



Sunday 14th April 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** 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: 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 Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **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

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **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: Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of Resurrection.

Third Sunday of Easter Year B, 14 April 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflections-3-easter-year-b>



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

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 2024 Next Sunday we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.

LAMP: LAMP Group invite you to attend **An evening with Sr Kerrin Caldwell SGS**, who will speak on the topic – “Ageing and Awakening God’s surprising Gifts”.

It will be held on Wednesday, 15th May at 7:30 pm in St Mary’s Gathering Space.

There will be a light supper afterwards. If you wish to attend, please ring or text Mary on 0412 813 512 before May 10th.

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: A Charismatic Mass including the Sacrament of Anointing will be celebrated on Thursday 18th April at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence with praise and worship at 7.30pm, followed by Mass at 8pm. Supper provided. All welcome. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION: at St John’s Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19th – 28th April at 12 noon until 4pm.

TOGETHER 2024 is inviting local artists to display their work in the welcoming space of St John’s.

All mediums welcome. Art has the power to transcend words, fostering connections that go beyond the ordinary.

TOGETHER aims to be a space where community members connect, resonate, and find common ground through the language of art.

Free Entry. www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together

AUDIO DIVINA: Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call “sacred listening.” It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL

Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people - including 14 million children - now need humanitarian assistance and support, according to the [United Nations](#) 9 million have been displaced from their homes making Sudan the largest displacement crisis in the world!

Damage to infrastructure has impacted access to food, water, healthcare services, and even banking. Sudan now teeters on the edge of a famine.

Since the outbreak of violence Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food at 17 gathering points for internally displaced people, as well as delivering multipurpose cash assistance, water and hygiene services, and gender-based violence protection. Partners also have access to remote border towns in Chad and South Sudan, enabling them to support those displaced overseas.

As late as the end of last year, one partner reported seeing 4,200 refugees arrive there each day, around 90% of them women and girls.

The Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference has raised concerns “the international community has forgotten the Sudan crisis” and called on the Caritas network across the world to “engage their respective governments, donors, and the wider international community to urgently pick up and advocate for the needed resources to avert the looming famine.”

Caritas Australia take solace in the breadth of our partner network in the region. Their tireless work ensures the generosity of our supporters here in Australia reaches people in need.

Please donate to Caritas Australia’s Sudan Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/sudan or phone 1800 024 413.



Caritas AUSTRALIA 60 YEARS 1964-2024

SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL

25 million people including 14 million children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/sudan
1800 024 413

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: we pray for Dahlia, Fiadh, Kaia, Lianah and Lenny and who will be welcomed into our community in April.

ST PETER'S WORKING BEE: Saturday 20 April @ 9 am. Tasks we hope to attend include: cleaning windows, dusting, removing cobwebs- inside & out, sweeping and mopping concrete verandah mulching garden beds at entrance, and planting new plants (donated). Scones for morning tea provided by Jo and Maree.

THANKSGIVING CREDIT CARD DONORS: The Archdiocese recently advised the parish that we have a large number of consistently declined credit card transactions. The affected cards are mostly due to banks blocking cards because of unusual transaction activity. Please contact the Parish Office if you have a new card number, or if you would like to discuss details.

DIAMOND CREEK CARE COMMUNITY: Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the Communion Roster for DCCC, Broad Gully Road Diamond Creek. We visit at 10.30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Thank you

WOMEN'S DINNER: WOMEN'S DINNER Friday 3rd May @7pm Sacred Heart Parish

Thank you to those who have already booked and paid and for the generous donations for the raffle. Booking for the dinner close Wednesday April 24th. Please confirm booking by www.trybooking.com/CQICQ or correct payment at Parish Centre.

BYO Drinks and glasses Donations for raffle can be left at Parish Centre also.

All enquiries Patricia 0418992488 Tonina 0419154524

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: during 9am mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of school terms for children from preschool to grade 3. Volunteer leaders are welcome. Working with children card and safeguarding training is mandatory. Training provided. For information call Jasna Bruce 0403827350.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting Thursday 11th April. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 17th April 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 1st May 12pm Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

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

BECOMING CATHOLIC: Are you an adult interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wanting to become a member of the Catholic Church? In our Parish the RCIA process happens within a small group, with reflection on the messages of sacred Scripture, and the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish office for more details.

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 16th April M. Dunn, A. Ridsdale, L. Armiento

Sunday 21st April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: L. Armiento **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Leonard, R. Belli

St Peter's Saturday 4th May 7.15pm

Reader: B. Flynn **Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen

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

Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

Recently deceased: Frank Walsh (Funeral at Sacred Heart 11am Friday 12th April), Betty Luttick

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of April that they may enter

joyfully into God's Kingdom: *Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy, Alan Ridsdale, Jane Coyle, Elaine Chapman.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

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

ST MARY'S GARDENING GROUP: The church gardens are looking great thanks to the enthusiastic parishioners who are weeding, trimming, watering when they can. If you would like to join the group you would be most welcome.

Ring Barbara Papworth 0409 145115.

We would also like to acknowledge the marvellous work of past parishioners who established and created the gardens and are now in God's loving arms or unable to continue because of health problems.

Many thanks because a garden can be enjoyed by all.

All volunteers need a current Working with children check and to have completed the CAM Safeguarding training.

PROFESSOR SISTER MARY COLOE, an accomplished Scripture scholar and Presentation sister, will be delivering the homily at the 5 pm Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday May 5th. All are invited.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS: It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Plant Sale in gathering space after Masses week/end 20th/21st April. Enquiries. Phil/Judy Newell 9435 4506. Next meeting at 10.15am Wednesday 17th April in the gathering space. Enquiries, Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990.

MASS OF ANOINTING: A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. A number of our Sacristans are currently unavailable, and others are often attending two Masses each week to provide this service for our priests and our parish. If you can help, please contact Marian mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

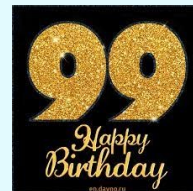
MUSICIANS AND SINGERS: Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email mamitchem@gmail.com for further information.

HOLY ROSARY is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

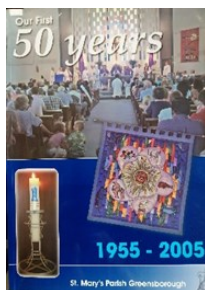
Len Bainbridge's Birthday

"Len Bainbridge turns 99 on April 13th. Len and his family have been pioneering parishioners, having moved into the parish in 1959. It is here that he and Noani raised 12 children. For over 20 years he has been responsible for organising the counting teams and liaised with the Finance committee and the Parish office. He is also one of the founding members of the Library committee. We are indebted for his valuable contribution to the life and vitality of our parish community and congratulate him on his anniversary of birth and pray that God continues to bless him with good health and peace in the coming years."

There will be a morning tea after the 9.15am Liturgy of the Word on Friday the 12th of April.



Be informed, inspired and entertained



Book of the week

Our First 50 Years 1955-2005 St Mary's Parish Greensborough, compiled by St Mary's History Group to celebrate the 50th Anniversary in 2005.

Also available are:

- [Sacred Heart Parish Diamond Creek 100 years 1914-2014](#)
- [Along the Way ... Our Lady of the Way Parish Kingsbury Australia Celebrating 50 Years 1962-2012](#)
- cloud.collectorz.com/247780



St Mary's Parish Library

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr

Recently Deceased:

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

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, John Hardy, Jimmy Hardy, Michael Lawson, Irene Ollington, Teresa Galati, Maud Valadon, Mary Herrin, Margaret Esler, Bill Mooney, Thomas Repo, Phillip Maher, Annina Berardone, Iris Farr, Frances Dowling, William Robins, Myrtle Faulkner, Mary Duffy, John Dowling, Maud Valadon, Joseph Daniel Carri, Nora Bagon-Malaca, Alfredo Libertino, Kevin Brown, Grace Sequeira, Gerald Cullis, Antonietta Caruana, Ann Quirk, Pauline Vanderwall (Keegel), Frank Wilson, Margaret McCarthy, Orlando Rodrigues, Mark Daffey, Aimi Samfat, Lionel Hill, Nora Barker, Jan Bielasz, Mavis Trevanion, Lil Cass, Patrick Lim, Nisha Pinge

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

HEART OF LIFE: Meditation and Mindfulness

Join Rowland Ashby, author of *A Faith to Live By: Conversations about faith with twenty-five of the world's leading spiritual teachers* (Anglican Media/Mosaic Press 2012) and former Director of Anglican Media Melbourne and editor of *The Melbourne Anglican* as he leads this special meditation series at Heart of Life in Croydon this Autumn. This practice can be profoundly healing and life-giving. Starting on 8 April and running for 8 weeks, you can tap into a deep spring of love, joy, peace and compassion at the centre of our being. Jesus called it Living Water, with which we will never thirst. Cultivate a transforming, healing awareness of the Divine presence, and learn how to meditate.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meditation-mindfulness-in-the-christian-tradition/>

Walking the Land in Autumn

Meaning-making Awareness & Reflection

This reflective event on 20 April, offers a sacred space to reflect upon your life using a tree as a metaphor. Between 10 am – 2 pm, join our facilitator Nicole, a counsellor trained in Narrative Therapy to walk with you through this contemplative space.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meaning-making-awareness-reflection/>

Or email info@heartoflife.melbourne

Learn more about Heart of Life: www.heartoflife.melbourne

JAMES Discerning

ZOOM course

7 Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm

April 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4



The objective of the "James" course is to take a journey through the Letter of James, learning how to discern our own lives in the light of the Word of God.

It is not a comprehensive course on discernment, but rather an introduction, with some criteria in approaching the art of discerning.

Book before April 22 at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CQKNK>

Booking fee \$35, Concession \$25,

Overseas participant code: OVASEA



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: Please keep in your prayers Olivia, Jude and Harvey who are being baptised later this month.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC. StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

BECOMING CATHOLIC: Are you an adult interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wanting to become a member of the Catholic Church? In our Parish the RCIA process happens within a small group, with reflection on the messages of sacred Scripture, and the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish office for more details.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP: Come up join us for a coffee and chat on Thursday 25th April at 1.30pm at Phoenix, 285 Diamond Creek Rd Plenty. So I can book a table please email lilian.hobson@gmail.com or text 0402 823 679. Everyone welcome Lilian (on behalf of Marg).

Roster for Weekend 20th & 21st April

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: JK. Salm

Commentator: A. Fernando

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Bohan, M. McKenzie

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: B. Iacobucci

Commentator: T. Williamson

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Riordan, B. Riordan

Set Up: C. O'Brien

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.



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:

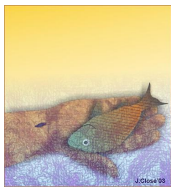
Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

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

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

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

The disciples are 'terrified' when they see Jesus after his resurrection; but Jesus puts them at their ease by sharing a meal. It is only then that the disciples are ready to listen and to open their minds to the wisdom that Jesus has to offer.



Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

14 April 2024

First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.'

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v. 7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

or:

(R.) Alleluia.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:35-48

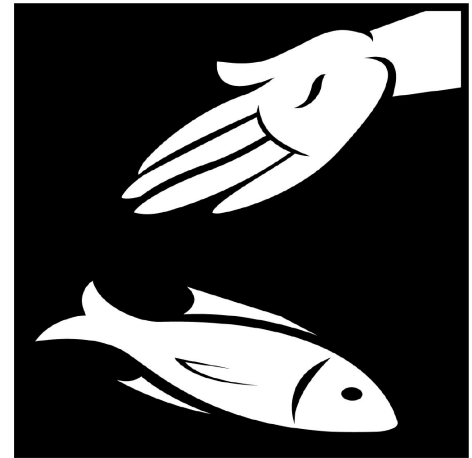
It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The first sentence of the gospel reading sets the context for the themes of today: 'Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.' Who is the Jesus that they recognised? And what does this recognition require?

Jesus is the servant of the God of the early ancestors, the long awaited messiah, and the innocent sufferer portrayed in the prophetic tradition. He is the fulfilment of our deepest aspirations. When we gather around the table for the sacramental meal, we encounter the Risen Lord. There the sacred traditions of our religious heritage are opened for us and we are enabled to recognise him in the traditions and in the breaking of the bread.

In order to encounter the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread and in the breaking open of the word, we need docile hearts ready to embrace the deepest meaning of our religious heritage. We need hearts that have been purified in the love of God; hearts that have been totally transformed. The commandment of love requires nothing less.

Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people described in the first reading, must live reformed lives. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people addressed in the second reading, must be obedient to God's commandment of love. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the disciples portrayed in the gospel, must preach the good news of God's forgiveness to all nations. Easter faith assures us that all of this is possible.