

**Sunday 12th 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://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](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)

Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**



Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

12th November 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/scripture-32-sunday-year-a>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

St Mary's Facebook page

[facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/](https://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.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 16th November at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass. Supper provided. All welcome. Further details, please contact Emilia 0418 120 902 or Rose 0411 650 339.

**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](mailto: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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023 Time: Sunday evenings 7pm – 8.30pm

Facilitators: Marie and Peter Davine RSVP: Marie Davine by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Email: [mariemcm1991@gmail.com](mailto: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.***

***To apply for a WWCC go to:***

<https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

Alternatively you can complete the Safeguarding 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.

**ANNUAL ANOINTING MASS:** Sacred Heart Church at 9.15am on Friday 1st December. Morning tea will follow Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you know someone needing transport.

**BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS CRIBS:** In 1223, St Francis of Assisi wanted to do something special to celebrate the birth of the Holy Child Jesus. So, St Francis asked the villagers to prepare a re-enactment of the Nativity at Bethlehem.

A cave with live animals and a hay-filled manger was prepared and the villagers came dressed ready to participate in the story. During the Christmas Midnight Mass, many believed they saw the infant radiant as St Francis embraced the child in his arms.

This beautiful tradition of the Christmas crib has continued in churches all around the world for the past 800 years.

To commemorate this amazing event, we are asking families to bring their Christmas crib from home and /or for the children to colour a Nativity scene (samples available at the churches and in the schools in the weeks prior to the 3rd December) to any of the Masses on the 2nd and 3rd December for the first Sunday of Advent. The family cribs and art work will be blessed along with the large Parish

Crib. The children's art work will then remain on display for the Christmas season.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:alisonpieper52@gmail.com)

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

Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 14<sup>th</sup> November:** B. & P. O'Regan

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** J. Robinson

**Commentator:** Amindha

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Dharshanie

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** Baptism family

**Commentator:** A. Pieper

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Keenan, R. Padget

***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](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

### **ST MARY'S ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS WILL BE HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** All tickets for the car raffle have now been sold, thank you to everyone for your support. The community fair will be on 25th November, as we have a number of stalls we would appreciate a few volunteers to assist us on that day . 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 .

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

#### **November 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:***

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

*Be informed, inspired and entertained*

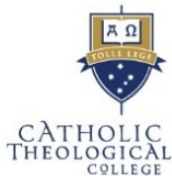


### Books of the Week

This week the Library display features a selection of books from our **Christian fiction** collection.

From the earliest biblical narratives to the present, stories have been vehicles for matters of faith. Not only are stories a method for conveying truth, but they are also central to the Christian faith as an imaginative art form, a means of sharing testimony, and for their ability to make abstract and often complex issues accessible.

Online access to the catalogue is available at: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



### 2023 Knox Public Lecture

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

Live videostream via Zoom

*“Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins”*

Presented by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ

To book scan the QR code or go to [trybooking.com/CMYVM](http://trybooking.com/CMYVM)

Enquiries: (: +613 9412 3333 8: [vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au](mailto:vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au) ü: [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au)

## 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](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw)



## 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.*

**BRIAN CARR:** The funeral for Brian Carr will be on Wednesday 15th November at 10.30am at St Thomas.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 16th November at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass. Supper provided. All welcome. Further details, please contact Emilia 0418 120 902 or Rose 0411 650 339..

**BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS CRIBS:** In 1223, St Francis of Assisi wanted to do something special to celebrate the birth of the Holy Child Jesus. So, St Francis asked the villagers to prepare a re-enactment of the Nativity at Bethlehem.

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This beautiful tradition of the Christmas crib has continued in churches all around the world for the past 800 years.

To commemorate this amazing event, we are asking families to bring their Christmas crib from home and /or for the children to colour a Nativity scene (samples available at the churches and in the schools in the weeks prior to the 3rd December) to any of the Masses on the 2nd and 3rd December for the first Sunday of Advent. The family cribs and art work will be blessed along with the large Parish Crib. The children's art work will then remain on display for the Christmas season.



### **Roster for Weekend 18th & 19th November**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** T. Holland      **Commentator:** J. Bohan      **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Leahy, J. Bohan, M. Bedford

**Set Up:** K. Salm

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** M. Bosco      **Commentator:** S. Millar      **Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Piccolo, B. Riordan

**Set Up:** M. Bates



All 6 sessions over 3 Thursday afternoons

2.00 to 3.15pm

23 & 30 Nov, 7 Dec.

St Thomas the Apostle Church

Enquiries: Emilia 0418 120 902

**St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:**

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

*Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager*

**We pray for those who have died recently including Brian Carr 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*

## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

The Allegory of the ten bridesmaids reminds us to be alert to the coming of the Kingdom. We are entreated to keep our eyes open, our hearts aflame with hopeful expectation, and our minds focused on the right priorities in life: 'stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

12 November 2023

#### First Reading Wis 6:12-16

*Wisdom is found by those who look for it.*

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.  
By those who love her she is readily seen,  
and found by those who look for her.  
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,  
she makes herself known to them.  
Watch for her early and you will have no  
trouble;  
you will find her sitting at your gates.  
Even to think about her is understanding  
fully grown;  
be on the alert for her and anxiety will  
quickly leave you.  
She herself walks about looking for those  
who are worthy of her  
and graciously shows herself to them as  
they go,  
in every thought of theirs coming to meet  
them.

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

*(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,  
O Lord my God.*

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

#### Second Reading 1 Thes 4:13-18

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,  
about those who have died, to make sure  
that you do not grieve about them, like the  
other people who have no hope. We believe  
that Jesus died and rose again, and that it  
will be the same for those who have died in  
Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can  
tell you this from the Lord's own teaching,

that any of us who are left alive until the  
Lord's coming will not have any advantage  
over those who have died. At the trumpet  
of God, the voice of the archangel will call  
out the command and the Lord himself will  
come down from heaven; those who have  
died in Christ will be the first to rise, and  
then those of us who are still alive will be  
taken up in the clouds, together with them,  
to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay  
with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts  
as these you should comfort one another.

#### Gospel Acclamation Mt 24:42. 44

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Be watchful and ready:*

*you know not when the Son of Man  
is coming.*

*Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Mt 25:1-13

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The  
kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten  
bridesmaids took their lamps and went to  
meet the bridegroom. Five of them were  
foolish and five of them were sensible: the  
foolish ones did take their lamps, but they  
brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones  
took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.  
The bridegroom was late, and they all grew  
drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight  
there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here!  
Go out and meet him." At this, all those  
bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their  
lamps, and the foolish ones said to the  
sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil:  
our lamps are going out." But they replied,  
"There may not be enough for us and for  
you; you had better go to those who sell  
it and buy some for yourselves." They had  
gone off to buy it when the bridegroom  
arrived. Those who were ready went in with  
him to the wedding hall and the door was  
closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later.  
"Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for  
us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do  
not know you." So stay awake, because you  
do not know either the day or the hour.'



#### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The early Christians thought that all  
their questions about death had  
been answered with the resurrection  
of Jesus. Therefore, when loyal  
Christians began to die, not only did  
their old questions come back, but  
also they were plagued with new and  
difficult ones. Was it possible that  
those loyal Christians had not been  
loyal after all? Or worse, were the  
promises made by Jesus empty  
promises? No! Paul assures us. It is  
all true. Christ has died; Christ is  
risen; Christ will come again, and all  
the faithful will be joined with him.  
*How* it will happen, we do not know.  
*When* it will happen, we do not know.  
*That* it will happen, we are sure.

The wisdom that we have culled  
from life becomes the treasury from  
which we draw the prudence and  
insight needed to negotiate life's  
paradoxes. It throws light on our  
strengths and on our weaknesses; it  
enables us to discern what is  
important and what is not; it directs  
us to bring extra oil in our lamps. Life  
and the wisdom that we have  
acquired through it, have taught us  
that we can indeed trust the  
promises of God. They have been  
fulfilled in the past, and wisdom  
assures us that they will be fulfilled  
in the future. It is wisdom that  
cautions us to be vigilant, to be  
ready to adjust our plans. It is  
wisdom that prepares us for the  
night watches of life. It is wisdom  
that instructs us to be ready at all  
times.

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