



**Sunday 26th June 2022**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Jacinta Bright & 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://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:** 9.00am-10.00am & 5.45pm-6.15pm  
before evening Mass

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**  
[principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://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](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://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](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

**Mass at Home: St Patrick's Cathedral:** On Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass at 11.00am

**Mass for You at Home - Diocese of Wollongong:** Sundays on Channel 10 at 6am, Foxtel Channel 173 at 10am, and online at  
[www.massforyou.com.au](http://www.massforyou.com.au)



Messiah and Son of God though he is, this status will not exempt him from treading the ordinary human part of suffering and death.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, 26th June 2022.

**Fr Brendan Byrne SJ**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/homily-notes--13th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c>

**Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.**



[www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

[www.cam.org.au](http://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

**The Partnered Parishes THINK AND BREATHE Child Safety – KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.**

**With the return of families at our Masses and as our toilets are out of view, parental supervision of your children is required while using the facilities.**

- ♦ **Guiding children and young person's behaviour (discipline)**
- ♦ **We strive to ensure that all children and young people have a positive experience in our Partnered Parishes. When working with children and young people, setting guidelines in collaboration with children and young people assists in guiding behaviour to promote the safety and wellbeing of all involved.**

**Forms are available in our Churches or you can download these from our websites.**

### PLENARY COUNCIL

**Walking in the Spirit**

#### **National Prayer Pilgrimage for the Plenary Council**

People across the country are invited to participate in a national prayer pilgrimage as the Catholic Church in Australia prepares for the Second Assembly of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia in Sydney from 3rd-9th July.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace for the Members who will gather and also for ourselves and the Church, that we may have the courage to follow where God is leading us.

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



### Plenary Council Prayer

**Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost**

**Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.**

**O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.**

**Give us the courage to tell our stories and speak boldly of your truth.**

**Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.**

**Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.**

**Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.**

**St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.**

### GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 2022 WINTER APPEAL

This year's Appeal will be officially launched on the weekend of **2/3 July**. As the price of food increases and we have to watch what we buy, we are mindful of those in our community who always have to watch what they spend on food as their income is so limited. That is where we at the Greensborough Vinnies Conference come in, providing food vouchers to tide our families over until their next pay day. We are therefore seeking the kind assistance of the St Mary's and St. Thomas' Community to give what you can afford to enable us to purchase these vouchers and other basic essentials.

- Appeal envelopes will be provided on the ends of the seats and at the back of the Church - they can then be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection on the above weekend or soon after.
- Credit card donations can be arranged by calling 03 9895 5959 and stating you are donating to the [Greensborough](https://www.greensboroughvinnies.org.au) Conference
- Donations can be made online via [vinnies.org.au](https://vinnies.org.au) – please make sure you include [Greensborough](https://www.greensboroughvinnies.org.au) in the 'Comments/Conference Name' section

**Vinnies Briar Hill:** Are seeking volunteers for a few hours once a week to support our shop at 23 Sherbourne Road, Briar Hill. If you want to join a friendly team and support your local community, please speak to the Manager on 9432 6797. Thank you.



### UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES 22nd APRIL

**IT IS NOT MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IT IS ONLY RECOMMENDED.**

Close contacts of positive cases are to wear face coverings indoors, and to avoid "sensitive" or group settings. It is still recommended to wear a Face Covering when social distancing cannot be maintained over a period of time.

It is recommended that those who distribute Holy Communion continue to wear a Face Covering and sanitise their hands before doing so.

In accordance with the guidelines from the Archdiocese, Hand Sanitiser is still available in our Churches.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop.

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



**Baptisms:** We pray for Freya, Sophia, Micaela, Taya, Tomas and Marcus who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in June.

**Senior Moments:** Wednesday 6th July Pie and Cakes 12pm in Parish Centre. Please contact Margaret with your orders. Wednesday 20th July Lunch & Games 12pm in Parish Centre

**Working with Children Check:** Thank you to the many parishioners who have recently renewed their WWC.

The Parish Office is automatically notified.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** PPC Suggestion Box at back of Church. Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**RCIA Sacred Heart and St Thomas:** If anyone is interested in becoming a Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith please contact either of our Parish offices. A new group will begin soon.

**Diamond Creek Conference annual St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal:** There will be a leaving collection after Masses on 2nd/3rd July. Envelopes are also available for cash or credit card donations, which can be placed in collection bags or left at the Parish Centre during July. Donations will be distributed locally in our Parish, where assistance is provided with food, paying gas/electricity bills, chemist expenses, delivering firewood etc. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, blankets or cash would be most appreciated. Thank you.



### Rosters for Weekend 2nd & 3rd July

#### **Saturday 7.15pm St Peters**

**Reader:** J. Robinson

**Commentator:** M. Frisby

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Dharshanie

#### **Sunday 9am Sacred Heart**

**Reader:** M. Walsh

**Commentator:** C. Fernando

**Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Padget, A. Scellens

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

*Mario Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Bernadette Hobbs, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, John Downey, Lina Molinaro*

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

*Carmel & Albert Mowlam, Nicola Nesci, Pauline Georgiades, Ken Parker, Maureen Parker, Michael Cusack, Saviour Camilleri.*

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES As of 11.59pm Friday 24th June 2022

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith.

Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship.

There are no longer vaccination requirements at Places of Worship nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status for attendee, workers or volunteers at Places of Worship and for associated parish activities.

Sanitising hands before distribution of Holy Communion is still recommended.

Holy Communion may be distributed to the faithful under both species (i.e., the Sacred Host and Precious Blood).

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** In 2021 alone, 565,000 religious books were produced and distributed with the help of ACN. Often in poor countries, the child's Bible is the first book that children receive in their own language and frequently it is the only picture book that the little ones can get hold of in their entire lives.

Can you help us continue this important work in distributing religious books throughout the world?

Visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject](http://www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject)

**HEART OF LIFE:** Is offering an "At-home Retreat: Held in Hope" – over five weeks, beginning Monday, 1st August and concluding 29th August. This at-home retreat, invites you to spend some time in prayer at home each day pondering your experiences of the day, and to be accompanied by a retreat-companion weekly, via Zoom for 45 minutes, on how God might have been present for you.

A small donation will be welcome. To register your interest, please call 9890 1101 or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne), no later than 18th July 2022.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

**Contactless Payments:** We are now able to allow electronic transfer of funds through the purchase of a Square Tap Machine.

□ Square



Parishioners will be able to 'tap and go' for the Presbytery and Parish collections. There are instructions in the Church or you can ask for help.

***This will enable those who want to have less reliance on cash to be able to keep supporting the Parish and our Priests.***

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 16th June.** The PPC was pleased to welcome Tess Dwyer, Vice-Principal of St Thomas school who will be joining PPC meetings on a regular basis as a means of strengthening connections between the school and parish communities. Discussion regarding the ongoing formation of the PPC and maximum productivity of meeting time included the possibility of:

- members emailing progress reports prior to meetings in relation to respective projects and goals
- the use of a PPC Action Sheet summarising status of such projects and goals
- working with other Parish Councils to share ideas and build on existing programs at St Thomas'.
- Feedback was given regarding status of current plans to enhance parish and school community life.

This included ongoing developments in initiatives such as a Early Learning Centre, new church AV equipment, further securing of outdoor lights, possibility of introducing alternative Mass forms and tabernacle placement, completion of St Thomas statue and Partnered Parishes Plenary Council proposal for both a statue in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral and plaque at St Thomas. In an endeavor to gather data to assist in future planning, a survey inviting school parents' participation is in the process of being finalised.

Next meeting Wednesday 20th July, 7.00pm **St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council:** Email address: [stthomasppc@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasppc@gmail.com)

### **Diamond Valley Refugee Support for the Brigidines' Asylum Seeker Project:**

Many thanks to all participating parishioners for continuing to support the project. Please ensure all donation envelopes are handed in by the 25/26th June at the latest. Please drop in your envelopes in the St Thomas or Sacred Heart collection bowls.

This will be the last collection for banking before the end of the financial year 2021/2022. The Brigidines' Asylum Seeker Project will be issuing receipts sometime in July.

For queries, please ring Lilian Hobson (0402 823 679).

Our Parishes will continue to support the Asylum Seeker/Refugee Support project; new envelopes for 2022/2023 will be issued in July/August.

**St Thomas Funeral Ministry Team:** If anyone is interested in becoming involved with this important ministry, there will be a meeting on Wednesday 13th July, 10.00am-3.00pm in the St Mary's gathering space.

If you need any more information please contact the office for more details.

**Baptisms:** Please remember in your prayers, Xavier, Liam, Hudson and Zara who are being baptised this weekend.

### **Rosters for Weekend 2nd & 3rd July**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** D. Haesler

**Commentator:** K. Salm

**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. McKenzie, J. Bohan, T. Holland

**Set Up:** K. Salm

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** R. Rendina

**Commentator:** F. Landy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Kerr, C. Riordan, M. Tipping

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

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

*Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo,*

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

*Pauline Georgiades, Joanne Tubb, Antonio Napoleone, Eric Rosario, Leo Campbell, Des Price, Bert Smooker. Gordon Shannon, Saverio Posterino*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



## PLEASE NOTE NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Francesca and Sharon will provide for our secretarial needs on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm and Jacinta's days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm.

Please continue to send any bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

## ST MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY



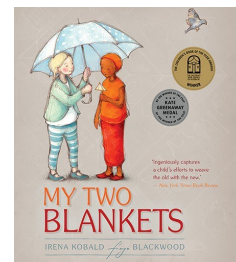
*If there is no-one in attendance in the Library, it can be opened and you can record which books you take on the sheet.*

For the School holidays you might like to borrow this lovely book:

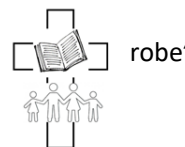
### 'My Two Blankets' by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood

This picture book describes how a lonely refugee child meets a new friend who teaches her some Australian words, and makes her feel welcome. The young girl swaps her old familiar blanket for one covered in drawings of her new words - flowers, yachts, ice-creams, a tennis racquet and a cat.

The book is enhanced by the inclusion of Arabic writing as well as English.



DVDs for children include the classic stories: 'The Lion, the Witch and the Ward-



'The Little Match Girl', and also many DVD titles in the 'Veggie Tales' series.

**SUMMARY OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2022:** Our opening prayer was led by Josette, which was focused upon a poem titled *If* by Rudyard Kipling. This provided a great opportunity for us to reflect upon the courage, hope, and humility that God calls us to live out. Fr Martin then led us in a brief discussion topic on how we can be people of God, written by Joan Chittister. Following this, Lorenzo provided us an update on the safeguarding of children and young people risk assessments. The initial risk assessment for our monthly meetings has been completed and will be finalised by the end of the month.



It was agreed upon that for the next meeting, there needs to be consideration of other events held by the PPC, including the annual AGM, and the prep-connection night. This will be conducted by Lorenzo and Mark.

**COMMUNION ROUND MINISTERS:** Copies of the Communion Round Roster for July to December are available on the table at the back of the Church. You will also find some blank Code of Conduct forms for Ministers to fill in and return to the Parish Office.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS:

### DIAMOND VALLEY REFUGEE SUPPORT FOR THE BRIGIDINES' ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY ST MARY'S.

The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) is a Melbourne-based initiative of the Brigidine Sisters which aims to provide hospitality and practical support for asylum seekers; actively network with like-minded individuals and groups who are working for justice for asylum seekers; promote advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers; engage in education about asylum seekers issues.

The Project works with, and for, asylum seekers both in detention and in the community. Concerned and compassionate women and men across cultures and generations contribute to the work of the Project.

Anyone interested in helping, either with a one-off or a monthly donation given in provided envelopes, and placed in the church collection basket. Contact Ellen Smiddy 9435 5145

**REPAIR CAFÉ** Notices are available on the bench at the front door of the Gathering Space of the Church at St Mary's about the Repair Café.

The nearest Repair Café is at 14 Church St Greensborough (All Saints Anglican Church in Greensborough) You may get something repaired OR register to volunteer as a repairer. Repairs to – garden tools, bikes, mowers, furniture, toys, sewing/mending of clothing, problems with setting up mobile phones etc. Have a look on their website or Facebook page for further details.



[Greensborough Repair Cafe - Home](#) | [Facebook](#) [Greensborough Repair Café VIC](#) | [Repaircafe](#). TOSS IT? NO WAY

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Help is needed for us to recommence Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10.00 Mass. Education & support will be provided. Working with Children accreditation is a prerequisite to be one of the team. We work in 2s each session. At the moment we only have support for twice a month. If you are interested please contact Geraldine Conroy 0438 148 896.

### FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We are hoping to recommence Monthly gatherings & in the warm weather months, bus trips. Wednesday June 29. Lunch at Greensborough RSL. 12.00. Pls call Angela on 9446298 or Geraldine 9435 4306/ 0438 148 896.



### LADIES AUXILIARY

Sale of hand knitted baby and toddler wear after masses on Weekend 2/3 July. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament :-First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

ST MARY'S FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM :is urgently seeking new members capable of preparing and/or running the audio-visual presentations at funerals. Please contact the parish office for more information on 9435 1543 or email [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) Thank you

St Mary's Prayer Shawl Group: Meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enq: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

DONATION OF USED HEARING AIDS AND GLASSES: Box available in the Gathering Space.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Special Prayers are asked for Bridget and Glenn's baby during the pregnancy.

June Baptisms: Annabelle Pinto

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

Peter Mejak, Michael Mc Aleer, Helen Sinnott, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas

Recently Deceased:

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

Bert Sadlier, Laurie Newmann, Eileen Gallagher, Genevieve O'Reilly, Daryl Turner, William Hickey, Agnes Hickey, Michael Rodgers, Maria Gangemi, Dionisia Sarmiento, Noreen Conroy, John Ryan, Maria Krupko, Keith Dober, May & Tom Scott, Neil Mullavey, Winnie Huxtable, Joe Dynes, Jeanne Perombelon, Frederick J. Joyce, Anna Stupnicki, Edith Leslie, John Crutchett, Percival Simmons, Crisanta Silimin, Margaret Pearce, Rose De Highden, Michelle Bourdet, Catherine Morrissey, Glenys Williamson, Naomi McMahon, Elsie Atchison, Lillian Leahy, Adrian Wright, Wes Henderson, Genevieve O'Reilly, William Williams, Bertrand Sadlier, Clarence Duffy, Bert Brown, Fred Edwards, Ellen Beers, Lila Trembath, Antonio Siragusa, Agnes Hickey, William Hickey, Richard, Sherill Mills, Molly Hall, Francesca Cataldo, Bridget O'Brien, Jacqui Harkin, Alphonso Bernadini, Arthur & Elsie Fillingham, Bob Morrison, Joan Maxarenhas, Jimmy Keely, Carmel Dynes, Jane O'Callaghan, Ernesto Valencia, Nicola Mastroianni, Stefan Gorski, Wally Guzowski, Michael O'Hara, Anne Parker, Dulcie Bentley, Edward Nugent, Rose Kairuz, Jack Hyland, Olav Schappacher, Jayamary Doraisamy, Olive Miles, Gregory Chang, Jane Leslie, Katherine Todd, Perc Quinton, James Cooper, Ilia Galati; Ambrose, Benedict, William McCarthy, Margret Noel, Ashleigh Robinson, John Dole, David Williams, Brian Philp



## LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE.

As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem (and the cross that awaited him there), he warned his followers about the hardships of walking in his footsteps. A commitment to accompany Jesus on his journey meant rejection, insecurity and danger.

### Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

26 June 2022

#### First Reading 1 Kgs 19:16. 19-21

*Elisha rose and followed Elijah and became his servant.*

The Lord said to Elijah: 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.'

Leaving there, Elijah came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose, and followed Elijah and became his servant.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. cf. v.5**

**(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize. (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

#### Second Reading Gal 1:13-18

*My brothers, you were called to freedom.*

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single

command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community.

Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you.

#### Gospel Acclamation 1 Sm 3:9; Jn 6:68

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening;  
you have the words of everlasting life.**

**Alleluia!**

#### Gospel Lk 9:51-62

*Jesus resolutely set his face towards Jerusalem. I will follow you wherever you will go.*

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good-bye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'



#### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jews and Samaritans were of a different ethnic mix and were religious adversaries – a volatile mix. It was not surprising that Samaritans refused Jesus entry to their villages 'because he was making for Jerusalem', the Jewish centre of worship.

What is surprising is that after several years with Jesus, James and John had not absorbed his teaching and practice of non-violence in dealing with enemies. They wanted to annihilate those they considered to be heretics. We are told that Jesus immediately 'turned and rebuked them'.

How many times must the Risen Lord have 'turned and rebuked' Christians for their murderous dealing with religious adversaries over the centuries? How often, in our own time, is He rebuking those seeking to wipe out those of 'heretical' views, either outside or within their own religious tradition? How must He be weeping at the genocidal carnage being wreaked on his own disciples, and those of other faiths, in the religious terror of the Middle East?

We might pause for a moment to seek forgiveness for the times we have wished a personal or larger-scale enemy to be done away with – lest the rebuke of the Prince of Peace ring in our self-righteous ears.

mtate@bigpond.com

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