



Sunday 18th August 2024

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** 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:** Lisa & Libby

**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:** Lisa & Libby

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st Saturday** 7.15pm

**Sunday:** Mass 9.00am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Friday:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Acting Parish School Principal**

Mrs Gina Murphy **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**

Mrs Trish Vanderkolk **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

On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.



**Scripture reflection: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B,**  
O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

18 August 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-20-sun-year-b-2024>

**NEXT WEEK: 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.**

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

### SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Committee has gained the services of Tara McNamara, Melbourne Archdiocese Northern Region Safeguarding Officer, to assist volunteer ministries to complete a Risk Assessment which is a central component of our Parish's duty of care.

There are four opportunities where you can attend a session.

**Venue:** St. Mary's Church Gathering Space.

**Sessions: Thursday 5th September:** 2.30pm-4.00pm & 7.00pm-8.30pm.

**Thursday 19th September:** 2.30-4.00pm & 7.00pm-8.30pm.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing back the Booking Form to [diamondcreekgreensboroughgroup leaders@cam.org.au](mailto:diamondcreekgreensboroughgroup leaders@cam.org.au) by 30th August 2024 or contact the Parish Office.

### SAVE THE DATE:

Men's Dinner, Friday 18th October 2024, Sacred Heart Hall, two great guest speakers, more details to follow.

### RADIO MARIA AUSTRALIA

Hello, we are Radio Maria Australia - a Catholic radio station bringing Christ into your every day!

Our station broadcasts 24/7, with interesting and inspiring shows and podcasts, daily masses and Rosary prayers, and a variety of positive music - all to foster faith, hope and joy.

You can tune in live via:

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

**Digital Radio: 202.928**

**Apple or Google Play App: Radio Maria Play**



### 2024 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

The 2024 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the Campaign brochure which you will find in your pew and in the foyer today. Gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift to help us continue to strengthen the Christian faith and address the needs of God's people. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at [melbournecatholic.org/archbishops campaign](http://melbournecatholic.org/archbishops campaign) or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

I invite you to give generously to this important campaign.



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



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am-1.00pm*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**MONTHLY RAFFLE:** tickets are available after 9am Masses. This month's prize is a "Winter Warmers" hamper.

Thank you to our Senior Moments Group. Tickets are \$2 or 6 for \$10.

**At the SH PPC meeting on Thursday 8th August, discussion revolved around the agenda items which included:**

- Reports from the Liturgy Team, Partnered Parishes Plenary Council Facilitators Group, Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council and Sacred Heart School
- Pat Guatta's Retirement Mass and Morning Tea
- Hall Maintenance
- Safeguarding and Risk Assessments

**HELP NEEDED:** Help is required to clean the hall toilets every Friday afternoon. This task will take less than an hour and is a paid role. Please contact the parish office for further information.

### **BAPTISMS AT SACRED HEART**

Making a phone call to the Sacred heart Office has more often than not been the first time families make contact or reconnect to Sacred Heart Parish.

The welcoming interested response to this call has always had a profound impact on their initial experience.

Once families are booked in for their child's baptism they are sent the application for baptism, census form and photo sheet. This is then completed and brought to their information evening.

A member of the baptism team receives the names of the families involved along with the phone number in order to make contact with them prior to the meeting. This is another important step towards making them feel that we care and that they are welcomed. The information evening is generally run in the church on the Tuesday prior to the last Sunday of the month. The evening consists of explanation of expectations, faith development and the practical aspects of the Baptismal day. Parents receive an envelope that contains necessary information. These envelopes have been decorated with Baptismal signs and symbols by the year 3 students in the school. This is a tangible way for school parish connection and the students connecting to those making the sacrament of Baptism. The Sunday following this evening families attend the 9am Mass to be presented to the parish community. From what they have learnt they formulate a response to the question 'What do you ask for your child?' and share this with the community. This is followed by a placing of the sign of the cross on the children to be baptised from the priest, parents and parishioners. The following Sunday is the Baptism held at 12pm. During the ceremony family involvement occurs including members of families doing the reading and intercessions.

Photos are on display in the church for that month so parishioners are encouraged to remember them in their prayers. At the end of the month the photos are taken down and posted back to families along with a hand made congratulatory card for the child.

Also included is a save the date card for the welcome back for all families of those baptised during the year. This is held in November. At the end of October an email is sent to all families who have had their children baptised throughout the year to invite them to the welcome back Mass.

This Mass is currently held on the 3rd Sunday in November. During this Mass families process in at the beginning and place their children's candle at the front of the altar where they are lit prior to the creed. Just before the creed families come forward to collect their candles and stand facing the congregation as the creed is recited, reinforcing the promises made at Baptism. At the end of Mass morning tea is provided by the Baptism team to complete the celebration.

Families always respond enthusiastically to this process and very much appreciate the personal touch and welcoming that we provide. This is a strong link for them to the parish without feeling a lot of pressure.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Men's Dinner, Friday 18th October 2024, Sacred Heart Hall, two great guest speakers, more details to follow.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 21st August Lunch and Scrabble in the Parish Centre .

**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)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 20th August:** Claire & Frank Ledda

**Sunday 25th August Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** A. Pieper **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien

**Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Ledda, R. Padgett

**St Peter's Saturday 7th September 7.15pm**

**Reader:** B. Flynn **Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen

## SACRED HEART NEWS CONTINUED

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek,

I apologise that I cannot be with you as we farewell Pat Guatta who has been our secretary for almost the last 21 years. Pat, who had been a long-time parishioner of Sacred Heart, was employed by Fr. Grant O'Neill at the end of 2003. She was then the compassionate voice and welcoming face of the parish office in the aftermath of the Black Friday Bushfires of 2009 with Fr. Grant and Sr. Margaret Ryan. Fr. Grant remained parish priest through the rebuilding of the Kinglake church after it was destroyed by the fire. Then Pat held together the parish in an uncertain and intervening period of time when Fr. Grant was appointed to Kilmore in 2011 and Sacred Heart was essentially left without a parish priest for a number of months until Fr. Michael McEntee, the incumbent parish priest of St. Thomas' was appointed to also take responsibility for the parish of Sacred Heart. Then came the real challenge for Sacred Heart parishioners to accept that they were now in a partnership with another parish.

This, of course also became a time of grief and uncertainty, but Pat supported Fr. Michael in reassuring the parishioners of Sacred Heart that they weren't just subsumed into some big amalgam, losing their identity. Then in 2017 Sacred Heart parish was then merged into a partnership with St. Mary's, Greensborough, as well, with me being the parish priest since that time. Yet another time of upheaval.

In other words, Pat has not only been the secretary of this parish, but a true pastoral carer for these people of Sacred Heart, whom she has loved. Other leaders of this parish – priests and pastoral associates – have come and gone, but Pat has been the steady mainstay and "rock of stability" throughout some very turbulent times. She has not only been faithful in her care for you, but to all of us who have been her employers as parish priests, she has been a dependable, competent, reliable and honest administrator of our Sacred Heart community who has also worked well with the staff of our parish school.

Pat has been so dedicated to this community that she has put in so much more than what her job description asked of her, because of her love for the people of this parish community.

This has been her life, and not just her job. For her faithful dedication to Sacred Heart and her loyalty to me as her parish priest, and her previous parish priests, I am truly grateful. I would also like to express my gratitude to her husband, Peter, and their son, Michael, enabling Pat to be for us all she has been.

Pat still remains part of our community and I trust that she will continue to enjoy our company as she engages in other areas of this parish's life.

Pat, your retirement is well deserved, and your work among us and for us is greatly appreciated. I pray that your future retirement offers great opportunities for enjoyment and adventures with friends and family and that God blesses you with peace, good health and joy also among us for many more years.

**Fr. Steven Rigo**

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

*Denny Hegarty, Tony Watson, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard, Martin Leonard, and the residents of Wattle Glen & Diamond Creek Care Community Aged Care Facilities.*

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

Jim Beattie, Fr Gerard Loughnan, Kevin Nihill, Win Atkinson, Mary Burke, Wayne Robinson

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 11am-3pm*

**SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

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:** Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21st. August at 10.15am in the gathering space. All welcome. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990

**COMMUNION TIME:** Blessings and gluten-free hosts. If you are not receiving Communion, you are welcome to come forward to the Celebrant or one of the Communion Ministers to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms on your chest when you approach the Minister. If you require a gluten-free host, please approach the Celebrant and request one.

**GREETING AND WELCOMING** St Mary's is known as a vibrant, positive community with a long history of hospitality and friendliness. To further extend this hospitality, parishioners are invited to greet and welcome people in the gathering space as they arrive for Mass. This gesture of hospitality is important for those we know, and particularly for visitors and new parishioners. You may be surprised by the positive impact for those you welcome and for yourself. You may offer the newsletter as part of your welcome. Thank you.

**1<sup>ST</sup> and 2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTIONS** An invitation is extended to all parishioners to assist with taking up the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> collections. Collection bags will be on the table in the gathering space before Mass, labelled with the 4 sections of the church. Each collection is noted on the screen so will know when to start. If you can assist, please take a bag as you arrive for Mass. Thank you.

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS:** It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP:** We wish to offer a BIG THANK YOU to those who have generously donated wool, any knitted garments & especially to the kind angel who left beautiful Bendigo Wool in the kitchen for us.

Thanks to you, our ministry continues to bring comfort & warmth to many in need within our parish family, but especially to the many families who approach the BIG HUG GROUP in desperation, during these challenging times!

We would appreciate if you're able, either financially or supplying us with: 8ply Acrylic Wool &/or 4ply Baby Acrylic Wool. If you happen to have any spare wool, that too, would be welcome as also 'buttons!'

We continue to hold close & in Prayer, all who assist & encourage us in the wonderful ministry, each Monday in the Gathering Space from 10am .... 12pm when we meet together in the Gathering Space.

Anyone who feels you would like to come along for a 'look-see,' know you'd be welcomed warmly!

**CONTACT PEOPLE:** *Maureen Leahy 0407 687 517. Anne Fleming. 0409 234 326*

**MUSIC AT MASS** The license issues which prevent embedding music into PowerPoint slides are ongoing. We can show hymn words on the screen, but music must be provided by musicians or by using CDs. To have music at most Masses, we are inviting parishioners to assist with playing CDs at 8am Masses and at 6.30pm, 10am and 5pm Masses when musicians are not available. The CD player will be beside the computer box next to the projectionist. CDs for each week, clearly labelled for Entrance, Communion and Recessional hymns, will be provided.

Please contact Marian for more information [mariantacey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mariantacey@optusnet.com.au)

Thank you

*Be informed, inspired and entertained.*



### Book of the Week

In a recent letter, On the Role of Literature in Formation, Pope Francis talked about the place of books in our lives:

'in moments of weariness, anger, disappointment or failure, when prayer itself does not help us find inner serenity, a good book can help us weather the storm until we find peace of mind.'



St Mary's Parish Library

Visit your parish library to find a good book. We are open most days after Mass. [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)

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

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

***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, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York, Enlee Lew, Rachael Angelotti, Janice Duffell

### **Recently Deceased:**

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

Robert Low, Lucille Smith, Paul Floate, Kathleen McCloskey, Aileen Mottram, Sajih Mokbel, Kath Blackburn, Rose Devers, Margaret Holian, Rudolf Breier, Winifred Ryan, Rose Devers, Anna Maria D'Amico, Stan Krohn, Isabelle Hanson, Janet Stewart, Bert Miller, Lena Elsie O'Reilly, Ossie Dyer, Eileen Forssman, Tony Sich, Iris Brear, George & Maude Watson, Vin O'Callaghan, Molly Kelly, Gordon Evans, John Mackie, Fr. Tom Kiniry, Magdalene Wong, Ailee Mottram, Mary Mathews, Myriam Barbe, Stan Hanlon, Alexander Tillack, Joan Jones, Marie Hoskins, Les & Simon Doupe, Patricia Callanan, Alice Hickey, Vera O'Sullivan, James Rodgers, Clem Hill, Margaret Neeson, Mary Mathews, Zaren Aquilina, Bernadette M. Vera-Perera, Orazio Colucci, Hazel Crutchett, Steve Nicholson, Emmanuel Bissonauth, Priscua Del Mundo, Richard Cerezo, Terrence O'Brien, Dorothy Wigraft, Bernadette Gillespie, Bernadette M Vera-Perez, Isobel Malcolm, Margaret Emmins, Peter Larubina, Bernard Crummy, Eileen & Harry Tier, Kathleen Farmer, John Tombs, Agnes Wood, Effie Nugent, Jack Sutherland, Ivan Masson (Snr), Margaret Anne Davey, William White, Constance Cole, Emily Soppitt, Harry Carr, Michele Monteleone, Marie L'Huillier, Carl Testagrossa, Mary Reso

## Interested in the Catholic Faith?



If you wish to enquire into the Catholic Faith, or join the Catholic Church, St Marys welcomes you. We offer one-on-one meetings with enquirers. And if you wish to go further, we offer ongoing education in the Catholic Faith each week in small groups. There is no fee.

If you wish to receive the Sacraments and become Catholic, this education (called RCIA) will continue for some months. It is an experience which always brings great joy and wonderful comradery in a small group environment.

We also invite people who are already Catholic to join our groups, to learn more about their faith and to lend support and friendship.

Contact **Tim Hamilton (0412 070 511)** for more information, or come to our Enquiry session on **Sunday 25 August at 11 am** in St Marys parish house (door off the top carpark – across from the tennis courts). We'd love to see you.

**Catholic Earthcare**  
Caritas Australia

**SEASON OF CREATION  
CONVOCATION 2024**  
wonder • weave • heal

**12-14 September**

Day 1 and 2 Online

Keynotes  
Sr. Ann-Maree O'Beirne - Pedro Walpole - Sally Neaves

FREE student participation day Friday 13 September

Hub experience in 11 Diocese on Saturday 14 September

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday 8.00am-12.00pm, Wednesdays 12.30pm-4.00pm, Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am, Friday 8.00am-4.00pm* **Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm, Sacred Heart, Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's)**

**BAPTISMS:** Please keep in your prayers Matilda and Jacinta who are being baptised later this month.

**BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP:** These light lunches are held on the 4th Thursday of each month in St Thomas' Parish Meeting Room at 12.30pm. Please come along and join us for some friendly chatter while we enjoy our light lunch together.

All are welcome. Donation \$5. To assist with catering, it is helpful to know how many will be coming.

For our August lunch on the 22nd of August, please RSVP by Tuesday 20 August, to Lilian Hobson by text 0402 823679 or email

[Lilian.Hobson@gmail.com](mailto:Lilian.Hobson@gmail.com).



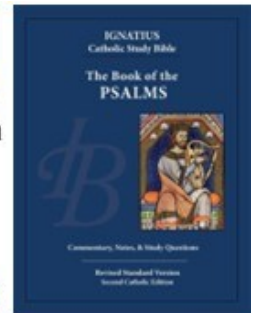
### Monday Bible Study Group

7.30 to 9.30pm on 

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. the group will commence a new study using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible on the Book of Psalms.

All welcome to click the link and join in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79611838040>



### Roster for Weekend 24th & 25th August

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** K. Salm

**Commentator:** T. Holland

**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Bohan, T. Holland

**Set Up:** J. De Carlo

#### Sunday 10.30am Anniversary Mass

**Reader:** S. Dossa

**Commentator:** L. Hobson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, R. Piccolo

**Set Up:** S. Dossa

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

*Miran Kasalo, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Vince Granata, Wil Watson*

***We pray for those who have died recently including Peter Kernjak, and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of August that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:*** Arthur Walker, Jane de Carlo, Rachael Casale, Frank McMahan, Frank Ventura, Tony Chirico, Marie Lewis, Michael De Popolo, Maris Sacchetta, Guido Micheluzzi, Orazio Palazzoto, Giovanna Formosa, Robert Capocchi, Denis McCarthy, James McCarthy, Bill Ahern, Marina Micai, Anne Honeywell, Giusepa Minutolo, Paul Silverwood, Jim Lysaght, Salvatore Scala, Margaret Hardwick, Ted Tremayne, Giselle Caliste, Nadia Mefflin,



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close:

The food image is continued in this reading from John. Jesus calls his flesh 'true food' and his blood 'true drink'. Anyone who eats this food will be one with Jesus and gain eternal life. Life is an integral part of this food image: the living God sent Jesus and Jesus gives eternal life through his body.

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

18 August 2024

### First Reading Prv 9:1-6

*Come and eat my bread; drink the wine I have prepared.*

Wisdom has built herself a house,  
she has erected her seven pillars,  
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared  
her wine,  
she has laid her table.  
She has despatched her maidservants  
and proclaimed from the city's heights:  
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'  
To the fool she says,  
'Come and eat my bread,  
drink the wine I have prepared!  
Leave your folly and you will live,  
walk in the ways of perception.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 33:2-9. R. v.9**

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

- I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its  
boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
- Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing, those who revere  
him.  
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord lack no  
blessing. (R.)
- Come children, and hear me  
that I may teach you the fear of the  
Lord.  
Who is he who longs for life  
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?  
(R.)
- Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Turn aside from evil and do good;  
seek and strive after peace. (R.)

### Second Reading Eph 5:15-20

*Be watchful that you may know the will of God.*

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes

of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation Jn 6:56

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.*

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel Jn 6:51-58

*My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,  
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink his blood,  
you will not have life in you.  
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I shall raise him up on the last day.  
For my flesh is real food  
and my blood is real drink.  
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me  
and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.  
This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

When I was a boy (is it so long ago?) it was still the rule at Mass that only the priest drank from the chalice. One of the great actions of the Church over the last fifty years has been the recovery of the ancient practice of offering Holy Communion under the appearance of both bread and wine.

The reception of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine is in perfect harmony with today's Gospel: 'Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life.' Note the present tense: 'has' – right now! This is because, as St John Paul II put it: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

Of course, Our Risen Lord is really present under the appearance of either the bread or the wine. For a Jew, (unlike the Greeks) the *body* was absolutely core to being the person one is. For a Jew, *blood* was identified as the life-force of any animal. So, for the Jewish Jesus, to say 'This is my body... this is my blood' was to gift us his core identity, his deepest vitality. Either the consecrated bread or consecrated wine gives us His whole life.

But to receive both the Heavenly Bread and the Spiritual Drink does enable us to more fully respond to Our Lord at the Last Supper: 'Take, eat ... take, drink'. Then the words of today's Gospel can more physically resonate in our own bodies: 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him.'

We could take a moment to pray in thanksgiving that we are able to join in the tradition starting with the Apostles at the Last Supper and, in doing so, to enter into Holy Communion with the only One who can embody in us the secret of His resurrection.

mtate@bigpond.com

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