



Sunday 24th March 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

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: 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 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

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

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **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

Due to Holy Week commencing the cut off for the Newsletter is Tuesday 26th March at 12.00pm



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: The Lord God comes to my help.

Almighty, ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

Palm Sunday, 24 March 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/palm-sunday-year-b-2024>

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.

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Today is the sixth weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem, moving towards his passion, death and resurrection. At the Passover meal Jesus makes a new covenant with the apostles, giving them his body and blood in remembrance of his ultimate sacrifice to come. During his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane no-one keeps him company and throughout his passion, the brutal beatings and humiliation of his journey to Golgotha, he is deserted by most of his followers. He looks to his Father and fulfills his mission with his death on the cross and his resurrection.

Create in us a new heart, to feel the power of this sacrifice over death and to embrace the salvation and grace that flows to all who have faith.

"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your un-failing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you". (Psalm 33:20-22)

Dear Parishioners of Partnered Parishes;

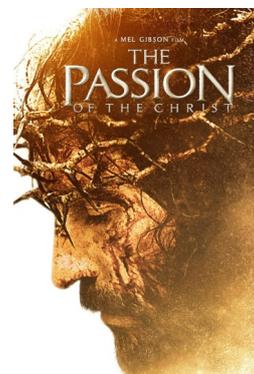
Here is great opportunity to spend your Wednesday of Holy Week this year (27th March, 2024) as an intense preparation for Easter. We will gather in St. Thomas Parish Church in Greensborough North (251 Diamond Creek Road) at 7.00 pm to watch the movie, "The Passion of Christ" (Mel Gibson) and also pray the "Sorrowful Mysteries" of the Holy Rosary. It gives us in the middle of Holy Week to reflect on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus and thus prepare for the Holy Triduum in a worthy manner.

Parents please be advised that due to the graphic nature of the Passion, this movie may not be suitable for Children.

For more information please call the Parish Office

Have a fruitful and prayerful Lent

F Ananda Maddineni MFFS



ENCOUNTER: This promises to be an unforgettable evening designed for high school students to encounter Jesus Christ through prayer, fellowship, food, and fun. We encourage you to extend this invitation to your youth group and friends, offering them the opportunity to connect with youth from all over Melbourne.

Detailed information, including registration details, and we encourage everyone to register now as it is closing Thursday. You may also register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPOGT>

To get a glimpse of what *Encounter* is all about, we invite you to read this Melbourne Catholic article covering our most recent *Encounter* event: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/closer-to-jesus-young-people-gather-to-encounter-the-lord>

POPE FRANCIS: Pope Francis sends a message to all the children of the world ahead of the first "World Children's Day" to encourage them to be united and listen to advice from grown-ups because, he says, their "pleases" and "thank yous" are the first step towards a better world.... Read all: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-03/pope-francis-message-world-day-of-children-humanity-fraternity.html>

TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION: at St John's Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19th – 28th April at 12 noon until 4pm.

TOGETHER 2024 is inviting local artists to display their work in the welcoming space of St John's.

All mediums welcome. Art has the power to transcend words, fostering connections that go beyond the ordinary.

TOGETHER aims to be a space where community members connect, resonate, and find common ground through the language of art.

Free Entry. www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together

AUDIO DIVINA: Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

6TH SUNDAY OF LENT - HOLY WEEK

WEEKEND OF 23-24 MARCH 2024

REFLECTION

We see images of the cross everywhere from school uniforms to hospital buildings. Perhaps it is so commonplace that it doesn't stop us in our tracks the way it should. The cross of Jesus is the best key we have for understanding the mystery of God's love. God's compassion for the human family took Jesus to a lonely and brutal execution. Jesus was the victim of appalling injustice and degradation. His experience asks us to try to make the world more just and to revere the dignity of every person. 'Whatsoever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me.' This is part of the reason why Project Compassion has, for 60 years, been part of our Lenten observance.

This year, Holy Week begins with the reading of the passion story from Mark's Gospel. Even in busy lives, we should try to set time aside to spend with this extraordinary story, not to rush it. Gently take a little at a time and ask for the grace to be close to Jesus. In the Spiritual Exercises, St Ignatius asks us 'to consider how the divinity hides itself.' In other words, this is humanity stripped bare.

One way to spend time with the passion story is to take a different character each week and quietly ponder what it looked like to them and what they may have felt. Here is a suggestion:

Sunday Judas Iscariot
Monday Simon Peter
Tuesday The high priest
Wednesday Pontius Pilate
Thursday Simon of Cyrene
Friday The centurion
Saturday Mary of Magdala

Let us remember a beautiful prayer of just seven words that was taught to Pope Francis by his grandmother: Jesus, make my heart more like yours.



DON'T FORGET
TO CREATE YOUR
PARISH FUNDRAISING
PAGE AT: FUNDRAISE.
PROJECTCOMPASSION.
ORG.AU

WAY OF THE CROSS BY POPE FRANCIS

Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross all the crosses of the world:
 the cross of people hungry for bread and for love;
 the cross of people alone and abandoned even by their children and kin;
 the cross of people thirsty for justice and for peace;
 the cross of people who lack the comfort of faith;
 the cross of the elderly who struggle under the weight of years and of loneliness;
 the cross of migrants who find doors closed in fear and hearts armoured by political calculations;
 the cross of little ones, wounded in their innocence and their purity;
 the cross of humanity that wanders in the darkness of uncertainty and in the obscurity of temporary culture;
 the cross of families split by betrayal, by the seductions of the evil one or by homicidal levity and selfishness;
 the cross of consecrated people who tirelessly seek to bring your light into the world and feel rejected, derided and humiliated;
 the cross of consecrated people who, along the way, have forgotten their first love;
 the cross of your children who, while believing in you and seeking to live according to your word, find themselves marginalised and rejected even by their families and their peers;
 the cross of our weaknesses, of our hypocrisy, of our betrayals, of our sins and of our many broken promises;
 the cross of your Church that, faithful to your Gospel, struggles to spread your love even among the baptized themselves;
 the cross of the Church, your Bride, that feels constantly assailed from within and without;
 the cross of our common home that is gravely withering before our selfish eyes, blinded by greed and by power.
 Lord Jesus, revive in us the hope of resurrection and of your definitive victory over all evil and all death.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION



We pray that the mystery of the death of Jesus will deepen within our hearts. May we be ready to take up the cross in our time, especially as we support those who experience injustice throughout the world. Lord, hear us.

FUNDRAISING IDEA

Encourage each parishioner to donate on Easter Sunday using the Project Compassion Easter Envelope distributed by a volunteer at the door as parishioners enter or leave Mass (contact your Diocesan Director for envelopes if these have not been provided). Remember to turn over your Project Compassion poster after Easter to show the Project Compassion Thank You poster, acknowledging the generosity of parishioners this year.

BULLETIN NOTICE

You can help end poverty, promote justice, and uphold the dignity of all people by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



*Stations of the Cross will be held at St Thomas Church every Friday
during lent commencing at 7.00pm.*

LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2024

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart: Fridays (not Good Friday) 9:45 - 10:15 am

St Mary's: Saturday evenings 5:45 - 6:15 pm *(or by appointment)*

St Thomas: Saturdays 9:30 - 10:00 am *at each Parish)*

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY – 23rd/24th MARCH *(Please bring own foliage)*

Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart : Sunday 9:00 am

St Mary's: Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

St Thomas: Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:30 am

HOLY THURSDAY – 28th MARCH **NO morning Mass**

St Mary's: 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

St Thomas: 6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

*(St Mary's & St Thomas -Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass
Concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30 pm)*

GOOD FRIDAY – 29th MARCH **NO morning Mass**

St Thomas: 11:00 am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (Combined local Churches)

St Mary's: 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Sacred Heart: 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY – 30th MARCH

St Mary's: 10:00 am Morning Prayer

EASTER VIGIL - 30th MARCH

St Mary's: 6:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart : 7:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

EASTER SUNDAY - 31st MARCH

Sacred Heart: 9:00 am

St. Mary's: 8:00 am & 10:00 am **NO 5:00 pm**

St. Thomas: 10:30 am





Women's Dinner Sacred Heart 2024

Friday 3 May @ 7pm

Sacred Heart Parish Hall

📍 25 GIPSON STREET, DIAMOND CREEK

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN

ENJOY A TWO-COURSE MEAL AND AN EVENING OUT WITH FRIENDS
AND OUR INSPIRATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER **LINDA PETROVSKI**

World Transplant Games Gold Medalist & Owner of Infinity 360 Health & Fitness, Diamond Creek, Linda's empowering story is one of resilience and gratitude as a kidney donor recipient and Fit for Life Ambassador for Transplant Australia.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE MOTIVATED AND UPLIFTED!

👥 **INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BOOKINGS (MAX 10 PER TABLE) WELCOME**

💰 **\$35 PER HEAD**

👉 www.trybooking.com/CQICQ



❤️ **RAFFLE DONATIONS AND OFFERS OF HELP ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

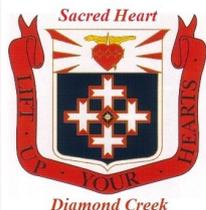
☎ **Direct Bookings & Enquiries**

PATRICIA 0418 992 488 OR TONINA 0419 154 524



**SACRED HEART
PARISH
DIAMOND CREEK**

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Lenny, Mila and Oscar who will be welcomed into our community in March.

WOMEN'S DINNER: Friday 3rd May @7pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. See attached flyer.

PARISH RAFFLE: tickets are now available in the church for next month's raffle, the prize is a Voucher for Vines Café/Nillumbik Cellars.

EASTER MUGS: a range of religious and non religious Easter Mugs \$10 are available at the back of the church. All proceeds are for our church. Thank you Rosemary.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: during 9am mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of school terms for children from preschool to grade 3. Volunteer leaders are welcome. Working with children card and safeguarding training is mandatory. Training provided. For information call Jasna Bruce 0403827350.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Meeting 14th March. Agenda items discussed included:

Foundations Parish Connections Evening 21st March, good response to date.

Archbishop's Visit to be discussed at April PPC Meeting.

Family Groups volunteer dates at Tram Café.

Women's Dinner 3rd May organisers Patricia and Tonina getting great assistance from school mum Megan, producing a flyer and advertising on social media.

Sacred Heart **School** report from Gina.

Blessing of PPC members at 9am Mass 24th March.

Frank introduced **discussion on being a welcoming community**, engaging with people, make them feel welcome. Family Groups and PPC roster to host morning tea after 9am Mass. School to continue class RE displays in church foyer. Loyola Mass was lovely, our school could attend year level Masses.

Sacred Heart could host Formation Nights.

Brian gave **maintenance report** on Mercy Cottage and update on water damage in church.

Frank and Mark tested the **Defibrillator in our church**, and we consider training session.

Men's Social Night later in the year.

Collections at ie Sacramental Commitment Masses, distinguish between first and second collection and remind people to bring cash.

Sacred Heart **groups** to be invited to give **reports** on their progress.

Synod Diocesan Consultation Information tabled. PPC members invited to attend a session.

Next meeting 11th April. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 3rd April 12pm Fish and Chips in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 17th April 12pm Lunch & 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

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 26^h March: F. Geoghegan, P. Leonard

Sunday 31st March Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: L. Armiento

Commentator: Y. O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: A. Pieper, R. Padget

Saturday 6th April St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: R. Nicolaisen

Commentator: E. Gittins

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

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.

Recently Deceased:

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

Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.*

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

HOLY WEEK INFORMATION

PALM SUNDAY 23/24 March All Palm Sunday Masses will commence on the verandah outside the Gathering Space (weather permitting) with the blessing of branches and procession into the church. ***Please bring your own branches to these Masses.***

READERS, COMMUNION MINISTERS, PROJECTIONISTS and SACRISTANS are invited to participate in the Holy Week ceremonies - Holy Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm, Good Friday 29 March at 3pm, the Easter Vigil 30 March at 6.30pm and Easter Sunday 31 March at 8am and 10am. ***If you are available, please add your name to the roster in the gathering space.***

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK A blessing service will be held in the church on Holy Thursday 28 March at 9.30am for ministers who are taking Communion to the sick and housebound of our parish. No Communion will be available on Good Friday.

HOLY THURSDAY 28 March at 7.30pm – Washing of the Feet Twelve parishioners are invited to have a foot washed during the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. If you would like to be involved in this commemorative action of service, ***please add your name to the roster in the gathering space.***

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March at 3pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Veneration of the Cross will be by bowing or genuflecting. Please do not touch or kiss the cross.

Parishioners who have mobility difficulties are invited to sit in the front rows and Communion and the Veneration cross will be brought to them. If the front row is not suitable, please sit at the end of a row down the centre aisle and ask the person sitting beside you to stand after others have received Communion, and again after the Celebrant has venerated the cross, and Communion and the cross will be brought to you.

MASS OF ANOINTING: A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 4th April, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. A number of our Sacristans are currently unavailable, and others are often attending two Masses each week to provide this service for our priests and our parish. If you can help, please contact Marian mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS: Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email mamitchem@gmail.com for further information.

OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT During Lent, our worship space is simplified with no flowers or greenery in the church or gathering space representing the barren desert where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. This is symbolic of the Lenten Season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty - only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change.

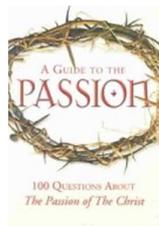
STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Three Stations of the Cross services are available: one based on the *Gospel of St Mark*, another *Mary's Stations*, and a video *Way of the Cross* with images of the Stations at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Deepdene carved by Austrian immigrant Leopoldine Mimovich.

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

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM is one continuing liturgy over 3 days which marks the end of the forty days of Lent. It begins with the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday instituting the celebration of the Eucharist, continues through the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, and culminates with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations of Christ's resurrection. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council reminded us of the extraordinary significance of the Triduum: "Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore, the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year." (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, # 18*)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

Be informed, inspired and entertained



A Guide to the Passion: 100 Questions about The Passion of the Christ by Tom Allen et al.

Mel Gibson's stunning film The Passion of the Christ has touched thousand of hearts since its release. Yet, despite its visual and emotional impact, the dramatic events portrayed do not explain themselves; they often give rise to perplexing questions. This short book helps you delve a little deeper into some of the movie's profound riches.

Online access to the catalogue is available at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms: Marcus, Darcy, Eliza, Jackson, Riley

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, Betty Luttick, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr

Recently Deceased: Lois Jones

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

Agnus Dowling, Giovanni Cartisano, Roy Greer, Salvatore Mercadante, Robert Wills, Caporale Luigi, Bro. Vincent Monagle, Pearl Malawaraaracuchi, Josefina Kimoden, Leo Brady, James & Noreen Shanahan, Elvie Colbeck, Norm King, Ron Pike, William Forest Callahan, Joseph Moate, Mary Bartolo, Serge Teycheney, Yvonne Ryan, Michael Di Domenica, Madeleine Chow, Margaret Devine, Rex McLennan, Joseph Diacono, Lionel Hill, Jack Papworth, Roy Farr, Glenn Ferguson, Monica Fitzpatrick Patricia Ryan, Sr Michelle O'Bryan, Joe Batchelor, Jose Seguerra, Terry (Mary) Krohn, Kathleen Luttick, Joy Reid, Gilchrist Lundberg, Louie Agpawa, Dan Leahy, George Frantz Teycheney, Rose Papageorgiou, John Palmer, Bruce Kennedy, Hilda Doherty, Lucy Brennan, Delsic Aranha, Rudi Jahne, Tom & Ada Larkin, Roy Arnold/Jones, Ken Schell, Georgeen Regan, Joseph Carbone, Mrs L D'Souza, Elaine Gleeson, Rebecah Dado, Bonnie Dickson, John Harrington, Ric Millar, May Early, Stan Desmond, Sr. Angela Merici, Kay McRibbin, Fr Walter Silvester, Marcial Moral, Arsen Emirzian, Sharn Davern, Rose Hughes

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Andrew, Hannah and Lucy who are being baptised later this month.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP: As our regular catch-up falls on Holy Thursday I have decided not to have a get together this month. See you all on the 25th April. **Marg**

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC. StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

Roster for Weekend 31st March

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: T. Williamson **Commentator:** M. Bates **Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Riordan, C. Riordan **Set Up:** C. O'Brien

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 Geretschlarger, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

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

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahon, Matthew Van Beek, Mary Tan, Owen Doyle, Anthony Barker, Stjepan Degaac, Cathrine Formosa

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close For Jesus, his entry into Jerusalem was a triumph that had a seriously sinister side: this was the city in which he was both totally defeated and yet utterly triumphant. Jerusalem was a hub of trade and political intrigue. It was a sophisticated city and Herod's grand Temple was not only a religious and cultural symbol, it was also political. Its stones spoke of permanence, power and dignity. Even so, its destruction overshadowed it, just as the cross overshadowed Jesus. Watch for the temple motif recurring in the drawings for the Triduum.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year B

24 March 2024

Gospel Mk 11:1-10

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately"'.

And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'

or Gospel Jn 12:12-16

A great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel!'

And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as is written: 'Fear not, daughter Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!'

His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him.

First Reading Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
- Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

- They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
- I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus 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 Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mk 14:1-15:47

N It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread, and the chief priests and scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by some trick and have him put to death. For they said,

C It must not be during the festivities, or there will be a disturbance among the people.

N Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper; he was at dinner when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the ointment on his head. Some who were there said to one another indignantly,

C Why this waste of ointment? Ointment like this could have been sold for over three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor;

N and they were angry with her. But Jesus said,

J Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done for me is one of the good works. You have the poor with you always and you can be kind to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what was in her power to do; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. I tell you solemnly, wherever throughout all the world the Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told also, in remembrance of her.

N Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, approached the chief priests with an offer to hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted to hear it, and promised to give him money; and he looked for a way of betraying him when the opportunity should occur.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

C Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

N So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

J Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, 'The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.

N The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

When evening came he arrived with the Twelve. And while they were at table eating, Jesus said,

J I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me, one of you eating with me.

N They were distressed and asked him, one after another,

O Not I, surely?

N He said to them,

J It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping into the same dish with me. Yes, the Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!

N And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them saying,

J Take it; this is my body.

N Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them,

J This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.

N After the psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

J You will all lose faith, for the scripture says, 'I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.' However after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.

N Peter said,

O Even if all lose faith, I will not.

N And Jesus said to him,

J I tell you solemnly, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.

N But he repeated still more earnestly,

O If I have to die with you, I will never disown you.

N And they all said the same.

They came to a small estate called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

J Stay here while I pray.

N Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And a sudden fear came over him, and great distress. And he said to them,

J My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here, and keep awake.

N And going on a little further he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by. He said,

J Abba (Father)! Everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it.

N He came back and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter,

J Simon, are you asleep? Had you not the strength to keep awake for one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

N Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came back and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy; and they could find no answer for him. He came back a third time and said to them,

J You can sleep on now and take your rest. It is all over. The hour has come. Now the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is close at hand already.

N Even while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up with a number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief

priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the traitor had arranged a signal with them. He had said,

- O** 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge, and see he is well guarded when you lead him away.'
- N** So when the traitor came, he went straight up to Jesus and said,
- O** Rabbi!
- N** and kissed him. The others seized him and took him in charge. Then one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear.
- Then Jesus spoke,
- J** Am I a brigand that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I was among you teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me. But this is to fulfil the scriptures.
- N** And they all deserted him and ran away. A young man who followed him had nothing on but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the cloth in their hands and ran away naked.
- They led Jesus off to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes assembled there. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the high priest's palace, and was sitting with the attendants warming himself at the fire.
- The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus on which they might pass the death sentence. But they could not find any. Several, indeed, brought false evidence against him, but their evidence was conflicting. Some stood up and submitted this false evidence against him,
- C** We heard him say, 'I am going to destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days build another, not made by human hands.'
- N** But even on this point their evidence was conflicting. The high priest then stood up before the whole assembly and put this question to Jesus,
- O** Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?
- N** But he was silent and made no answer at all. The high priest put a second question to him,
- O** Are you the Christ the Son of the Blessed One?
- N** Jesus said,
- J** I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.
- N** The high priest tore his robes, and said,
- O** What need of witnesses have we now? You heard the blasphemy. What is your finding?
- N** And they all gave their verdict: he deserved to die. Some of them started spitting at him and, blindfolding him, began hitting him with their fists and shouting,
- C** Play the prophet!
- N** And the attendants rained blows on him.
- While Peter was down below in the courtyard, one of the high-priest's servant-girls came up. She saw Peter warming himself there, stared at him and said,
- O** You too were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.
- N** But he denied it, saying
- O** I do not know, I do not understand what you are talking about.
- N** And he went out into the forecourt. The servant-girl saw him and again started telling the bystanders,
- O** This fellow is one of them.
- N** But he again denied it. A little later the bystanders themselves said to Peter,
- C** You are one of them for sure! Why, you are a Galilean.
- N** But he started calling curses on himself and swearing,
- O** I do not know the man you speak of.
- N** At that moment the cock crew for the second time, and Peter recalled how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.' And he burst into tears.
- First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.
- Pilate questioned him,
- O** Are you the king of the Jews?
- N** He answered,
- J** It is you who say it.
- N** And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again,
- O** Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!
- N** But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who

had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowds went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them,

- O** Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?
- N** For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again.
- O** But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?
- N** They shouted back.
- C** Crucify him!
- N** Pilate asked them,
- O** Why? What harm has he done?
- N** But they shouted all the louder,
- C** Crucify him!
- N** So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.
- The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him,
- C** Hail, king of the Jews!
- N** They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.
- They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.
- They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The king of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.
- The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their hands and said,
- C** Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!
- N** The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said,
- C** He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.
- N** Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.
- When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
- J** Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?
- N** This means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,
- C** Listen he is calling on Elijah.
- N** Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink, saying,
- O** Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.
- N** But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
- All kneel and pause a moment.**
- And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he died, and he said,
- O** In truth this man was a son of God.
- N** There were some women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the younger, and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee. And there were many other women there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.
- It was now evening, and since it was Preparation day (that is the vigil of the Sabbath), there came Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead. Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who brought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joset were watching and took note of where he was laid.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to *non-violent* revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

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