



Sunday 2nd April 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti

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: Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

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

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES



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, 2 April 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/pop-palm-sunday-year-a>

Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the 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

PALM SUNDAY

Open our eyes to see God's power in sacrifice



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

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem, moving towards his passion, death and resurrection.

His entry into Jerusalem seems to be one of triumph with adoring crowds lining his way. At the Passover meal Jesus makes a new covenant with the apostles, giving them his body and blood as a remembrance of his ultimate sacrifice to come, and he reveals that betrayal and denial are at hand by two of the apostles. 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.

Open our eyes to see clearly the power of this sacrifice over death and 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 unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:20-22

LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2023

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

St Mary's:	Saturday evenings	5:45pm - 6:15pm
	Thursday 30th March	7:00pm - 8:00pm
St Thomas:	Holy Saturday 8th April	9:30am - 10:00am

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - 1st/2nd APRIL

Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart:	Sunday 9:00am
St Mary's:	Saturday 6:30pm, Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:00pm
St Thomas:	Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 10:30am

HOLY THURSDAY - 6th APRIL **No morning Mass**

St Mary's:	7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
St Thomas:	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30pm	

GOOD FRIDAY - 7th APRIL **No morning Mass**

Sacred Heart:	3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (lay-led service)
St Mary's:	11:30am Stations of the Cross (Combined Parishes)
St Mary's:	3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
St Thomas:	3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion



HOLY SATURDAY - 8th APRIL

St Mary's:	10:00am Morning Prayer
------------	------------------------

EASTER VIGIL - 8th APRIL

St Mary's:	6:30pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)
Sacred Heart:	7:30pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

EASTER SUNDAY - 9th APRIL

Sacred Heart:	9:00am
St. Mary's:	8:00am & 10:00am No Mass 5:00pm
St. Thomas:	10:30am

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING MODULE LAUNCHED FOR CLERGY AND VOLUNTEERS

Safeguarding Essentials is a 30-60 minute online training module for all clergy and volunteers within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Employees will soon be able to access the training module on Employment Hero. This accessible and engaging resource provides clergy and volunteers with foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm.

This will be: an annual requirement for everyone/possible to complete individually online./At the completion of the training participants will receive a certificate of completion accessible via the training module dashboard./participants will receive email notification that the module has been completed successfully./**Training to be completed by Friday the 28th April.**

To access the online training go to: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org



PALM SUNDAY 1st & 2nd April



Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

It's through the generous support of people like you that we are able to continue to help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty – support that is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2023

REFLECTION

It is only once in every three years that we publicly share together Matthew's full account of the arrest, trial and death of Jesus. Today is that day. Matthew's passion is rich in every sense of the word. It is the longest account of what Jesus endured and it also has the most diverse cast of characters. Only Matthew devotes time not only to the tragic fate of Judas, who was filled with remorse, but even to the thirty pieces of silver that were used to buy a cemetery for foreigners called the Field of Blood. Only Matthew tells us about the dream of Pilate's wife which leads her to send a message to her husband that he should have nothing to do with Jesus. Matthew's Gospel features a number of dreams. Joseph is told in a dream to take Mary as his wife, to flee with his family to Egypt and later to return from Egypt. Dreams are one of the many links between Matthew's Gospel and the Hebrew scriptures.

This is by no means to say that Matthew's Gospel is merely an interesting piece of literature. It is only to suggest that, in Holy Week, Matthew's Passion is a wonderful encounter to enter slowly as we spend time with the Lord, allowing the mystery of the cross to deepen within us. One commitment we might make is to take a section each day this week and stay with it for ten minutes.

Monday Mt 26: 14-35, Tuesday Mt 26: 36-56, Wed Mt 26: 57-75, Thursday Mt 27: 1-26, Friday Mt 27: 27-56, Saturday: Mt 27: 57-66.

The trial and death of Jesus reminds us of the tragedy of injustice that continues to this day in so many places around the world. Throughout Lent, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has attempted to draw our attention to many important issues in our world. We have been invited to take up the cross and follow Jesus in our own time. We can pray, with Jesus, 'Let it be as you, not I, would have it.'



Written by Michael McGirr

***** Alpha begins 23 May, St Mary's Parish – Register now *****



Ever wanted to pause and consider the big questions about **life, meaning and faith?**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions in a friendly, welcoming space. Participants gain an insight into the basics of the Christian faith and discuss its impact on various aspects of our lives. All are



We share a meal

We watch a video

We engage in discussion

Register using the above QR code or by clicking this link <https://tinyurl.com/y87kzhj3>

St Thomas the Apostle Parish

is hosting The **Alpha Parenting Children Course**

Starting Tuesday 9th May– 6th June 2023



Are you a parent, grandparent or care-giver of children aged 0-10 years?

Are you looking for practical support to strengthen your family relationships?

Over five sessions, the course will help you to:

**build strong foundations,
meet your children's needs and
teach healthy relationships.**

The course emphasises the role of the family, and acknowledges there is no instant recipe for bringing up children. However, some general principles apply to all families, and there is great value in discussions with others. The Parenting Children Course is based on Christian principles but designed for all people with or without a church background.

When: Tuesday evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm

Where: In your own home – Online via Zoom

Dates: May 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & June 6th

Bookings essential by 7pm Sunday 7th May at

Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGZJF>

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



BAPTISMS: we pray for Alayna, Sophia, Isabella and Charlotte who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in April.

EASTER RAFFLE: Sacred Heart School Parents & Friends Easter Raffle tickets available after 9am Mass.

REFURBISHMENT OPENING & BLESSING CEREMONY: Sacred Heart School at 1.30pm Monday 3rd April.

READERS & COMMENTATORS MEETING: Thursday, 27 April at 7.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church

The formation session for Readers and Commentators of St Peter's and Sacred Heart has been rescheduled for Thursday evening, 27 April at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Church. To prepare for this session, please refer to Pope Francis' three talks on the Liturgy of the Word and your reflections to questions sent previously. For your convenience, these documents will be emailed to you again. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact me at Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au to arrange another formation opportunity. Thank you.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY GROUPS: Save the Day - Sunday 7th May. Fr Steve will celebrate Mass at 9am on this day and we would like to invite all parishioners to morning tea in the church hall afterwards. If you know any former Family Group members we would love to see them.

VOLUNTEER WORK: Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email ray.belli57@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 5th April Fish & Chips 12pm in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 19th April Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre.

Wednesday 3rd May Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting Thursday 13th April. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Week 4th April

Cleaning: F. Geoghegan, P. Leonard

Sunday 9th April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: C. Fernando

Commentator: T. Jenkins

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Cusack, J. Bruce

Saturday 15th April St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: E. Gittens

Commentator: Aminda

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Nicolaisen, Dharshanie

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Thursday April 13th: Bus trip to Kilmore Races. \$72 for Bus, 2 Course Lunch, betting book and race day program. 26 seater bus with 3 steps. Some seats still available. Can accommodate frames. Bus leaving St Mary's William Street Car Park 9.30 Returning 4.00pm or earlier on the day if group prefer. Need to give Numbers no later than April 5th. It is usually a great day. and the horses are beautiful. Please call Geraldine on 0438 148 896.

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

Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

Recently Deceased:

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

Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy, Alan Ridsdale, Jane Coyle, Elaine Chapman.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



BAPTISMS: Please pray for Sonny, Lucy Anne, Tessa and Lucy who are being baptised later this month.

CLEANING OF CHURCH: I was hoping to get a team together to give the Church a clean before Easter. If you are available after Mass at 9.45am on Tuesday the 4th April could you please contact me the office. 9434 7373.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next Meeting, Wednesday 19th April AGM Email: stthomasppc@gmail.com

PLAQUE FOR PRIESTS: At our PPC meeting in March it was agreed that we should remember Priests who have died in service while at St Thomas.

We will be taking donation for a plaque both for Fr Peter Fulton and Fr Tao Pham, if you would to donate you can drop the donation into the Parish office in a clearly marked envelope, or in the collections on the weekend. Envelopes will be provided.

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Thursday April 13th: Bus trip to Kilmore Races. \$72 for Bus, 2 Course Lunch, betting book and race day program. 26 seater bus with 3 steps. Some seats still available. Can accommodate frames. Bus leaving St Mary's William Street Car Park 9.30 Returning 4.00pm or earlier on the day if group prefer. Need to give Numbers no later than April 5th. It is usually a great day. and the horses are beautiful. Please call Geraldine on 0438 148 896.

Rosters for Weekend 8th & 9th April 2023

EASTER VIGIL MASS AT SACRED HEART 7.30PM

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: S. Millar

Commentator: F. Landy

Eucharistic Ministers: C. O'Brien, F. Landy, M. Tipping

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, John Iacobucci, Andelko Korculanin, Estelle Smooker, Tina Butera, Lilian Hobson

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

Mary Cho Nguyen, Prisca Rosario, Osvaldo Porcaro, Lina Betuna, Margaret Mc Carthy, Dino Bianchin, Bill Schultz, Brian Brown, Alessandro Sacchetta, Reg Cummins, Pat Hart, Iris Hartley, Joy Joseph, Roy Kilkenny, Anastasis Rendina, Sylvester Ellul, Rod Nettleton, Kathleen Jordan, Maria de Bartolo, Elaine Chapman, Shirley Bourke, Maria del Popolo, Rosa Alvaro, Dragan Zilic, Kaye Dixon

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend "Live Your Best Life in Love" Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples the tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details. 28th– 30th April 2023 in Melbourne (Book early to avoid disappointment) Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

	<p>Catholic Theological College</p> <p><i>Sign up for one of 18 short, online sessions.</i></p> <p>Engaging Your Faith – May 2023</p> <p><i>Theology, Vatican II, Scripture, Spirituality, Science & Faith.</i></p> <p>Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.</p> <p>For more information and to register:</p>
--	--

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to greensborough@cam.org.au by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

EARLY NOTICES CUT OFF: AS NEXT WEEK IS A SHORT WEEK, COULD YOU PLEASE HAVE ALL NOTICES YOU WISH PLACED IN THE BULLETIN INTO THE PARISH OFFICE BY 12 NOON ON TUESDAY THE 4TH OF APRIL

HOLY WEEK INFORMATION

PALM SUNDAY 1/2 April 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 exercise your ministry at the Holy Week ceremonies - Holy Thursday 6 April at 7.30pm, Good Friday 7 April at 3pm, the Easter Vigil 8 April at 6.30pm and Easter Sunday 9 April at 8am and 10am. If you are available, please add your name to the roster in the Gathering Space.

HOLY THURSDAY 6 April 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.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK A blessing service will be held on Holy Thursday 6 April 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.

GOOD FRIDAY 7 April 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.

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.

LADIES AUXILIARY We are seeking knitters to assist with knitting beanies and/or fingerless gloves. Patterns and wool are available on the table in the gathering space this weekend.



KNITTERS can you please place knitted items in the Ladies Auxiliary Basket in the Gathering Space by 16th April. Enquiries: Maureen: 94355906.

RUBBISH REMOVAL AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE needs please call Bill Graham 0407 562 028

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 on our parish website during Lent – one based on the *Gospel of St Matthew*, another are *Mary's Stations*, and there is 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday during Lent at 7pm at St Mary's.

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

FOR SALE: Standard Size Bar Fridge—almost new - \$70.00. Medium size suitcase with four wheels, only used a few times- \$50.00. Please contact the Parish Office on 9435 1543 if interested.



ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Thursday April 13th: Bus trip to Kilmore Races. \$72 for Bus, 2 Course Lunch, betting book and race day program. 26 seater bus with 3 steps. Some seats still available. Can accommodate frames. Bus leaving St Mary's William Street Car Park 9.30 Returning 4.00pm or earlier on the day if group prefer. Need to give Numbers no later than April 5th. It is usually a great day. and the horses are beautiful. Please call Geraldine on 0438 148 896.



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.

SILENCE IN LITURGY God addresses us through the scriptures. But silence is what helps us discover the meaning and power of these words, letting them 'sink in' and be absorbed into our minds and hearts. In addition to the short periods of silence observed by the Reader after the first and second readings, we will again have a period of silent reflection following the Homily. **The first collection** will be taken up after this period of reflection.

HELP WANTED FOR BAPTISM SUNDAYS Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month at 11.30 am. Presently there are 2 members on the team who help with setting up for Baptisms. We need a couple more volunteers to join the team so we could set up a roster for Baptism Sundays. The work involved is easy and takes approximately an hour in total.



If you are able to join the team or have any questions, please call Genny Schokman on 0424892283. We welcome any help possible regardless of age or gender.

SUMMARY OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, 7TH. MARCH 2023 Opening prayer was led by Elizabeth, and was focused upon humility. We read a bible passage, and examined images in relation to this theme. This opened up a great opportunity to reflect upon Christ's call to live with humility as he did. Following this, since this was our first meeting for the year, we all shared our recent holiday experiences, over the Christmas and new year period. It was great to hear from everyone after having not having had a formal meeting for quite some time. After this, Sandy provided us an overview of the key findings and points from the recently published Report for the Synod. This enabled us to understand different perspectives, but also to look to potential changes to address some of the concerns that were raised. This will facilitate our goal of being a vibrant Christian community. Fr Steve also provided us an update on the PPC at Sacred Heart, and St Thomas, and the potential for an umbrella pastoral council that would meet a few times per year. Finally, we discussed the St Mary's fete, and how with the school, we can collaborate in preparation for this later in the year.



TOOL DONATIONS The MaD Team is in need of tools and equipment to replace a large amount of tired equipment currently in use. If you have any tools that you would like to donate we would greatly appreciate it! Items such as Rakes Shovels Picks Wheelbarrows Blowers Wiper Snippers Chainsaws Please only provide tools that are in good condition, working order with minimal repairable costs. We cannot accept items that are broken or for disposal. Tools can be dropped off this weekend at the Working Bee, 1-April Questions? Please email stmarysmadteam@gmail.com Thank you from the MaD Team



PLEASE PRAY FOR

April Baptisms: Jamie Del Mastro, Ryder and Millie Quintana, Blake Thomas, Violet Stingas, Xavier Pett

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time: Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Noah Thorley, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan , John Mullins, Margaret Bramley, Dan Quigley, Rosie Bray, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander

Recently Deceased: Father John Tollan

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Coral Rutter, Hugh Clark, Leopoldine Schuster, Janice Crockford, Jim McKay, John Malone, Gisele Lepierre, Pope John Paul II, Carmillo Rech, Maurice Kelly, Antonio Silipo, Amy Phillips, Vic Ormes, Anna Maria Comito, Shirley Douglas, Jessie Tellis, Joe Poireas, Gil Lundberg, Arthur Lee, Elizabeth Kavenagh, Donna Hagan, John Walshe, Anna-Maria Comito, Catalina Neri, Sixto Maceda, Jr, Colleen Singleton, Ossie Dwyer, Erzsebet Varga, Fr. Des Byrne, John Toohey, Ernest Leahy, Lorna Sivies, John Dickinson, Fr John Hamilton Smith SJ, Fr. Jim Kierce, Lucy Beard, Josephine Silvapulle, Kath Darby, Martin Brennan, Margaret Duncan, Jack Fregon, Joseph Micallef, Joan Kiernan, Carmel King, Krystle Gullace, Christian Schibeci, Mary Callaghan, Peter Cook, James Booker, Marcella Marr, Jean Maxwell, Victor Bailie, Len Hill, Walter Beard, Matthew Joyce, Joseph Debono, Francisco Gile, Beverley Malcolm, Patrick Fewster, Peter Fregon, Marie Hamilton, Michael Hodges



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close The first day of Holy Week is a strange combination of celebration and sombre reflection. For Jesus, his entry into Jerusalem was a triumph that had a seriously sinister side. The elation that stirred the atmosphere of the city was contagious, but Jesus was fully aware of playing a part. The cross was casting its shadow over him.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

2 April 2023

Gospel Mt 21:1-11

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

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

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 Mt 27:11-54

- N** One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said:
- O** What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?
- N** They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.
- Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say,
- C** Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the passover?
- N** He replied:
- J** Go to so-and-so in the city and say to him, 'The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples.'
- N** The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover. When the evening came he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating he said:
- J** I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me.
- N** They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn,
- C** Not I, Lord, surely?
- N** He answered:
- J** Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me, will betray me. 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** Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn,
- O** Not I, Rabbi, surely?
- N** Jesus answered:
- J** They are your own words.
- N** Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
- J** Take it and eat; this is my body.
- N** Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them saying:
- J** Drink all of you from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.
- N** After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,
- J** You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: I shall strike the shepherd and the flock will be scattered. But after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.
- N** At this, Peter said:
- O** Though all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.
- N** Jesus answered him,
- J** I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.
- N** Peter said to him,

- O** Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.
- N** And all the disciples said the same.
- Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
- J** Stay here while I go over there to pray.
- N** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And sadness came over him, and great distress. Then he said to them:
- J** My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.
- N** And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed:
- J** My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.
- N** He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter:
- J** So you had not the strength to keep awake with me 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, a second time, he went away and prayed:
- J** My father, if this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!
- N** And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them,
- J** You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.
- N** He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. He had said:
- O** 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge.'
- N** So he went straight up to Jesus and said:
- O** Greetings, Rabbi,
- N** and kissed him. Jesus said to him,
- J** My friend, do what you are here for.
- N** Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said:
- J** Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?
- N** It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds:
- J** Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me.
- N** Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.
- The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest's palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be.
- The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death-sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement,
- O** This man said, 'I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up.'
- N** The high priest then stood up and said to him:
- O** Have you no answer to that? What is the evidence these men are bringing against you?
- N** But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him:
- O** I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.
- N** Jesus answered:
- J** The words are your own. Moreover, I tell you that

from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

N At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said:
O He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?
N They answered:
C He deserves to die.
N Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him:
C Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?
N Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said:
O You too were with Jesus the Galilean.
N But he denied it in front of them all, saying:
O I do not know what you are talking about.
N When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there:
O This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.
N And again, with an oath, he denied it,
O I do not know the man.
N A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter:
C You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away.
N Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing:
O I do not know the man.
N At that moment the cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.
 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor. When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying:
O I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.
N They replied:
C What is that to us? That is your concern.
N And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off, and went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said:
C It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood money.
N So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me.
 Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:
O Are you the king of the Jews?
N Jesus replied:
J It is you who say it.
N But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:
O Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?
N But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.
 At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at this time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered Pilate said to them,
O Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Christ?
N For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,
O Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.
N The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:
O Which of the two do you want me to release for you?
N They said:
C Barabbas.
N Pilate said to them:
O What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?
N They all said:
C Let him be crucified!
N Pilate asked:
O Why? What harm has he done?
N But they shouted all the louder,
C Let him be crucified!
N Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:
O I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

N And the people, to a man, shouted back:
C His blood be on us and on our children!
N Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:
C Hail, king of the Jews!
N And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.
 On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothes by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:
C So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!
N The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:
C He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.
N Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.
 From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:
J Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?
N That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:
C The man is calling on Elijah,
N and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:
C Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.
N But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.
All kneel and pause a moment.
N At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people.
 Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:
C In truth this was a son of God.
N And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.
 When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.
 Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him,
C Your Excellency, we recall that this imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise again.' Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead'. This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.
N Pilate said to them:
O You may have your guards. Go and make all as secure as you know how.
N So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.



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.

mtate@bigpond.com

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