



Sunday 27th August 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



O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 27 August 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-21-sun-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

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

Dear Parishioners, School Staffs, Parents and Students,

I am overwhelmed and grateful for your combined work to prepare the celebration of my 40th Anniversary of Ordination.

It was certainly a moving and humbling experience for me as you gathered with my friends and family.

*The children's contribution with their various works of art and written notes are beautiful. The words spoken by representatives of our schools (**Jim O'Sullivan**), Pastoral Councils (**Tim Holland**) and Parish Staff and Parishioners (**Jacinta Bright**) were very moving and humbling.*

The combined gift as a voucher for future travel was overwhelming. I am humbled by the love and support that you have extended to me. I hope that my life and ministry to you is always expressive of my deep gratitude.

With thanks,

Steven.



ST JOHN OF GOD ACCORD

St John of God Accord are hosting our 3 parishes for a tour, presentation from CEO, and meet & greet over lunch on Thursday 14th September from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The aim is for our parishes to be more involved in a volunteer capacity in the life of St John of God and their clients. The visit should provide us with a clearer understanding of the work performed, and ways in which we are able to help. To express your interest, please contact Michael Bates on 0418 104 206, or via the Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATE—LITURGY OF LAMENT



The Partnered Parishes of Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, St Thomas the Apostle Greensborough North, and St Mary's Greensborough are preparing a Liturgy of Lament.

Through the liturgy we acknowledge and express our sorrow for all those harmed by abuse in its various forms within the Church and we commit ourselves to a future which embraces honesty, respect and pastoral care for all, based on hope in the love of our God.

This Liturgy will be held at Sacred Heart Church Diamond Creek on Thursday evening 5th October at 7.30 pm.

All parishioners from the three partnered parishes are invited and welcome.

MISSION PROMOTION OF THE COLUMBAN FAR EAST MAGAZINE

This is just to thank the parishioners of our communities, for the generosity they showed towards the mission of the Columban Fathers recently when I did a promotion of our Columban Far East magazine at the weekend Masses. Thank you for your donations and those who requested to receive the Far East magazine.

A big thankyou also to Fathers Martin Tanti and Ananda Maddineni MSFS who offered to have me stay over at the St. Thomas Parish House and who showed me their hospitality.

All the best for now and God bless.

Fr. George G. Hogarty SSC

CATHOLIC MISSION

Gratitude for your support.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous backing of this years Appeal for the Propagation of the Faith. Through your help, Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses have been able to share the Good News within their local communities.

Thank you for contributing though your parishes. Your support this year will enable SR Carolina to continue to provide life-saving treatment and access to resources on health and well being.

Your gift also supports mission programs around the world that reach out and give life to those in most need.



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Today is Social Justice Sunday - The theme for the Social Justice Statement for 2023-2024 is, Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The new Social Justice Statement is issued in an important year for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and, indeed, for all Australians. It's the year when we vote on a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians through enshrining a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution. The Bishops invite us, as Catholics, to begin a new engagement with the First Peoples to overcome injustice, an engagement grounded in love. This love is at the heart of Jesus' message. This love is characterised by a commitment to encounter and dialogue, reciprocity, mutual accompaniment and a desire to put the other at the centre of our attention. The Bishops offer us some simple actions which could help us to begin this new engagement. The Bishops do not tell us how to vote in the referendum, but they encourage us to inform ourselves about the issues through respectful dialogue, especially with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The Bishops and NATSICC join together at the conclusion of the statement to call for us all to walk together in love on a journey of healing, whatever the outcome of the Voice referendum. (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)

(Copies of the Social Justice Statement & Prayer are available in the Gathering space. The Statement can also be downloaded at:

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M1Zu36K9innosigfuoZS9ykMilXxc3ms/view>

St Thomas the Apostle & Sacred Heart Parishes Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre will once again (after a 2 year break due to COVID) be held from the weekend of 26th/27th of August until 1st/2nd of October. Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. Some of the urgent items are: Tuna in oil (400gm); Olive oil (750ml-1L); Raw, unsalted nuts; Honey (small bottles); Dried fruit; Tahini; Spices (turmeric, cumin, chilli, garam masala, curry powder); Tomato paste; Toothbrushes & toothpaste; Laundry powder (1kg max.)

At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive the items; there will also be a basket available at Sacred Heart. There will also be list of items needed available to take home.

ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people, including children, every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. Every donation makes a difference. <https://asrc.org.au>



INVITATION to DISCOVER



7 YOUNG PEOPLE in the GOSPELS

Participants of all ages will relate to the examples of these young people, some made negative choices, some positive and one made several mistakes but didn't give up.

**9am to 5pm , Sat 23 & Sun 24 Sept at
St Thomas the Apostle, Greensborough North**

Adult \$40, Concession \$35. Book before 20 Sept at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CKTUD>

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



BAPTISMS: We pray for Xavi who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in August.

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 6th September: Lunch at Diamond Creek Hotel.
Wednesday 20th September Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

SCHOOL FETE, CRAFT MARKET & CAR SHOW: : Saturday 28th 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 29th August L. Armiento & J. Rogers

Saturday 2nd September St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: M. Frisby **Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen **Eucharistic Ministers:** E. Gittins

Sunday 3rd September Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: D. Botica **Commentator:** M. Farrell **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Schellens, F. Ledda

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 August that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Jim Beattie, Fr Gerard Loughnan, Kevin Nihill, Win Atkinson, Mary Burke, Wayne Robinson, John O'Connor, Kevin Callaghan, Colleen Gardner



Who is Palms Australia?

With over 60 years experience, Palms Australia recruits qualified and experienced Australians who participate in an exchange of knowledge and skills to meet the requests of overseas communities seeking to reduce poverty by developing the capacities of their people and organisations.

What skills are we looking for?

The skills we recruit are determined by the requests we receive from community organisations overseas including educators, accountants, managers, tradespeople, agriculturalists, IT specialists, community and social workers, doctors, & health workers.

Where are the current opportunities?

We currently have requests from communities in Papua New Guinea, Zambia, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Cambodia, Philippines and American Samoa. New requests are added regularly.

REGISTER NOW!

Register for our webinar and be inspired as Michele, Anjelica & Rofina speak about their intercultural experiences and learn about our other opportunities abroad. There might be a position that calls to you.

Scan this QC Code to register for our upcoming "Global Development Opportunities" webinar



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

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic charity that focuses on the spiritual and pastoral support of persecuted and suffering Christians throughout the world. Aid to the Church in Need helps to keep the faith alive in very difficult circumstances. Our purpose is simply to share the work of Aid to the Church in Need and invite parishioners to pray for persecuted and suffering Christians throughout the world.

Julie from Aid to the Church in Need will be speaking at Our Masses this weekend.

Roster for Weekend 2nd & 3rd September

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: J. Bohan

Commentator: K. McMahon

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

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: F. Landy

Commentator: B. Iacobucci

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

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, Tina Butera, Peter Kernjak

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

Arthur Walker, Jane de Carlo, Rachael Casale, Frank McMahon, Frank Ventura, Tony Chirico, Marie Lewis, Michael De Popolo, Maris Sacchetta, Guido Micheluzzi, Orazio Palazzoto, Giovanna Formosa, Robert Capocchi, Denis McCarthy, James McCarthy, Bill Ahern, Marina Micai, Anne Honeywell, Giusepa Minutolo, Paul Silverwood, Jim Lysaght, Salvatore Scala, Margaret Hardwick, Ted Tremayne, Giselle Caliste, Nadia Mefflin, Alan Corcoran, Margaret Howse, Alan McCarthy, Salvador Catalogna, Rose Masabni, Dragan Zilic

CATHOLICARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria.

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parishes during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare Victoria can continue to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families in our community have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need!

For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit: www.catholiccarevic.org.au

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE, IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MacKILLOP: The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry.

For more information you can contact: pilgrimage@mmp.org.au or on 8912 4818.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE is running an Online Information Session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation on Monday 4 September at 7.30pm (AEST) that might be of interest to you, your lay ministers, or interested parishioners. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

For anyone interested in attending our information session, registration is essential. [Click](#) here to register.

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



NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: Your new thanksgiving envelopes are now available for collection from the gathering space in the church. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our Parish.



RCIA

Learn about the Catholic Faith

If you wish to enquire into the Catholic Faith, or join the Catholic Church, St Marys welcomes you. We offer one-on-one meetings with enquirers. And if you wish to go further, we offer ongoing education in the Catholic Faith each week in small groups.

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

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

Contact **Tim Hamilton (0412 070 511)** for more information, or come to our Enquiry night on **Sunday 27 August at 7.30pm** in the parish house (the door off the top carpark – across from the tennis courts). We'd love to see you. There is also an information sheet on the table in the Gathering space for more information.



PHOTOS FROM FR STEVEN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY MASS: If anyone has taken some snapshots form Sunday could you please send them through to the parish office. Thank you in advance.

TODAY IS SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Australia's Catholic bishops have called on the nation to seek "a new engagement" with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in their annual Social Justice Statement for 2023-24.

Since the 1940s, the bishops have published annual statements that urge the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. The statements are published as a focal point for Social Justice Sunday.

This year's statement is titled, **Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.**

Bishop Long said "One of the objectives of this statement is that we want Catholics to understand that Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action are not simply theoretical and academic exercises.

"We hear what God is saying to us about justice, by being with our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of society.

Our attitudes and actions towards First Nations Peoples need to be grounded in justice, love and humility. We need to listen with deep respect and learn from them about what needs to be done to improve their situations. We need to walk with them, day by day, and work with them to bring about change for the better – for their people and for all of us.



"Strengthening our relationship with our First Peoples is integral and indeed critical to the strengthening of the whole nation."

Read full statement at: [Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au](https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

Book of the week Be informed, inspired and entertained

As it is **Children's Book Week** we are featuring some of our children's books in the display this week. This year's theme is "**Read Grow Inspire**" There are many more young people's books and DVDs you can borrow from the Library.



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

LITURGY NOTES – The Word of God. At Mass we listen to the Word of God, reflect on its message, and respond in prayer. God's Word is active. It is both a word to be heard and a guide to the way we live. We are called to take the Word of God with us in our hearts when we leave the church and return to our everyday lives. As a reminder of this call, at the end of Mass, the book of scripture, open at the Gospel of the day, is placed on the front of the lectern facing the congregation. The Word of God leaves the church in the hearts of the people rather than in a closed book.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

August Baptisms: Christopher Flores and Julie Abraham

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

Recently Deceased:

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

Mary Ferguson, William Monagle, Walter Sheridan, Frances Bourke, James Wittingslow, Lorraine Mynard, Daniel Elliott, Des Cleary, Ann Buzza, Ian Joel Basiva Murray, Patricia Devoy, Robert Colbeck, Vic Barot, John Belfrage, Fredrick Easton, George and Ellen Jones, Harry Dixon, Patrick O'Neil, Janet Ferrazza, Ray McNamara, Merle Nowland, James Powell, Richard Anderson, Jack Siragusa, Gordon Beazley, Stan Krohn, Aileen Mottram, Rose D'Souza, Pat Fleming
John County, Paul O'Shea, Francis Moore, Stelio Leboeuf, Trevor Anderson, James Fitzpatrick, William Ryan Snr., Monica Krohn, Giuseppe Caruso, Fausto Giuliano, Filippo Cannizzo, Mary Terese Hyland, Rita O'Toole, Margarita A. Péna, Ella Salazar, Patrick James Fleming, John Kierce, Winifred Ryan, Gemma Parricali, Leo Lomas, Warwick White, Mariangela Galati, Ron Pitts, Nick Antons, Pam Zeplin, Maureen Reeves, Ern Edwards, Thomas Cullis, John Monagle, Jack Hoy, Beryl Brown, John Desmond, Jim Bradley, Charles Sargeant, Daniel Loughnanen John Mash, Frank Malia, Charles Ware, George Hansen, Mary Gertrude McNamara, Miguel Vicente Pena, Kathleen Maskell, Bertram Van Hoff, Margaret O'Meara, Kevin O'Reilly, Mary Dietrich, Annette Monteleone, Thomas Staveley, Dulcie Hower, Matt Cashin, Giuseppe Di Benedetto, Allan Ash

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Jesus asked 'but who do you say that I am?' and Peter replied 'you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' His reply has three distinct ideas in it: Messiah, the Son of God and the living God. The first is the role that Jesus plays in salvation history, the second is his nature as a person of the Trinity and the third is about the nature of God who is the source of life and active in the life of the world. Peter used words weighty with theology, but I suspect his faith more than his understanding was being expressed here. In any case, his reply is life-affirming theology. That God became human, shows the intimate relationship between God and creation. Integral to that relationship is God's willingness to be recognised in creation, especially in the person of Jesus.



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

27 August 2023

First Reading **Is 22:19-23**

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

*(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. *(R.)*
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and
love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the
lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Rom 11:33-36**

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give

him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 16:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

*You are Peter, the rock on which I will
build my Church;*

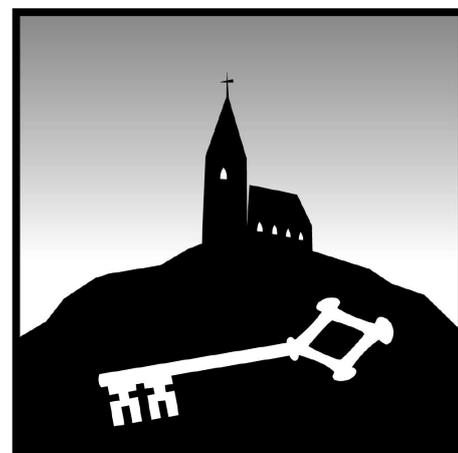
*the gates of hell will not hold out
against it.*

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 16:13-20**

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname "Rocky" which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: "You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church." The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about "my" church, not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, "Rebuild my church."

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

mtate@bigpond.com