



Sunday 5th November 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Tanya O'Meara & Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Parish School Principal

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**
principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road,
Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Secretary: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Parish School Principal

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised.

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
5th November 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/scripture-31-sunday-5-nov>

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

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.

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 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).

COPIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISHES. A DONATION OF \$5.00 WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR PROCLAIM 2023! Over three days, the Catholic Leadership Centre will become a vibrant so-journ 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": 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 up on, in a group". *Michael Hansen SJ*

* Where: It is a weekly Zoom experience.

* When: 3rd Dec 2023

* Time: Sunday evenings 7pm - 8.30pm

* Facilitators: Marie and Peter Davine

* RSVP: Marie Davine by the 1st of December

* Email: mariemcm1991@gmail.com



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

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/>

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.



*Greensborough Interchurch Council G.I.C.C Invites you to join in the
annual Festival of Carols*

St Mary's Church

Sunday 3rd of December at 7.30pm



*A wonderful opportunity to bring along the whole family and lift up our
voices to the Lord with in the lead up to Christmas, featuring special
Musical entertainment for the children of our faith communities!*



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



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

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

BAPTISMS:

KEY REGISTER: To assist with the annual update, please confirm your key number or hand back any key you may no longer need. Thank you.

DIAMOND CREEK ST VINNIES CONFERENCE: The Diamond Creek St Vinnies conference president's role, has come to its end of the four year term. We are asking if anyone is interested in the role. The service that St Vinnies provide for our area is so rewarding and helps those who are experiencing such difficult times, as we all understand. Should you require more information, please contact me. The conference meets every second Tuesday of the month in the Parish office. Ray Belli 0413185722

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting 7.30pm, Thursday 9th November.

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

SENIOR MOMENTS:

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

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 7th November C. & F. Ledda

Sunday 12th November Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: A. Dsouza

Commentator: J. Hoyne

Eucharistic Ministers: G. & M. Beeby

Saturday 18th November St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: J. Robinson

Commentator: Amindha

Eucharistic Ministers: Dharshanie

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

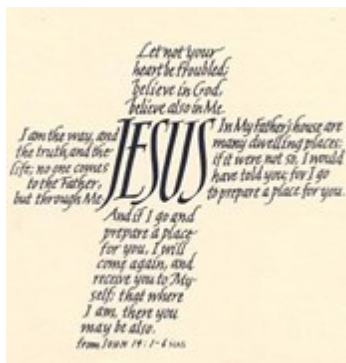
Geraldine Nihill, Bev Camilleri, Kevin Doherty, Vincent Atkinson, James Burke, Grace Jones, Lena Anderson, Haydn Chapman, John Prendergast, Bridgette Tancredi-Roberts.

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.*

ST. MARY'S TENNIS CLUB - is seeking anyone interested in playing junior and/or senior competition (daytime and nighttime) tennis commencing February 2024. For more information email stmarystennis56@gmail.com or call 0432 251 712.

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.

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: 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

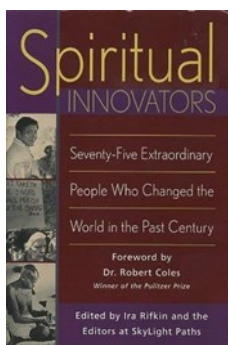
CHURCH SECURITY : Group members and parishioners are reminded to check that ALL doors of the church and gathering space are securely locked and all lights are off when you leave after evening Masses and meetings. Thank you.

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 .

Be informed, inspired and entertained



Book of the Week

Spiritual Innovators: Seventy-five extraordinary people who changed the world in the last century, ed. Ira Rifkin

This book contains profiles of the most important spiritual leaders of the twentieth century and includes martyrs and mystics, intellectuals and charismatics from East and West. Articles include short biographies, quotations and bibliographies.

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

PLEASE PRAY FOR

September Baptisms:

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan , Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Lois Jones, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Mick O'Meara.

Recently Deceased:

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

Frances Boran, Margaret Lynch, Alex Phillips, Marie Low, Salvatore Renaldo, Jack Toohey, Lorenza Borg, Peter Baird, Constance Dennis, Stella Davine, Felicidad Tobias, Rico J Puno, Sophie Karnellos & children (Ross & Stephine), Tom Rinaldo, Robert Hudson, Lorenza Borg, Teresa Sbaglia, Dawn Adams, Mama Cheong, Patrick Cook, Robert Larsen, Margaret Hardman, Lottie Dillon, Gertrude Evans, Vera Hardy, Mavis Wittingslow, Edith Griffin, Edgar Simmons, Gregorio Noblelas, Ramon Pena Snr., Margaret McGahan, Alicia C Malicse, Martin Carilo, Orbita Acta, Dolores Montenegro, Luisa Golla, Graeme Jenkins, Edna Mary Jenkins, Edward Chorazyzewski, Terry Esguerra, Pedring Aquino`, Margaret McNamara, Marinella DeGuzman, John Martin Smith, Shaun David O'Connor, Eilen Waller, Glenn David, Louisa Turner, Derek Charles James, Purificacion Ferrer, William Bennett, Jane Flecknoe, Asuncion Del Prado, Maria Lourdes Carnoang, Derek Chambers, Marina Mamangun, Conchita Casenas, Dominga Abenir, Santos Abenir, Manuel Picardal, Gerald Rivera, Phyllis Brasington, Peter Chapman, Azucena Albaniel, Peter Watson, Mary Bird, Doug Pilkington, Enrique Velez Jr, Jose Carilo, Jose & Aurea Borjal, Armando Borjal, Norma Borjal, Margery Harrison, Vera Russell, Ed & Rose Schreenan, Jozef Gorski, Patrick & Kathleen Skehan, Rosalie Exton, Ferdinando Galai, Saunday Fernando, Mgr. Skehan, Joe Pereira, Elmo Jayasekora, Peter Hart, George Ranasinghe, Ferdindo Galati, J Bielasz, T Mroz, F.O.S.S.S. Manning, Patricia Krohn, Unborn children denied life, John Mc Connell, Rodelo Landrito, Daniel Dickson, Keith Barnett, Bernadette Russo, Bob Santamaria, Rudolf Jakubik, Veronica Ryan, Elsie & James Lynch, Vera, Ronald Brodie, Joseph & Patrick Ashford, Frances Eventes, Irene Green, Claire Parritt, Danielle Howard, John Gerard Ryan, Dorothy Kilmartin, Nicole Banks, Josie Russo, Doris Bull, William & Lilian Jepson, Andrew March, Melville Caevallo, Henry Bonner, Vivian Heaton, Noreen Watson, Olga Church, Georgina Sciberras, Stella Spriggs, Nina Cauchi, Sister Anita MSC, Leo Dowling, Caridad Valencia, Georgina Sciberras, Caterina & Frank Ravesi; Samuel, Charles, Bernard, Vincent & Catherine Allsopp, John Goode, Grace Muscat, Peter Tilbrook, Sr John Durran, Laurence Tilbrook, Paul Mason, Margaret Ronan

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: We pray for Frankie, Lucy and Leo who are being baptised later this month.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS: If anyone is available to volunteer with cleaning the Church and would be happy to be on a roster could you please contact Lisa in the Office.

You would need to have a current Working with Children Check, and have completed the Cam Safeguarding training.

Roster for Weekend 11th & 12th November

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: S. McMahon **Commentator:** E. Sacchetta **Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Carty, McKenzie, K. Salm

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: F. Landy **Commentator:** M. Kenny **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, A. Kerr, C. O'Brien

Set Up: J. Kerr

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

Nick Piccolo, Maura Coyle, Lena Brullo, Ray Tipping, Lawrence Meilak, Theresa Meilak, Marcel Bishara, Frank Mercieca, Thomas Iacobucci, Fr Kelvin Kenny, Christopher Kenny, Joan Campbell, Serge Teychency, Joan Chadzynska, Rocco Di Pierro, Haydn Chapman, Francis Mc Mennemin, Carmel McCrorie, Michael Munforte, George Fantauzzo, Robert Kasic, Mona Willcocks, Livio Di Nino

NIGHT OF THE WITNESSES 2023

We are excited to inform you that Night of the Witnesses – a night to remember and pray for the persecuted Church, and to hear testimonies from three international speakers about their personal experiences of persecution will be held in Melbourne in November.

With its origins at Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur Cathedrals in Paris over 15 years ago, Night of the Witnesses is now a regular feature in cities around the world including Madrid, London, Washington D.C. and Krakow. Here in Australia, our first Night of the Witnesses was held in 2022 in the nation's capital, Canberra.

St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Wednesday 22 November 2023. 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

International Guest Speakers: His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church - Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and all the East. Mr Xavier Stephen Bisits, ACN Head of Projects, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

Sr Majella Dogonyaro OP, Dominican Sister, Northern Nigeria.

Night of the Witnesses is an evening to remember, to pray and to be inspired by the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

A procession of images of these twelve men and women from countries such as Nigeria, Iraq and the Philippines will coincide with a brief reading of their stories. Visiting guest speakers will then share their personal experiences of Christian persecution and stories of faithful witness amidst persecution.

Remembering the persecuted Church through these martyrs gives us pause to reflect on the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the Gospel to change the world that we are called to be witnesses in. It is an opportunity to reflect on the strength of our own Christian witness and perhaps to ask the Lord for the grace and courage to be His bright light in a world so desperate for hope.

For more information: www.aidtochurch.org/notw





'The greatest among you must be your servant' – this is a teaching repeated often in the scriptures. Humility is a key value of the Kingdom and is intrinsic to the gospel image of Jesus.

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

5 November 2023

First Reading Mal 1:14 – 2:2.8-10

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. (R.)
2. Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. (R.)
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 2:7-9.13

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 23:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;

you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 23:1-12

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

There have been periods in the church's history where the burdens placed on the shoulders of people – particularly an exaggerated sense of guilt for certain sins – truly weighed people down, creating a terrible sense of unworthiness, leading to the living of distorted lives.

Our Lord makes it clear that leaders cannot evade responsibility for this by hiding behind honorific titles.

In the Gospels, we find the One who said: 'Come to me all you who toil and are burdened and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matt 11:28-30)

If people don't find that the burden laid on them by Church leaders (who often long to be greeted obsequiously) leads to refreshment and rest for their souls, then it is right to question the burden, and to question the leaders who impose such burdens.

Perhaps we could pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis whose favoured titles are simply: 'Bishop of Rome', 'Servant of the Servants of God'.

mtate@bigpond.com

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