



Sunday 22nd 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

Website: 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

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: 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

St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road,
Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: 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

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
22nd October 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/scripture-29-sun-year-a>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

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.

COPIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISHES. 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
- ◆ 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](#)



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION.

Envelopes available in our Parishes for this week's special collection



This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program – The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic.

The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for many in need, like Jose*, who became severely malnourished at 8 months old. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

**Name altered to protect identity*

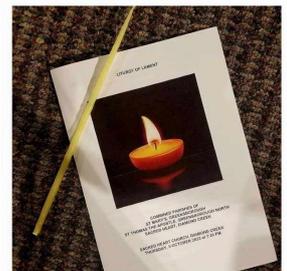
LITURGY OF LAMENT 5th October 2023

Sacred Heart Parish, St Mary's Parish, St Thomas the Apostle Parish

A Liturgy of Lament was held at Sacred Heart Church on Thursday 5 October for the parishioners of our three partnered parishes. The purpose of the Liturgy was to give parishioners the opportunity to openly acknowledge and to express sorrow about the abuse of young and vulnerable people by some of our trusted clergy and others in the Church and the lack of pastoral care and protection of them. In the peaceful surrounds of the church, with rain falling and the light dimming, participants entered into a prayerful, respectful space. Through readings, prayer and music we joined together in sadness, in solidarity with those who have suffered, turning to God with hope for the future. As a healing action we each placed a lighted taper in a bowl of sand – *“When truth becomes known, the light begins to dispel the darkness”*.

This was our final prayer:

*Lord, bring peace to broken lives
and show the way out of darkness
and into the light of your Word,
and may we as the people of God be more fully
human,
more fully Christ-like and more fully your people,
that we may see the errors of the past
and go forward with renewed hope
and faith in Christ and in our Church.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*



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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: Some items discussed at 12th October meeting

Successful Liturgy of Lament and Hope was a moving service at Sacred Heart with our three parishes working well together. Good attendance.

Cards for Sacramental Candidates designed and ordered.

We aim to resurrect the Annual Ladies Dinner, possible date 3rd May 2024 and to organise a Men's Evening possibly mid year 2024.

PPC Elections and Sitting Members changeover. Nominations close 29th October.

Sacred Heart school: Parishioners invited to bake for school fundraiser cake stall on Referendum Day, participate at school working bee Saturday 21st October and assist at Fete 28th October.

Maintenance Report: Water damage in Sacred Heart church. Leak above Mary chapel has been repaired and repainted. Water also in music room. Church doors and porch steel girders painted. New key safe installed near hall entrance.

Parish Finance Report: to be tabled at next meeting.

PPC Christmas Get-Together: Alison has kindly offered to host at her home on 7th December.

Next meeting 9th November.

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 29th October 2023. YOUR VOICE, MY VOICE, OUR VOICE! Suggestion box in church or email:

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

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 1st November Lunch 12pm at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

Wednesday 15th November Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in the Parish Centre.

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 17th October M. Cusack, W. McEvoy

Saturday 21st October St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: B. Flynn

Commentator: M. Frisby

Eucharistic Ministers: Amindha

Sunday 22nd 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,

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.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.'

Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza



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.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP: Come join us for a coffee & chat on Thursday 26th October 1.30pm at Phoenix 285 Diamond Creek Rd Plenty. So I can book a table if coming email me stewmarg@bigpond.net.au

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: 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, 26th 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 had surgery last week and may 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**

Roster for Weekend 28th & 29th October

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: K. Salm

Commentator: T. Holland

Eucharistic Ministers: K. Salm, C. Leahy, J. Bohan

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: T. Williamson

Commentator: L. Hobson

Eucharistic Ministers: A. Kerr, C. O'Brien, R. Piccolo

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 Mirjana Filpovic and Valentino Iacobucci 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, Sofija Zilic



Catholic Theological College

Online Information Session for 2024

Monday 30 October at 7.30pm (AEDT)

Register via our website: ctc.edu.au/information-session

For more information contact:

Dr Maureen Saclot ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/

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 or greensborough@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

DOM LA FERLITA will be selling 2024 calendars after Saturday evening mass. All photos have been taken by him around our beautiful state of Victoria. Calendars are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. They are perfectly local and make for great gifts!

LADIES AUXILIARY: Car raffle tickets will be available after Masses unless sold out, please return any raffle books you have taken home Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906, Lucy 9435 6990

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 .

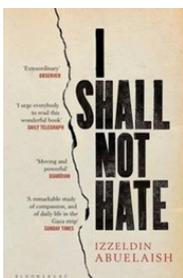
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.



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



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:

Norrie Schulze, Fred McDonald, Eva Rutherford, Frank Smith, Hilda Jahne, Joe Rayeroux, Sr Bernadette Howard, Martin McNally, Alexander Weston, Virginia Espinosa, Vonda Tillig, Elsie Gan Ong, Marianna Sacchetta, Michael Keegan Jnr., Jack O'Sullivan, Daniel Condron, Peg Murphy, John Gleeson, Carmel Juliff, Elaine Kilkenny, Daphne Turner, Ellen Ruiz, Sonia Lee Taylor, Andrew Terrace Donoghue, Mark Williamson, Mary Kissane, Gwenda Nye, Robyn Daly, Sonia Taylor, Raymond Davern, Teresa Casarotto, Christine McIntosh, Aquilino P Mental, Katherine Hudson, Margaret Rae, Norma Newcombe, Anita Decarli, Marino Casamento, Heather Juliff, Glenn David, Emily Malicse Escanilla, Joseph Browne, Lena Lasvado, Frank Imperatrice, Herb Jeffery, Adrian Neydora, Anne O'Connor, Robyn Caspersz, Mary Heaton, Cecila Noronha, Amparo Vallejo, John Fleming, Marino Casamento, Michael Thorley, Moira Collum, Kevin Toohy, Mrs Jacob

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

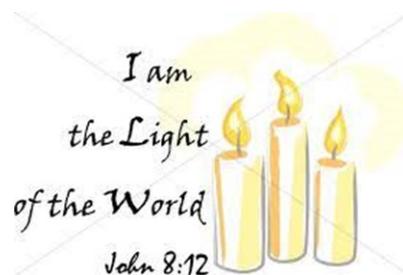
WEBSITES FOR FURTHER IDEAS AND RESEARCH

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

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

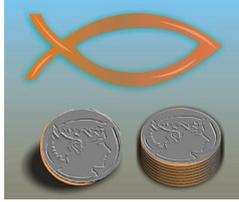
<https://www.littlewaychapel.com/blog/tag/all-hallows%27eve>

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



OCTOBER 31st

**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 In the parables of the last few weeks Jesus has been critical of the established order, but the establishment tries to get its own back in this week's gospel: some Pharisees try to entrap Jesus in dangerous word play about money and power. Jesus turns the tables on them by taking the argument from the hypothetical to the practical. He uses a real coin to make a concrete and sensible point about relative values. He is both wise and street-smart in his rebuttal, which serves to unmask the hypocrisy of a corrupt hierarchy.

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A **22 October 2023**

First Reading **Is 45:1.4-6**

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to
Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not
know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to
the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. (R.)
- 2 The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.
(R.)
- 3 Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.
(R.)
- 4 Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.
(R.)

Second Reading **1 Thes 1:1-5**

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing

you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation **Phil 2:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 22:15-21**

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. They are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, *and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.*' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

mtate@bigpond.com

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