
week's gospel is an important one for  
understanding Jesus' message of an  
inclusive kingdom. The king invites all  
the 'right' people to attend his son's  
wedding banquet but they shame him  
by refusing his invitation and murdering  
his messengers. This would have been  
an extraordinary action in Jesus' time.  
An invitation to the table of your social  
superior would not be rejected lightly. To  
try to save face and regain some  
honour, the king sends his servants to  
bring in people off the street – the  
poorest and least socially acceptable  
people. The invitation to the people off  
the street, 'bad and good alike', is a  
reflection of Jesus' own attitude to  
sharing table. Jesus ate with those who  
were regarded as unworthy: tax  
collectors, prostitutes and sinners. It  
was one of the harshest criticisms of  
Jesus made by the Pharisees and  
Scribes: 'He eats with tax collectors and  
sinners!' One of Jesus' strongest  
messages was about the inclusive  
nature of the kingdom and he lived it  
day to day. His inclusive table fellowship  
was a powerful statement about the fact  
that the kingdom is an invitation to all –  
rich and poor alike, regardless of status  
in this world. This parable highlights the  
invitation to join in the kingdom of God  
that has been rejected by the Jewish  
leaders but taken up by the 'lesser'  
people of society. The wedding banquet  
is a metaphor for the kingdom of God.

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