



Sunday 1st 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**



O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,  
1st October 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-26-ot-year-a>

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

**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

### CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

We are delighted to announce the return in October 2023 of our popular online lecture series, **Engaging Your Faith**. Fourteen stand-alone sessions on a range of themes will be presented by members of our lecturing staff. For full details please see the attached flyer. These sessions would be an ideal opportunity for lay leaders and other interested people in your parish to explore the possibilities offered at CTC for personal, theological, and spiritual development.

Topics include the following:

Explorations in the Bible, Basic Listening Skills for Pastoral Ministry, Catholic Social Teaching, The Plenary Council, the Catholic Church, Lectio Divina, Science and faith issues.

Cost: \$25 per session or \$40 if seeking teacher accreditation.

Book and pay directly through our website: [website](#)



### 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/>



**WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!** Our Safeguarding Committee have been working towards meeting the Victorian Child Safe Standards regarding all volunteers to hold a current Working with Children Check and to have undertaken the online training module for Safeguarding Essentials Training. The standards also require us to have Risk Assessments on record for some of the groups. We understand that completing these requirements bring with it some anxiety and issues with access and completion to some of our volunteers. **YOU ARE VALUED FOR ALL YOU DO!** We are here to help.

There will be **Group Sessions** for the **Online Training Module** which will include (where needed) **assistance with renewal of WWCC or applying for a new WWCC** - offered in October.

**Dates are: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 10.15-11.30am – Gathering Space, St Mary's. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October – 1.30pm – 2.45pm – Gathering Space, St Mary's. Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 10.15am – 11.30am – Gathering Space, St Mary's.** one or both sessions will be of help, please register by **calling Tanya or Lisa at the Parish Office – 9435 1543** – and I'll be in touch.

**Sandy Starbuck**

5  
OCT

7:30PM

*Liturgy of*  
**LAMENT**

Everybody is welcome and encouraged to attend this service to express our sorrow for the various forms of abuse perpetrated throughout our church within our own lifetimes.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all those affected, either directly or indirectly, to participate in this liturgy that aims to acknowledge the pain that has been felt, and assist with a healing in our communities.

**LOCATION: SACRED HEART  
CHURCH, DIAMOND CREEK**



## 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.

**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.

**VOLUNTEERS:** There are forms available in St Peter's & Sacred Heart churches (or the Parish Office) for parishioners who are interested in joining the Readers roster, Baptism Preparation Team or any other ministry. The form includes information about Working with Children Check and the Archdiocese Safeguarding Training Module. Thank you.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October Lunch 12pm at Diamond Creek Hotel

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in the Parish Centre.

**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 3rd October** B. & P. O'Regan

#### **Saturday 7th October St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** E. Gittins

**Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Leonard

#### **Sunday 8th October Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** C. Fernando

**Commentator:** M. Farrell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Bruce, M. Cusack

***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

***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](#)

**JAMES ALISON AUSTRALIAN TOUR EVENT DATES:** "There is space in the Church for everyone... Everyone, everyone, everyone!"

Pope Francis at WYD, Lisbon, Portugal. Over the past two years, there have been two historic events affecting the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis' invitation to enter into a synodal journey and the Plenary Council of Australia. Both call for a more inclusive, participatory and synodal Church which listens and dialogues with the faithful and helps us to understand the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. During the Plenary Council, the need for inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community within the Church was raised. The National Council of CRA discussed the importance of this and decided to bring James Alison to Australia to continue the conversation. Through CRA's collaborative efforts with other organisations, James Alison several speaking engagements in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth from September to October 2023.

Please follow the link for more information: <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/james-alison-tour>

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:** 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us.

For more information please visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/notw](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw)

## 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.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** Many of you may not know that our handyman has been off on sick leave.

Andrew will be undergoing 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**



### **Summary from PPC Meeting 20th September.**

The committee discussed an article 'The kerygma enigma – creating an effective discipleship pathway in your parish' which is taken from a larger discussion paper Growing Missionary Disciples in Your Parish.

The article outlines the three-phase discipleship pathway consists of pre-evangelisation, the kerygma, and catechesis. Pre-evangelisation focuses on building trust and relationships, emphasizing qualities like approachability and patience. The kerygma, at the heart of the gospel, proclaims faith in Jesus as the Christ and invites a personal relationship with Him. Catechesis provides in-depth instruction and teaching, covering various aspects of the faith. This structured approach aims to meet the diverse needs of individuals at different stages of their faith journey, guiding them towards a deeper connection with Jesus and active involvement in the faith community.

The PPC discussed what St. Thomas currently does in these three areas. The group listed events like Faith Education Nights, Christmas Carols, Alpha Parenting night, Committees like the PPC, Bible Studies group etc.

Michael Bates reported on a delegation of eight members from our three parishes, including two from St. Thomas, visited St. John of God Accord, where they were warmly received by Neal Murphy, the Mission Director. Neal provided insights into the organisation's operations, showcasing the clients' joy in various activities. They had a productive meeting with other Directors over lunch, discussing potential opportunities for further engagement, such as volunteering and school interactions. Michael will stay in touch with Neal to keep the parish informed.

The Early Learning Centre has starting paying rent to the parish as part of the future build of a Childcare centre on St. Thomas grounds.

Deputy Principal, Jo Nolan reported that the school had celebrated both Mary MacKillop's feast day and the feast of the Assumption as a whole school. Our 3/4 and 5/6 children are becoming more involved by reading the psalm and the acknowledgment of Country at the weekly mass they attend. 76 children made their Confirmation on Friday 25th of August. Cathy & Michael Bates were invited to school to present Confirmation cards to children confirmed. We have 3 children who have volunteered to be altar servers for one of the ceremonies with the Bishop.

The Liturgy of Lament is scheduled for Thursday, October 5th, at Sacred Heart Church.

The Combined Liturgy Team from St. Thomas and Sacred Heart has been active in planning events, including Father Steve's 40th Anniversary of Ordination celebration, the Liturgy of Lament, and a special blessing for Father's Day. Plans for blessing nativity sets at the start of Advent, potentially involving school families, are in progress. There's also consideration of a Mass for families of baptised children and organising Aboriginal Stations of the Cross for Good Friday 2024.

The Partnered Parishes Plenary Council Facilitators Group is examining Plenary Council decrees, focusing on "Reconciliation – Healing Wounds, Receiving Gifts," which invites engagement with Aboriginal cultures and spirituality. The group is committed to social justice and collaboration with the Combined Social Justice Group, addressing abuse issues through a proposed Cathedral precinct redesign.

**ST THOMAS PPC:** Next meeting Wednesday 18th October, 7.00pm in the Parish house.

### **Roster for Weekend 7th & 8th October**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** A. Fernando    **Commentator:** K. Salm    **Eucharistic Ministers:** M. McKenzie, K. Salm, C. Leahy    **Set Up:** C. Leahy

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** M. Kenny    **Commentator:** M. Bates    **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Riordan, A. Letzia, A. Kerr    **Set Up:** M. Bates

**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 including Shirley Mc Carthy 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

## 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:** We are holding a variety stall on weekend 7th./8th October in the gathering space after Masses.. Car raffle tickets will also be on sale. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906, Lucy 9435 6990

**CAN YOU HELP AT WEEKEND MASSES?** We urgently need Projectionists and Sacristans. Projectionists display the PowerPoint slides which enable us to join as a community in prayer and song. This role does not require setting up the slides.

Sacristans prepare the church, altar and offertory gifts before Mass, and pack up after Mass. These duties take about 10 – 15 minutes. Please contact the office on 9435 1543 if you can help. Thank you.

**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.

**FULL TIME STUDENT,** Nepalese descent & Christian looking for a room to share House with Nepalese couple in Keon Park or Reservoir area. Close to all public transport area, buses and station walking distances. Contact Anita 045 2116578.

### *Be informed, inspired and entertained*

Thank you to those who have returned overdue loans.

This week we have mounted a display of some of our large collection of Bibles and biblical commentary.

It includes both old and new testaments, children's Bible stories and some DVDs.

If the Library is not open please ask a priest or sacristan to open the room and you can record your loans on the form provided. Please return loans in one month through the chute outside the Library.

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



St Mary's Parish Library



### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### **October 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:***

*Fay Goddard, Marceline Dhahul, Alfredo D'Alessandro, Geraldo Coronel, Joyce Coutts, Miguel Vicente Pena, Mable Simmons, Ben Merlino, Teresina Guzzi*

*Paolo Pagliarello, John Ellis, George Roy, Bill Hamilton, Geraldine Lee Ai Chia (Lim), Geraldine Lee, Henry Hill, Les Meakin, John Ellis, Eileen May, Doug Goddard, Paul Cumberton, Elenora Jartymec*

*Catherine Murphy, Margaret Knox, Noel Peacock, Thomas Hoyne, Bon McLennan, Josefina Malicse, Marjorie Stapleton, Paul Curtin, Paschal Duran, Walter Pocock, Eleanora Jartymec, Bernard Hickey, Terence Claudius, Eric Western, Beryl Pereira, Mervyn Senanayake, Molly Cullen, Mervyn McCarthy*

*Martin Rooney, Harold Hampshire, Bill Brown, May Purcell, Samuel Allsopp, Arthur Otis, Shirley Lippiatt, Giovanni Ravesi, Margaret Joan Smith, Frank Shea*

*Harvey Clancy, Julian Ryan, Jangebloed Family, John (Leo) Elliott,*

*Helen Dowling, James Cummins, Ritchie Family, Mario Difuntorum, Josefa Isla, Marcellino Smaniotto, Maureen Barnsley, Maureen Cullis, Veronica Cavanagh, Margaret Sullivan, Kellie Knox*



**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close** Conversion is depicted as a change of mind in the parable of the two sons. At first one son refused to work, then he 'changed his mind' or 'thought better of it'. This story confirms that repentant sinners are more welcome in the kingdom of God than those who profess their faith with their lips but not with their deeds. Matthew is restating the notion (see last week's gospel) that 'the last will be first, and the first will be last'.

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**1 October 2023**

**First Reading Ez 18:25-28**

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6**

*(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*

**Second Reading Phil 2:1-11**

**or shorter form Phil 2:1-5**

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,  
yet he did not cling

to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the  
underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of  
Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**My sheep listen to my voice,  
says the Lord;**

**I know them, and they follow me.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mt 21:28-32**

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



**Reflection by Nick Brodie**

In today's parable where a son said yes but did nothing, Jesus offers a striking indictment of empty lip-service. In our age, one of the Church's most insistent calls has been for people to work for the protection of the vineyard of the earth. Speaking of climate change, deforestation and chemical pollution, Pope Saint John Paul II declared in 1990 'that the ecological crisis is a moral issue' and called on all people to 'recognise their obligation to contribute to the restoration of a healthy environment'. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that 'technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption'. In 2015 Pope Francis called on all of humanity 'to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming' of the world's climate which we are currently facing.

Successive Popes have therefore called us all to work for the protection of our planet and its people. But it is up to every Christian to ensure that these words are not just empty rhetoric.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.  
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.