



Sunday 29th 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

MASSSES for the FEASTS of ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS will be at 7pm at St Thomas' Church Greensborough North on Wednesday 1st November and Thursday 2nd November respectively for all parishioners of our partnered parishes.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
29th October 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/scripture-30-sunday-year-a>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

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

MASSES for the FEASTS of ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS will be at 7pm at St Thomas' Church Greensborough North on Wednesday 1st November and Thursday 2nd November respectively for all parishioners of our partnered parishes.

NEWSLETTER:-All parishioners are encouraged to contact your parish office to add your name to the email distribution list for our partnered parishes newsletter. This will allow you to always have access to the newsletter on your phone or computer and will help reduce our carbon footprint by saving paper. Copies will continue to be available at our churches and on our parish websites. Thank you.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: Zoom group are currently exploring the Gospel of John. All are welcome, 7.30-9.30pm.

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

CHOIR PRACTICE: Will take place on Fridays 10, 17, 24 November and 1 December from 1:30 - 3:00 pm at St Mary's Church leading up to the 96th Festival of Family Carols which will be held in St Mary's Church on Sunday, 3 December at 7:30 pm. All are welcome!! For copyright purposes if you wish to attend the choir practice please contact Megan Mitchem mamitchem@gmail.com

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.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Friends of the Suffering Souls (FoSS) is a Catholic association which facilitates Masses for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. FoSS began in Australia in the early 1980s and has spread around the world, currently having 11,000 members who collectively arrange more than 45,000 Masses each year for the Holy Souls and is now administered by Aid to the Church in Need. FoSS welcomes new enrolments to this important apostolate.

To learn more and to enrol yourself and/or your loved ones visit: [FOSS Friends of Suffering Souls | \(fossnova.org\)](https://www.foass.org.au)

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

The human toll in Gaza and Israel, and now the West Bank, has been devastating with more than 5,000 deaths.

Ongoing bombardments and shelling have destroyed homes, hospitals and essential water and sanitation infrastructure. Hospitals are packed with injured people.

THIS WEEKEND, LEAVING COLLECTIONS WILL BE TAKEN UP AFTER ALL MASSES, IN SUPPORT OF THE CARITAS GAZA APPEAL.

Partnered Parishes Social Justice Group

Advent begins Year B & the Gospel of Mark, to prepare come and

Meet Mark, his Gospel & his Jesus

3 Tuesday evenings: 21 & 28 Nov, 5 Dec.

7.30 - 9.30pm via ZOOM

Book before 1pm 20th Nov., at:

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

Overseas participant code: OVASEA

Further information: Emilia 0418 120 902.

This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.



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

If any parishioner from our partnered parishes does not have a Working with Children Check, renewed their WWCC or have not completed the Safeguarding training module you will no longer be able to continue in the ministry that you volunteer in after the 11th of November. There will be no exception.

St Mary's is offering one final session to complete the Safeguarding training at St Mary's Parish on Saturday 5th November, at 10.00am.

You will need to bring your WWCC card, and contact the office on 9435 1543 or email by Thursday 2nd of November.

Alternatively you can complete the training now using 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/>



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](#)



“Hope – Serenity - Intimacy – Love”



God’s Field Hospital exercises

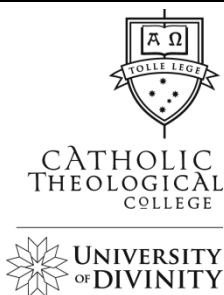
You are warmly invited to join us for five weekly Sunday evening prayer sessions on ZOOM.

They are taken from Michael Hansen’s collection of ‘God’s Field Hospital’ (GFH) prayer exercises and are a series of individual standalone prayer exercises. Michael suggests that: “Each will draw on your lived experience, your present feelings and desires.

While great for personal prayer, each exercise may also be fruitfully prayed and reflected upon, in a group”. *Michael Hansen SJ*

***“I see the church as a field hospital after battle.
The thing the church needs most today is the
ability to heal wounds and warm the hearts of
the faithful.” Pope Francis***

Where: It is a weekly Zoom experience.
When: 12th Nov, 19th Nov, 26th Nov, 3rd Dec 2023
Time: Sunday evenings 7pm – 8.30pm
Facilitators: Marie and Peter Davine
RSVP: Marie Davine by the 1st of Dec
Email: mariemcm1991@gmail.com



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 SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



BAPTISMS: we pray for Mabel and Asher who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in October.

THANK YOU FAMILY GROUPS: Diamond Creek Rotary have donated a further \$1000 to Sacred Heart Church in appreciation for Family Groups recent volunteering at the Tram Café.

PAT FRISBY UPDATE: Thank you all for your prayers during my recent stay in hospital to get a pacemaker. I'm now home having twice weekly visits from a physio. He was very pleased with me so my son, who has been here with me is going home and my daughter will stay a few more days. I am fortunate to be so well cared for. Pat

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

SENIOR MOMENTS:

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

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

Wednesday 6th December Christmas Lunch 12pm 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

St Thomas the Apostle & Sacred Heart Parishes Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Many thanks to all parishioners who contributed to the Food Drive. Approx \$1,600 worth of goods were donated!

Dear St Thomas North Greensborough and Sacred Heart Diamond Creek Catholic Churches,

Thank you for the compassion and commitment you have shown by your contribution to the ASRC Foodbank. Our Foodbank operates as a free grocery store for people seeking asylum who live in our community. We supports more than 1000 people with essential food, almost half of whom are children. Giving food is the most immediate and tangible way to support people seeking asylum. The majority of all groceries and material aid is donated by generous supporters just like you. We can't operate our programs without your compassionate contribution.

Like to stay in the loop? Follow ASRC Foodbank on Facebook and Instagram to keep up-to-date with all the ASRC Foodbank activities.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support. It truly is invaluable.

Warm Regards,

The ASRC Community Food Program

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 31st October: F. Geoghegan, P. Leonard

Saturday 4th November St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: M. Frisby **Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen **Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Leonard

Sunday 5th November Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: D. Bayan **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Schellens, T. Sirianni

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.

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:

St Thomas' Parish Pastoral Council: Meeting 18th October 2023

- ◆ PPC welcomed John Bohan who provided a financial report to 30th September 2023. The report indicated a deficit, even with income generated from the Early Learning Centre. John warned of an increase in future expenditure due to an anticipated increase in the cost of insurance, a consequence of Catholic Insurance ceasing to operate.
- ◆ Stay tuned to learn how the school and parish are planning celebrations to mark the Church's 25th anniversary in 2024 and the establishment of the Parish's 40th anniversary in 2026.
- ◆ October, the month of the Rosary, was marked by the distribution of Papal blessed rosary beads given to the Year 2 students who are preparing to receive their First Reconciliation.
- ◆ Have your Christmas crib/nativity scene ready to bring for blessing at the Masses on 2nd & 3rd December.
- ◆ In order to alleviate the disappointment of those looking for a night Mass on the feast of the Assumption, there will be an evening Mass at St Thomas on 2nd November, the feast of All Souls.
- ◆ A suggestion for the school children to create ceramic depictions of the Stations of the Cross for permanent placement at the Church is being investigated, perhaps involving a grant for an "artist in residence" at the school in order to facilitate it.
- ◆ A Mary statue is being spruced up before taking residence in the Marian chapel.
- ◆ Mary Jahne has created a "Lament to hope" banner which will hang in the Church with a description beneath. A report was given on the recent Liturgy of Lament held at Sacred Heart. The organisers expressed disappointment at the poor representation of St Thomas' parishioners; however the clash of commitments can never be taken into consideration to accommodate everyone.
- ◆ Some progress is taking place regarding connection with the St John Accord facility.
- ◆ Parish attempts to connect with the school include a letter of encouragement to year 6 students and the offer of a video presentation of Bishop Robert Barron's "Eucharist" for parents prior to school pick-up.

St Thomas the Apostle & Sacred Heart Parishes Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre – Many thanks to all parishioners who contributed to the Food Drive. Approx \$1,600 worth of goods were donated!

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Like to stay in the loop? Follow ASRC Foodbank on Facebook and Instagram to keep up-to-date with all the ASRC Foodbank activities.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support. It truly is invaluable.

Warm Regards,

The ASRC Community Food Program

Roster for Weekend 4th & 5th November

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: P. Carty **Commentator:** A. Fernando **Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Bedford, S. Bishop, T. Holland **Set Up:** C. Leahy

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny **Commentator:** B. Iacobucci **Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Riordan, F. Landy, C. Riordan

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 Esther Tremayne and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of October that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

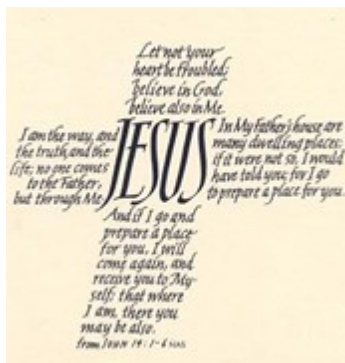
Guido Pariocco, Mary Moran, Helen Paul, Shirley Fraser, Katherine Biskup, Marianna Sacchetta, Reg Carr, Francis Bohan, Bill Watson, Pat Pelly, Frank Green, Grace Money, Betty Hannah, Rocco Di Pierro, Alfonso Ruggieri, Nediljka Paleka, Sofija Zilic

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



"In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" - (John 14:2)

St Mary's Annual Bereavement Mass will be held on 10th November, 7.30pm.

It is a good and wholesome thing to pray for and remember those that have gone before us. Families, Parishioners, and those that have sacrificed their lives for our freedom, will be remembered in our prayers. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Mass remembering that Jesus, through his cross, death and Resurrection has freed us from the powers of death. Let us come together as one in our grief, in our loneliness and with faithful hearts in thanks and praise as we remember. All are welcomed to attend. *St Mary's Bereavement Group.*

FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: For this month only, Adoration will be on the 2nd Friday (10th Nov). at usual time. Please come and share some of your day with Jesus.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Day Trip . Friday 3rd Nov, Bus trip to Queenscliffe and Senior's lunch at the Bowling Club. Cost: \$44. 6 seats available. Please call Geraldine for all details. 0438 148 896.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th October. In the gathering space. 12.00 - 2.00 Bring your lunch. Bingo. Afternoon tea provided. The more we have the bigger the Jackpot :) All welcome: call Geraldine. 0438 148 896.

CHOIR PRACTICE: Will take place on Fridays 10, 17, 24 November and 1 December from 1:30 - 3:00 pm at St Mary's Church leading up to the 96th Festival of Family Carols which will be held in St Mary's Church on Sunday, 3 December at 7:30 pm. All are welcome!! For copyright purposes if you wish to attend the choir practice please contact Megan Mitchem mamitchem@gmail.com

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

Donations of saleable items for our stalls at the Community Fair may be left in the Auxiliary basket in the gathering space. There are a few car raffle tickets still for sale \$2.00 per ticket. 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.

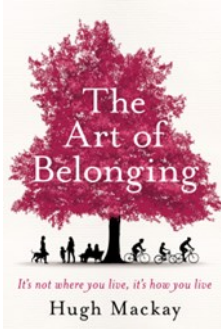
Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

Be informed, inspired and entertained



St Mary's Parish Library



Book of the Week

The Art of Belonging by Hugh Mackay

Psychologist and social researcher Hugh Mackay argues that kindness and respect for others are the hallmarks of a life well lived. He shows how strong communities develop our moral sense and build our emotional security. He says that as 'social creatures' we can only reach our potential when we engage with our communities. The Library also holds Beyond Belief and The Good Life by Hugh Mackay who makes profound concepts easy to understand.

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



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!

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:

Bert Caldwell, David Lundie, Maureen Krahe, June Tremayne, Geoffrey Stone, George Brosnan, Bridget Clare Gleeson, Peter Butcher, Geoff Rogan, Harold Oliver, Peter Harvey, Eugene Mulcair, Alice Mathews, Vin Hyland, Joseph Neeson, Bill Watson, Vincent Atkinson, Michael Conlon, Ern Taylor, Heather Hall, Estrella Cabacungan, Fr. Liam Mackle OSM, Kevin Tuttle, Tony Desensi, Bill Watson, Bernard Richardson, George D'Souza, Gerry O'Donnell, Crustus Bastian, Don Kennan, John Duncan, Diana Perini, Nella Padula, James Joseph McCarthy, Robert Barker, John Hussey, Len Houlihan, Archibald Gleason, Michael Juzva, Wilfred Tellis, Sr Faustina, Glenn David, Agnus Cloney, Glen David, Myrtle Rebeiro, Doris Marcus, Cora Phillips, Pauline Dancek, Ronald Harwood, Len Houlihan, Ben Burge, Irene Taylor, Emily Evans, Henry Hill, Syd Farrimond, Noel Munro, William Hains, Dorothy Cummins, Estelle Stein, Brian McEntee, Joan O'Sullivan, Benadict Silvapulle, Myrtle Rebeiro, Trevor Anderson, Fr. Len McKenna, Marie Low, Thekca Schumacher, Marino (Peter) Casamento, Sam Scinto, Judy Birthisel, Leo O'Connor, John Parker, John Ireland, Maree Dixon, Frank Fullarton, Donnie Bagon, John Bowlen, Margaret Dalton, Cornelia D'Souza, Ricky Willis, John Luttick, RegDAvine, Marina Mamangon, Joyce Draper, Agatha Cheong, Chan Swee Huat, Lorraine Ong, Chan Swee Seng, Ong Yeow Kwang, Lim Ser Boon, Agnes Lim.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny

When Jesus names love as the greatest commandment he does not limit it to 'heart' love. We must love God, ourselves and others with our whole person and that means physically, spiritually and rationally. Jesus indicates that love is a way of life and intrinsic to biblical law and wisdom.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

29 October 2023

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him; you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

- I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. *(R.)*
- Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and

Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the Lord your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love the Lord your God'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command.

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