



**Sunday 3rd April 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:** By Appointment only please call the Parish Office

**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)

**Combined Parishes Communal Penitential Service**

**St Thomas Parish Wednesday 6th April, 7.30pm-9.30pm**



*All I want to know is Christ and the Resurrection  
Let us pray to experience the complete acceptance and  
forgiveness of Jesus in our lives this day  
Fifth Sunday in Lent Year C, 3 April 2022.*

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection--all-i-want-to-know-is-christ-and-the-resurrection>

**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

### PRAYING FOR PEACE & HOPE

*The Parish of St Thomas invites you to join us to pray for peace at a prayer service to be held at St Thomas on Monday 4th April at 7.00pm-7.30pm (Church will be open at 6.30pm— and stay open until 9.30pm for private prayer)*

*Come united with an open heart seeking peace for our world.*

*All welcome*



### LENT/HOLY WEEK

#### INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

**Sacred Heart:** Wednesday 13th April, 7.30pm-8.30pm

**St Mary's:** Friday 1st April, 7.00pm-8.15pm

**St Thomas:** Monday 11th April, 8.00pm-9.00pm



#### COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Wednesday 6th April, 7.30pm (Venue St Thomas Parish, with supper following)

#### PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY—9th/10th APRIL ( Please bring own foliage)

**Sacred Heart:** Sunday 10th April, 9.00am

**St Mary's:** Saturday 9th April, 6.30pm Sunday 10th April, 8.00am, 10.00am, 5.00pm

**St Thomas:** Saturday 9th April, 6.00pm Sunday 10th April 10.30am

#### HOLY THURSDAY-14th APRIL : **No morning Mass**

**St Mary's:** Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

**St Thomas:** Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm

Prayer before the Altar of Repose after Mass concluding with Night Prayer at 9.30pm

#### GOOD FRIDAY-15th APRIL : **No Morning Mass**

**Stations of the Cross:** St Mary's 11.00am

**Sacred Heart, St Mary's and St Thomas:** 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### HOLY SATURDAY-16th APRIL: **No Morning Mass /No Individual Reconciliation**

**St Mary's:** 10.00am Morning Prayer

#### EASTER VIGIL-16TH APRIL

**Sacred Heart:** 7.30pm Service will start outside

**St Mary's:** 6.30pm Service of Light Outside

#### EASTER SUNDAY-17th APRIL

**Sacred Heart:** 9.00am

**St Mary's:** 8.00am, 10.00am **No 5.00pm Mass**

**St Thomas:** 10.30am



## **PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS CONTINUED**

### **LENTEN THEME 2022 - COURAGE TO HOPE**

Lent is the liturgical season for prayer, reflection and contrition for any wrongdoing we have made in our lives as we prepare for the joyous season of Easter. The theme for this year is particularly timely as the world has suffered greatly over the past two years through the pandemic, and the temptation to lose hope and fall into despair may be strong. With political turmoil at home and abroad, a climate that needs nurturing and our communities that have suffered fear, uncertainty, restrictions and profound loss and grief, we need the courage to hope more than ever and we look to our God to sustain us.

This is the time to find our courage, to turn in hope to our loving God. It is through challenges and hard times that we find the strength within and draw on our faith to persevere and look with confidence to the future. Without courage we dare not hope. Without faith and hope, life is empty. During this Lenten time of reflection and prayer, let us remember that our God is always present, to hold us, to love us, to lead us forward to the Kingdom.

“May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” **Romans 15: 13**

### **WEEK 5 GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Today is the fifth weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today the Pharisees and scribes try to put Jesus to the test, to condemn a woman caught in sin according to the Law. Jesus does not judge or condemn. He offers forgiveness and the invitation to a different way of life: “I am the way, and the truth and the life” (John 14: 6). When we do the wrong thing, as we all do as we are not perfect, let us have the courage to face our frailties and to hope in forgiveness from God, to recognise the divine and everlasting love being offered. Help us to recognise also the importance of forgiving ourselves and others and renewing our faith journey.

***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10***

### **JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND HOPE**

We have been through so much in the last couple of years as a community, as the world and personally.

Our faith tells us that transformation, beauty and newness come out of darkness, which, if we believe it, tells us that even in the darkest time God’s Spirit is active.

This is an invitation to a journey of discovery and hope, where we find that little things mean a lot and that the smallest actions have the power to change us.

Come and join us as we have the opportunity to share and listen. These gatherings will take the form of guided spiritual conversations and will take place for the next five weeks, as we approach Holy Week. Your facilitators are Terry Fanning and Jacinta Bright.

Dates: 5th & 12th April, from 1.00pm until 2.30 pm in St Mary’s Parish House.

Please contact Jacinta at the St Mary’s Parish office on 9435 1543 or via her email [Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au) to book in.

### **MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER PRESENTATION**

As we prepare for Holy week, the St Mary’s Scripture Study group invites you to celebrate “The Messiah in the Passover.”

This presentation explores how “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14) at Passover, and deepens our understanding of Jesus’ life and ministry. It will help us gain a deeper appreciation for the intimate connection between the Old and New Testaments, the Torah and the Gospel, thus shedding a new light on the believer’s rich inheritance found in the Jewish roots of our faith.

Your table will be set up with traditional items used. You will then partake in the banquet with symbolic foods served and explained to understand the Passover meal Jesus and his disciples shared.

Proposed Date: Saturday 9th April, 11.00am- 1.00pm. Venue: Gathering Space, St. Marys’ Church, Greensborough. Cost: \$20 per person Or \$35 per couple payable on registration Contact Jo Giudice on 0411 045572 or Michelle D’Souza on 0432 316777 to register or for further information. Please register before 4th April.

### **PROJECT COMPASSION 2022 Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Shaniella 23, grew up in a remote village in the Solomon Islands in a province which has limited educational and job opportunities – and one of the country’s highest poverty rates. After leaving school, she decided to move closer to the capital city, Honiara, to study hospitality and tourism. However, her vocational training school was hit by a landslide and cyclone in quick succession, destroying its water supply system and the vegetable garden that it relies on for food.

With your generous support, Caritas Australia has helped the school to install water tanks, re-establish its garden and provided training in disaster risk reduction. Shaniella can now complete her job skills training and the school has enough food and water for its students.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities For All Future Generations.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.

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



**Baptisms:** we pray for Jobe, George, Darcy, Tyler and Darcy who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in April.

**First Eucharist:** This weekend we welcome Sacred Heart School children who are celebrating their First Eucharist at St Peter's and Sacred Heart: Ayendha, Scarlett, Patrick, Dominic, Daniel, Benjamin, Finn, Rose, Evelyn, Christian, Erica, Finn & Jacob.

**Individual Reconciliation:** Fr Martin will be available for Individual Reconciliation at Sacred Heart 7.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Working with Children Checks:** some parishioners WWC are about to expire. Please renew online, or contact the Parish Office for assistance.

**Sacred Heart Rosters:** we aim to restart our Rosters by the end of April. Please contact the Parish Office or let Pat know if you are available to join the Setting up, Counting or Church Cleaning Roster. Thank you.

**Funeral Ministry:** Please consider joining our Funeral Ministry Team Roster. Participants assist our Priests when meeting with families to organize funerals. They also help to set up the church, support and welcome the family on the day of the Funeral. Talk to Frank Ledda or contact the Office for more information.

**Lunch invitation:** Our Parish Seniors Group extends a warm invitation to join us for lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at Midday. Contact Margaret Jose 9438 1540  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 12pm Lunch and games in the Parish Centre.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email address: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**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, John Downey

**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.

### **Roster for Weekend 10th April**

**Sunday Sacred Heart**      **9.00am:**      **Reader:** B. Greaves      **Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Belli, R. Padgett

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**First Eucharist:** this weekend we welcome the children who will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Parental Supervision:** 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.

**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 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, Alesandro 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

### **Rosters for Weekend 9th & 10th April**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm:**

**Reader:** K. Salm      **Commentator:** T. Holland      **Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Holland, C. Leahy, S. Bishop

**Set Up:** M. McKenzie

#### **Sunday 10.30am:**

**Reader:** R. Rendina      **Commentator:** F. Landy      **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. O'Brien, F. Landy, M. Tipping

**Set Up:** C. O'Brien      **Counters** No Counters Required

### **CLEANER REQUIRED**

Fr. Tao & Fr Martin are looking for a reliable house cleaner for St. Thomas Parish House. If you know of anyone who may be interested and would be suitable for the role, could you please ask them if they would be available. (Contract cleaner)

St Thomas requires a cleaner weekly for approximately 3-4 hours. Duties include vacuuming, dusting, mopping, cleaning of bathrooms, & kitchen, washing linen, possibly ironing.

A current Working with Children Check and also a Police check will be required.

For further information please contact the St. Thomas Parish Office on 9434 7373.



## 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.

**A LENTEN COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE** for the communities of St Mary's, St Thomas, Sacred Heart and St Peter's will be held at **St Thomas' Church**, 251 Diamond Creek Rd. Greensborough, on **Wednesday 6 April at 7.30pm** followed by supper.

**PALM SUNDAY 9/10 April** This year we can once again commence our Palm Sunday Masses outside (weather permitting) with the blessing of branches and procession into the church. **Please bring your own branches to this service.**

**MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK A blessing service** will be held **on Holy Thursday 14 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.

**HOLY THURSDAY MASS 14 April 7.30pm** This year we can include the **Washing of the Feet** at Mass on Holy Thursday evening. If you would like to be involved in commemorating this act of service, please contact Marian at [mariantacey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mariantacey@optusnet.com.au). A mask should be worn as you will be in close proximity to the Celebrant.

**GOOD FRIDAY – Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm on 15 April.**

**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 so that the Ministers are aware of your presence. Similarly, after the Celebrant has venerated the cross, he will bring the cross to you.

**FACE MASKS** Whilst not mandatory, the Chief Health Officer currently recommends masks to be worn indoors, and the Archdiocese reminds parishes that this is especially applicable to larger gatherings.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** For many years a group of volunteers have catered after funerals at St Mary's. We would like to re-organise this group. If you would like to help and need details please contact Judy Newell 9435 4506.

**MOBILITY SCOOTER AND FRAME WALKER** If anyone is interested in a mobility scooter (may require some maintenance) and a frame walker please contact the Parish Office on 9435 1543.

**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 .

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will take place on Fridays in St. Mary's Church at 7.00pm.

**HELP WITH TRANSPORT TO MASS:** A parishioner who is unable to get to Mass would greatly appreciate if anyone would be available to take them to 10.00am Mass on Sundays. If you are able to help could you please contact the Parish Office 94351543.

**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 9435 1543 or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au)

### CLEANER REQUIRED FOR ST MARY'S PARISH HOUSE.

Fr. Steve is looking for a reliable house cleaner for St. Mary's Parish House. If you know of anyone who may be interested and would be suitable for the role, could you please ask them if they would be available.

St Mary's requires a cleaner fortnightly for approximately 2-3 hours. Duties include vacuuming, dusting, mopping, cleaning of bathrooms, washing sheets and towels, possibly ironing.

A current Working with Children Check and also a Police check will be required.

For further information please contact the St. Mary's Parish Office on 9435 1543.

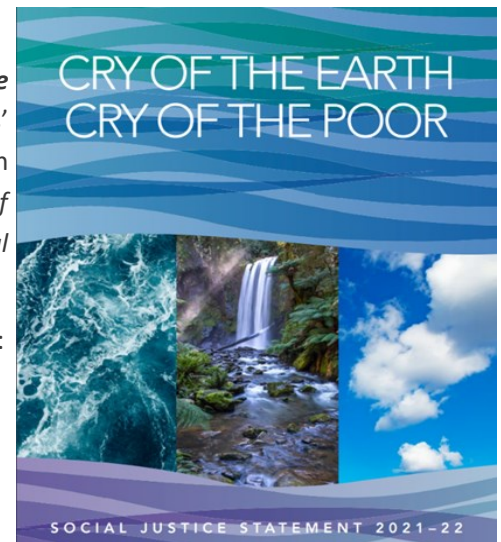
## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

### A REMINDER FROM ST MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

In the **Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor***, the Bishops invite the Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. These Goals are: *response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action.*

The Statement especially encourages Catholic families, communities and organisations to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered in *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*; and plan their next steps towards the Laudato Si' Goals.

See <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/09/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/> for more information



### PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

**April Baptisms:** Afeefa Mohammed, Alex Magaton, Alexa Amore,

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

Peter Mejak, Pat Garrard, Michael Mc Aleer, Helen Sinnott,

**Recently Deceased:** Felicija Banovac

**We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:** 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 Sivities, 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 Baillie, Len Hill, Walter Beard, Matthew Joyce, Joseph Debono, Francisco Gile, Beverley Malcolm, Patrick Fewster, Peter Fregon, Marie Hamilton, Michael Hodges, Karl Edwards, Lyndon Robinson, Bridget Ann Rigg, Bill Dunn, Mary Desmond, Maruccia Teresa, Bill Bleazby, Kevin Grace, John McNamara, Patricia Aileen Dillon, Pilar Rocha, Pearl Dragwidge, Ellen Shea

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA– UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL:** The people of Ukraine are living through a crisis that will impact the country for years to come. Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to support Caritas Ukraine and other partners in the region. The appeal will support the provision of clean water, hygiene and food kits to vulnerable families, as well as safe collection centres for families on the move, emergency accommodation and support for distressed children and families. <https://www.childfund.org.au/help-children-in-ukraine/> or contact 1800 024 413.

**AID TO CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** The invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis unlike anything seen in Europe since World War 2. According to the UN Refugee agency, in just over a week more than 1.5 million refugees have already fled their homes in Ukraine to neighbouring countries. There are envelopes in the gathering space if you wish to contribute. You can also give online at: [www.apf.org.au/ukrainecrisis](http://www.apf.org.au/ukrainecrisis)

**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH:** Are performing "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer. A meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer on Palm Sunday 10th April at 2.30pm. Soloists will be tenor, dr Leighton H.G. Triplow and Bass James Emerson. Chorus is the All Saints Church Choir. Free admittance. Corner Grimshaw Street and Church Street.

**ALPHA COURSE AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH:** Alpha is an exciting refresher Course in the Christian faith. The course will start on Thursday, 5th May, 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm, at St Francis Hall, 290 Childs Road Mill Park. Alpha runs for ten Thursdays. Explore questions of life and faith and make new friendships at Alpha! Enquiries – Contact Ruth: 9407 6700. Email: [Ruth.Lees@cam.org.au](mailto:Ruth.Lees@cam.org.au)

**'PONDERING GRIEF':** Saturday 30 April 2022, 10am-3.30pm. Facilitated by qualified Counsellor/ Supervisor/ Educator Linda Espie this reflection day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch). Book and pay via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101.



Scribes and Pharisees tried many ways to test Jesus, but he had the knack of outwitting them. In this story from John's gospel an unnamed woman is used as a scapegoat. Jesus defuses the violent situation by slowing down the pace, by using common sense and a little compassion. Instead of focusing on the woman, Jesus turns the situation around so that the scribes and Pharisees are forced to examine their own motives and inadequacies. As a consequence, stones are no longer righteous weapons for them. When the crowd has gone Jesus talks directly to the woman and for the first time she is a person, rather than a thing. She still has no name, but now at least she has a voice.

## Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C

3 April 2022

### First Reading Is 43:16-21

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done  
before.  
See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not  
see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the  
wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.  
The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the  
wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 125. R. v.3**

*(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.*

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
 marvels  
the Lord worked for them!  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back,  
full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

### Second Reading Phil 3:8-14

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in  
order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will  
outweigh the supreme advantage of  
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have  
accepted the loss of everything, and I look  
on everything as so much rubbish if only I  
can have Christ and be given a place in him.

I am no longer trying for perfection by my  
own efforts, the perfection that comes from  
the Law, but I want only the perfection that  
comes through faith in Christ, and is from  
God and based on faith. All I want is to know  
Christ and the power of his resurrection and  
to share his sufferings by reproducing the  
pattern of his death. That is the way I can  
hope to take my place in the resurrection  
of the dead. Not that I have become perfect  
yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running,  
trying to capture the prize for which Christ  
Jesus captured me. I can assure you my  
brothers, I am far from thinking that I have  
already won. All I can say is that I forget the  
past and I strain ahead for what is still to  
come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize  
to which God calls us upwards to receive in  
Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Acclamation JI 2:12-13

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

*With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

### Gospel Jn 8:1-11

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At  
daybreak he appeared in the Temple again;  
and as all the people came to him, he sat  
down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman  
along who had been caught committing  
adultery; and making her stand there in  
full view of everybody, they said to Jesus,  
'Master, this woman was caught in the very  
act of committing adultery, and Moses has  
ordered us in the Law to condemn women  
like this to death by stoning. What have  
you to say?' They asked him this as a test,  
looking for something to use against him.  
But Jesus bent down and started writing on  
the ground with his finger. As they persisted  
with their question, he looked up and said,  
'If there is one of you who has not sinned,  
let him be the first to throw a stone at her.'  
Then he bent down and wrote on the ground  
again. When they heard this they went away  
one by one, beginning with the eldest, until  
Jesus was left alone with the woman, who  
remained standing there. He looked up and  
said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one  
condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied.  
'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go  
away, and don't sin any more.'



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The accusers of this woman make  
her 'stand there in full view of  
everybody.' She is surrounded by  
the hostile glare of eyes filled with  
blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have  
left in embarrassment that Jesus,  
who has been bent to the ground,  
looks up at her. He adopts the  
posture of a slave, seeing her as  
she could be if she gives up her  
current pattern of behaviour.

Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to  
this woman. Now Jesus treats her  
as a human being worth speaking  
to. And what does she hear? That  
he does not condemn her but  
points her to a new sort of life in  
the future.

We could pause for a moment to  
allow Jesus the time to look at us,  
talk to us, in that way. Do you have  
the courage to 'lock eyes' with  
Jesus and live out the  
consequences?

'The eyes have it.'

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