

Sunday 15th September 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 & Libby

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: Lisa & Libby

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

Parish School Principal

Mrs Trish Vanderkolk **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

On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: But you . . . who do you say I am? You are the Christ!

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B, 15th September 2024.

Next week: 25th Sunday in Ordinary time.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

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

Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council Report from 14 August, 2024

- Request to be made to school principals to publish the letter to parishioners of partnered parishes in their school newsletters and, every 2 months, a brief report on the actions of the PPPC. The letter informs parishioners about the role of the PPPC and the strengths of working in partnership. At the time of this report, all principals had agreed to the request.
- The schools will be invited to raise any matters for discussion with the PPPC to encourage working together and effective two-way communication.
- The report from the PPPC will also be published regularly in the parish newsletter.
- Service for Peace and Hope to be held at St Thomas at 7pm on 18 September. Our parish schools are involved in the preparation of this service as well as planning their own school services.
- Discussion on the importance of fostering a culture of continual growth and learning of the laity including the importance of formation and support
- Discussion regarding the proposed building of a kindergarten at St Thomas. No word yet from the Council regarding approval.
- Future Planning: Continuation of our work including assessing assets held by parishes and their valuations.
- Review of the functions of the PPPC in the light of a framework from the Archdiocese on parish renewal. Father Steven and parish representatives to attend a meeting regarding a Parish Resource Guide.
- Episcopal Visit to our partnered parishes and schools on 18 – 20 October. The archbishop will be visiting each parish, touring each school, meeting with parishioners, parish leaders, staff and young people, visiting some older people and saying Masses.

Next meeting Thursday 9th October.



Migrant Youth Festival

Celebrating the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

“God walks with His people”

29 September 2024 · Cathedral Hall, ACU Melbourne

9:00 am Registration, Keynote Address, A Conversation with Archbishop Peter, Group Activities, Lunch and Concert at Cathedral Hall, ACU

1:30 pm Pilgrim Walk from ACU to St Patrick’s Cathedral

2:00 pm Rosary Procession around the Cathedral

3:00 pm Migrant and Refugee Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and migrant chaplains of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Scan the QR code to register or visit trybooking.com/CSAYK

Registrations close **EXTENDED UNTIL 15 SEPTEMBER!**

Tickets \$30

The Migrant Youth Festival is supported by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Welcome friends, to the **Season of Creation** which starts each year on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. The Season of Creation is a time to “put right” our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and change of lifestyle. It is a global ecumenical celebration where we pray and act together as a Christian family for our common home.

The symbol for 2024 is **the firstfruits of hope** (Rom 8:19-25). Hope is given to us by God as a protection and guard against futility. Only through hope may we realise the gift of freedom in fullness. Freedom to act not only to achieve enjoyment and prosperity, but to reach the stage in which we are free and responsible. Freedom and responsibility enable us to make the world a better place. Only when we work together with creation can the firstfruits of hope emerge.

For more information please visit:

seasonofcreation.org

“To hope and act with creation means above all to join forces and to walk together with all men and women of good will.” Pope Francis, 1 September 2024

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH COMMUNION (SUNDAYS) & LITURGY OF THE WORD WITHOUT COMMUNION (WEEKDAYS)

With now only two priests across our three parishes there may be occasions when the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word will have to replace Mass. For Sundays and Saturday evenings there is normally a supply priest engaged to replace one or the other of us when either is on vacation. However, it may happen that a supply priest fails to turn up for a variety of reasons. On these occasions a trained member of the parish will lead a Liturgy of the Word with communion being distributed as part of the ceremony. On weekdays, when one or other of us is away on vacation, there will be the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word without communion being distributed.

Some have asked why there is no distribution of communion at weekday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, when at the end of the ceremony, some ministers of communion to the sick may well take hosts from the tabernacle to distribute communion to parishioners in their homes and Aged Accommodation places. We have also had people saying that if we did have Communion at these celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, they might come to these celebrations. I would like to outline some important theological and liturgical principles about the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word when a priest is not available to celebrate Mass.

A Communion service can never substitute for Mass. If there is no Mass that can be reasonably attended by the faithful, then there is no Mass obligation. In the absence of Mass, the community is invited by the Church to pray the Liturgy of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. This is led by a member of the parish trained to lead these celebrations, who will also possibly read a reflection on the readings to assist those who gather to contemplate them more deeply. It is possible that the leader of these celebrations may open it to others who are gathered, to share some personal faith reflections on the readings. It is important that if this is done, it is not to be used as an opportunity by any of those who gather for prayer to engage in theological debates, but as opportunities for faith sharing.

Although the Church does foresee a Liturgy of the Word with Communion (i.e., a Communion service) as a possibility on a Sunday, the Church asks that such liturgies be rarely permitted on weekdays. The Church sees Communion services during the week when there is no priest as an extraordinary exception rather than the norm. The 2003 Vatican Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, in considering the integral nature of Communion to the Celebration of the Eucharist (Mass), states: "It is necessary to avoid any sort of confusion between this type of gathering [i.e. a Sunday Celebration of the Word with Holy Communion] and the celebration of the Eucharist. The diocesan Bishops, therefore, should prudently discern whether Holy Communion ought to be distributed in these gatherings..."[165.]

Even on Sundays, the Code of Canon Law recommends a simple Liturgy of the Word rather than a Communion service: "If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place according to the prescripts of the diocesan bishop or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families". (canon 1248 §2)

We see here how important it is to protect our understanding of the centrality of the Celebration of the Eucharist. Imagine how easy it would be for people to encourage a distorted understanding of Eucharist if we are to introduce the reception of Communion outside of Mass as a norm. "Likewise, especially if Holy Communion is distributed during such celebrations [i.e. Sunday Celebrations of the Word], the diocesan Bishop, to whose exclusive competence this matter pertains, must not easily grant permission for such celebrations to be held on weekdays, especially in places where it was possible or would be possible to have the celebration of Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday. Priests are therefore earnestly requested to celebrate Mass daily for the people in one of the churches entrusted to their care." [166.]

To reinforce the centrality of Eucharist and the Sunday Celebration; the Lord's Day as the principle celebration for the community, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Guidelines stress the importance of only having Communion with Celebrations of Liturgy of the Word in the Absence of a Priest, on a Sunday and only when necessary. Sunday, or its vigil, is the day on which the community of faith gathers. Weekday Masses are the privilege we have because we still have enough priests. That has not always been the case, especially in generations past in Australia and it is certainly still the case in many countries. We don't have a right to the Eucharist. It is a gift. We come to the Eucharist in humility, to remember, to give thanks, to become the body of Christ and to be sent into the world with God's mission.

Finally, it is foreseen that at the end of the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, ministers of communion to the sick may take hosts from the tabernacle to distribute them to the sick and elderly who cannot participate in the liturgy in the church. The purpose of the tabernacle is primarily for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for devotion and prayer in the church, but equally important is that the reserved Blessed Sacrament be available for distribution of communion to the sick and elderly at any time.

It is the commitment of the priests of the parish to celebrate the Mass on most weekdays, however that is not always possible. When a priest is not available, the community is asked to gather to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word without distribution of communion. Please come and join those who gather for our celebrations of Liturgy of the Word. Truly, Christ is present in his Word when we gather in prayer.

Fr. Steven Rigo (Parish Priest)

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS continued

Dear Friends/Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. Thomas and Sacred Heart

Time has come for me to take leave of you all and to move on to the next phase of my Priestly Ministry. Last week Vicar General Fr. Tony Kerin called me to convey the decision of the Archbishop, asking me to take up the Pastoral care of the Airport West Parish (St. Christopher and St. Augustine) from 24th September, 2024. It's always hard to say goodbye but nevertheless we have to move on in life.

It has been an absolute privilege serving you all as the Assistant Priest for the past 17 months. I have fond memories which I cherish for the rest of my life. I carry my Pastoral Experience from here to my new assignment at Airport West Parish. Fr. Steve and all of you made my life very enriching and memorable. Let us be united in prayers as I take up the new responsibility.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon us all

With grateful heart I remain

Fr. Ananda Maddineni MSFS

FAITH CIRCLES

For almost four years, the program Faith Circles has been running in our parishes. The aim of the program is to provide opportunities, in a small group of approximately 6-10, to reflect on the upcoming Gospel of the week. Through this reflection, participants are able to think about how the reading relates to their own lives, to discuss the teaching that Jesus was sharing with us and so grow in their own faith in a safe and welcoming environment.

We meet via Zoom every Tuesday evening from 7pm, for approximately 60-70 minutes. You will receive a resource each time, with the Gospel and a reflection from one of the Popes, and the Zoom link. You contribute as much or as little as you wish and the discussion is usually very lively and engaging.

If you are interested please contact Cathy O'Brien via email: cathyob757@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Committee has gained the services of Tara McNamara, Melbourne Archdiocese Northern Region Safeguarding Officer, to assist volunteer ministries to complete a Risk Assessment which is a central component of our Parish's duty of care. There are four opportunities where you can attend a session.

Venue: St. Mary's Church Gathering Space.

Sessions: Thursday 19th September: 2.30-4.00pm & 7.00pm-8.30pm.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing back the Booking Form to diamondcreekgreensboroughgroup leaders@cam.org.au by 30th August 2024 or contact the Parish Office.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

Sunday 15th September 2024 marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we give thanks for the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. We acknowledge with gratitude all of Catholic Social Services Victoria's 40 member organisations, their 7,000+ staff and 15,000+ volunteers and the important work that they do to serve over 300,000 people.

At this challenging time of a cost of living and housing affordability crisis, the Gospel message of love, care and welcome is needed more than ever.

We can all play a role in building a more just and compassionate society.

15 September 2024



Catholic Social Services
Victoria

Social Services Sunday

What does the Lord require of you?

To **act justly** and to **love mercy** and
to walk humbly with your God

- Micah 6:8



Watch the video

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS continued

Dear Parishioners of our Partnered Parishes,

Canon Law stipulates that a bishop visits each of his parishes at least every five years. As such, Archbishop Peter Comensoli has scheduled to visit our partnered parishes for the weekend commencing **Friday 18th till Sunday 20th of October**. He will celebrate the Masses on these days, visit our schools and be at meetings we have scheduled for him. You are most welcome to meet with him on the public occasions, such as the Masses, and especially at the **Parish Forum which is to be held on Saturday 19th at 10.30 in St. Thomas' church**. At this meeting, where no clergy will be present, he wants to know from parishioners where you find Jesus in the life of our parishes; what is your understanding of "Evangelisation", and how and where you would like to see our parishes in 5-10 years, and HOW are WE going to get there; what is "Mission"?

Other meetings are scheduled that will engage various groups of our parishes. Once I have gained the approval from the Archbishop's Office, I will provide a more detailed schedule of his visit over the 3 days. In the meantime, I am sure that he will celebrate the 6.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Mary's, the 9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart and the 10.30 am Mass at St. Thomas' on Sunday. Please mark these dates in your diaries and make use of the opportunity to meet and speak with our Archbishop.

With thanks,

Fr. Steven Rigo

PEACE & HOPE = OUR FUTURE



*Combined Parishes of
St Mary's, Greensborough
St Thomas the Apostle, Greensborough North
Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek*

*St Thomas the Apostle Church,
Greensborough North
Wednesday 18th September 2024
7.00pm*

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am-1.00pm Friday 12.30pm-2.30pm*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

NO LITURGY OF THE WORD FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

HELP NEEDED: Help is required to clean the hall toilets every Friday afternoon. This task will take less than an hour and is a paid role. Please contact the parish office for further information.

SENIOR MOMENTS: 18th September, Parish Centre Scrabble & Lunch, BYO, 12.00pm.

2nd October, Mr Rooster Chicken & Chips. 12.00pm

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

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting Thursday 12th September.

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

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

This will once again be held from the weekend of **25th/26th of August until 5th/6th of October**. Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. Some of the urgent items are: *Tuna in oil of any size (95g, 185g or 425g), Tomato paste, Coconut cream or milk, Honey, Full cream UHT milk 1 litre, Instant coffee / black tea bags, Sweet / savoury biscuits, Basmati rice, Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, corn kernels), Oil (750ml – 1 litre), Dried legumes (chickpeas, split red lentils, yellow split peas), Spices (cumin, turmeric, chilli, coriander), Laundry powder 1kg packs, Laundry liquid 1 litre, Unsalted dried nuts, Dried fruit.*

At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive the items; there will also be a basket/box available at Sacred Heart. There will also be list of items needed available to take home.

ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people, including children, every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. Every donation makes a difference. <https://asrc.org.au>

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 17th September: Frances Geoghegan & Pam Leonard

Sunday 22nd September Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: C. Fernando

Commentator: Y. O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Ledda, C. Bell

St Peter's Saturday 5th October 7.15pm

Reader: Aminda

Commentator: M. Frisby

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

Tony Watson, 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, George Garzia, Alan Beeby, Kath Rickard, Martin Leonard, Fran Peckham, and the residents of Wattle Glen & Diamond Creek Care Community Aged Care Facilities.

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

Terry Moran, Michael Holland, Ann Cusack, Andrew O'Dea, George Ind, Peter Thomas, Francis Goodge, Margaret & Bernie Fitzgerald, Alexander Libertino, Mary Cecelia Ratnam, Josephine Louisa Ratnam, Francis Ratnam, Pearl & David Lawrence.

SACRED HEART MEN'S NIGHT

- Sacred Heart Hall, 25 Gipson St, Diamond Creek
- \$45, Classic Spit Roast dinner, & dessert
- Vegetarian options
- BYO Alcohol and soft drinks
- Bookings Essential via QR Code below
- Bookings can be individual and groups welcome!

Arrive 6:30pm for 7pm start
Friday 18th October

Bookings Via link or QR:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CUAPH>

GUEST SPEAKERS

George Schickert - Swap 'n Go Founder
Business and Entrepreneurship

Adam Smith - Aust Defence Force & Vic Police
Leadership & Motivational Speaker

Rachid Imam - Master of Ceremonies

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-12pm*

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD WEDNESDAY 11th & THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 9.15am

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE: As our two partnered parishes are organising Food Drives for people Seeking Asylum, a reminder that St Mary's parish has a year long collection. The box is in the Gathering Space - near the front door. Especially needed are tuna (in oil), milk, tinned fruit, tea, coffee, detergent, soap powder. The Centre is very grateful to St Mary's for the food and toilet-ries, that continues to be donated.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th September In the gathering space. 12pm- 2.0pm BYO lunch. Bingo \$5.00 per book of 10 games. Afternoon tea provided. All welcome: The more we have the bigger the Jackpot.

We have a day trip to Kilmore Races organised for Tuesday 15th October, 2 seats still available: call Geraldine. 048 148 896.

THE PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION fundraiser is now part of the Archbishop's Campaign, however if you wish to donate specifically to the Priests Retirement Foundation, envelopes are available in the pews and in the gathering space and can be placed in one of the collections this weekend or in the coming weeks.

COMBINED PARISHES CAR RAFFLE : tickets on sale after Masses @\$2.00 per ticket.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Coming event Morning Tea with a "Footy theme" on Wednesday 18th August at 10.30am in the gathering space Entertainment by "Monty Singers" \$10.00 entry per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990

CARER'S DINNER LAMP: will be hosting a Carer's Dinner on Friday 13th of September in the Gathering Space at St Mary's, 6:30 pm. If you or someone you know would like to attend this dinner please contact Mary Jahne 0412 813 512 by Tuesday 10th of September to book a seat.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

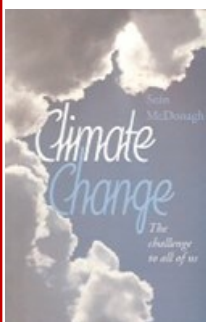
Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Maureen Carr, Garry York, Enlee Lew, Rachael Angelotti, Janice Duffell, Mary Bowler

Recently Deceased: John Taylor

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

Ella Meagher, Monica Leake, Moyra Doyle, Maureen Daly, Merna Mills, Fr Jim De Laurier. O.carm, Neville Davis, Mieczyslaw Puka, Joseph Borg, Laura Mallia, Annie Loubey, Joseph Borg, David Hyland, Philip Hedger, John Gallagher, Dason Fernando, Marie Graham, Jim Danaher, Hamilton Todd, Gerald Attygalle, Don Lippiatt, Harold White, Catherine Darcy, Rondal Gravell, Joseph Fernandez, Matt Cashin, Edgar Reid, Laurie Sarjeant, Laurie Boyle, Harold White, Gloria Lockington, Avel Lucas, Christine Clancy, Francis Meehan, Elenor Neeson, Phyllis Fitzgerald, Valerie Willis, Samuel Lentini, Charles Goral Snr, Davina Ann Bongiorno, Joan Taylor, Kathleen Brodie, Kevin Fitzgerald, Maree Patterson, Bess Nealy, Anne Hassett, Joseph Ribarich, John Monagle, Wilfred Herrick, Gabriel de Robillard, G.H. Pitts, Eileen Knight, Eileen & Ian Cameron, Christine Ravesi, Thelma Black, Harry White, Merna Jenkinson

Be informed, inspired and entertained.



This month we celebrate **Season of Creation 2024**. The Library is presently displaying books on environmental protection from our collection.



Father Sean McDonagh is an Irish Columban missionary and eco-theologian.

"We have an obligation to make sure that the world we hand on to future generations is as fruitful, as fertile and as beautiful as the one we ourselves inherited".

The Library holds several of his books.

cloud.collectorz.com/247780

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 8.00am-12.00pm, Wednesdays 12.30pm-4.00pm, Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am, Friday 8.00am-4.00pm* **Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm, Sacred Heart, Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's)**

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Christian and Finnley who are being baptised later this month

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: You are warmly invited to join us for Mass by Candlelight on Thursday 19th September at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Road, North Greensborough. Celebrated in the spirit of Taize music will commence at 7.30pm, followed by Mass at 8.00pm. All welcome.

Enquiries: *Rose 0411 650339 or Emilia 0418 120902.*

THANK YOU: On behalf of myself and all my family, I want to sincerely thank everyone who sent messages of sympathy, met with me and my children, and especially gave time and care at Brian's funeral. So blessed to have such a caring Parish family.

Thank you

Thank you with all my heart. Mary Bedford.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP LUNCH: Spring has finally arrived and we feel more inclined to get out and enjoy the warmer weather and to socialise with friends and family.

Please join us for our next gathering when we meet in the St Thomas' Parish Meeting Room for a light lunch on Thursday 26th September at 12.30pm.

If you are able to join us this month, please contact Sue McMahon (0418173209) or sueandkevinmcmahon@bigpond.com

We only need a few people to bring a plate to share each month, so if you wish to bring a plate this month, please also let Sue know. For everyone else, we ask for a \$5 Donation \$5. We look forward to seeing you on the 26th.

St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council Report August 2024

- The 25th anniversary of the dedication of our church. The PPC thanks the many people who contributed in countless ways to the planning and preparation of the celebrations for this joyous occasion.
- Review of the mission and functions of the PPC in the light of a framework from the archdiocese on parish renewal – look at how the Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council conducted their review for guidance for next steps.
- Support for the various parish groups currently operating – future meetings proposed with the groups to discuss their roles and what support would be appropriate and helpful.
- Vacancies on the PPC coming up due to a regular turnover in membership. Advertising to come and encouragement to all parishioners to consider nominating.
- Safeguarding Risk Assessment Workshops in September for those in parish groups.
- Artist in Residence grants – possible application in 2025.
- New parish website nearly ready to launch.
- Proposed building of kindergarten on St Thomas parish land – no word yet from the Council regarding approval. Consideration of a few objections regarding height of privacy screens and traffic.
- Parish School report – children and staff involved in 25th anniversary activity and subsequent presentation of framed art piece to the parish. School also involved in the Peace and Hope liturgy – a coordinated activity with Sacred Heart and St Mary's primary schools in September.
- Report received from the Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council on their work.
- Decision to cancel next PPC meeting on 18 September as this conflicts with the Peace and Hope Service to be held at St Thomas Church on the same night.

Next meeting 16th October. Email: StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS continued

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

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At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive the items; there will also be a basket/box available at Sacred Heart. There will also be list of items needed available to take home.

ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people, including children, every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. Every donation makes a difference. <https://asrc.org.au>

Roster for Weekend 21st & 22nd September

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: T. Holland **Commentator:** K. Salm **Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Holland, L. Carty

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny **Commentator:** S. Dossa **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Kerr, C. O'Brien

Set Up: S. Dossa

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

Miran Kasalo, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Vince Granata, Wil Watson, Bernie Murray

We pray for those who have died recently including Fr Des Magennis & Fr Gerard O'Collins and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of September that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Jean Watson, Maria Scordo, Gennaro Mascia, Bernadette Richardson, Norah Moylan, Jane Tremayne, Tess Natoli, Barry Williamson, Mollie Kerr, Rocco Crea, Bernadette Linehan, Vincent Mascia, Jim Hardwick Snr, Kevin Power, Antonio Lunardello, Ines Lunardello, Vincenzina Varalla John Ryan, Fr Jim Feenan, John Muscat, Dawn Morgan, Varisa Zilic, Stjepan Kernjak, Bernard Healy, Shirley McCarthy



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First Reading Is 50:5-9

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against
me?

Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

*(R.) I will walk in the presence
of the Lord,
in the land of the living.*

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. *(R.)*
2. They surrounded me, the snares
of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me! *(R.)*
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me! *(R.)*
4. He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. *(R.)*

Second Reading Jas 2:14-18

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

Gospel Acclamation Gal 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My only glory is the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me
and me to the world.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 8:27-35

You are the Christ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

There are several messianic traditions, each one characterising the anointed one of the future in a unique way. Do we expect a prophetic figure who will enter our world and reform the structures of society, or a strong leader who will overturn these structures and establish a new order? Are we waiting for a teacher who will transform our minds and hearts, or a judge who will punish us for our infidelities? Are we expecting someone who will renew the face of the earth, or someone who will come in fire and brimstone to destroy it? What kind of a messiah do we expect? For what kind of a change are we preparing ourselves?

Jesus seems to overturn our expectations. We look for one who will save us from the predicaments in which we find ourselves, and he comes to us as one who seems to be a victim of his own predicament. God's thinking seems to be the reverse of ours: Those who save their lives, lose them; those who lose their lives, save them; the seed must die before it can bear fruit; Jesus will be killed, but will then be raised from the dead.

Can we claim to understand Jesus? Or are we more like the people in James' community: people who profess faith in Jesus, but who do not live it out; people who speak pleasant words to others, who say the right things, but who do not back up their words with good works? Is our faith really living?

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