

**Sunday 17th March 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

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

**Acting Parish School Principal**

Mrs Jo Nolen **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

**Communal Penitential Service will be held at St Thomas the Apostle Parish on  
Tuesday 19th March at 7.00pm**



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: I will write my Law on their hearts.**

*By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in  
that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son  
handed himself over to death.*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B, 17 March 2024**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-5-lent-year-b>

**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

## WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

### Week 5

In the Gospel today Jesus tells us that our lives must have true meaning. Life is full of losses and renewals, invitations to let go of the old and take on the new, to leave what hold us back in a poverty of spirit and to move into growth, to yield a “rich harvest” of faith. If we reject those things that are not of Jesus’ teachings and follow him, we will rise with him to eternal life.

Through all the losses and renewals, the fruit of a new life in God grows, leading us in life and in death to the Kingdom.

*“When I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.” (Micah 7:8)*

### **WOMEN'S DINNER** *Friday 3rd May @7pm Sacred Heart Parish Hall*

Invitation to our partnered parishes Enjoy a two course meal and an evening out with friends. Organise a group and book your table. Cost \$35 per head to be paid at time of booking. Please state when booking any dietary requirements.

Inspirational and interesting guest speaker on the evening Donations for the raffle and offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

**All enquiries Patricia 041899248 Tonina 0419154524**

**POPE FRANCIS:** Pope Francis sends a message to all the children of the world ahead of the first “World Children’s Day” to encourage them to be united and listen to advice from grown-ups because, he says, their “pleases” and “thank yous” are the first step towards a better world.... Read all: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-03/pope-francis-message-world-day-of-children-humanity-fraternity.html>

**ST MARY'S LADIES AUXILARY:** St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome.



**TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION:** at St John’s Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together)

Dear Parishioners of Partnered Parishes;

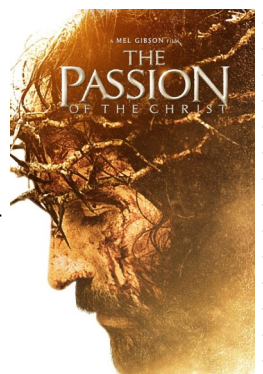
Here is great opportunity to spend your Wednesday of Holy Week this year ( 27th March, 2024) as an intense preparation for Easter. We will gather in St. Thomas Parish Church in Greensborough North (251 Diamond Creek Road) at 7.00 pm to watch the movie, “The Passion of Christ” (Mel Gibson) and also pray the “Sorrowful Mysteries” of the Holy Rosary. It gives us in the middle of Holy Week to reflect on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus and thus prepare for the Holy Triduum in a worthy manner.

Parents please be advised that due to the graphic nature of the Passion, this movie may not be suitable for Children.

**For more information please call the Parish Office**

Have a fruitful and prayerful Lent

**F Ananda Maddineni MFFS**



## PALMS AUSTRALIA

### *Mission Transforms Lives—theirs....and yours*

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives.

63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self reliant, community development.

Learn even more: Join our two week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024. to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together

Contact 02 9560 5333. [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

*Stations of the Cross will be held at St Thomas Church every Friday during lent commencing at 7.00pm.*



## 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT WEEKEND OF 16-17 MARCH 2024

### PROJECT COMPASSION'S IMPACT



#### FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

As Holy Week approaches we hope you and your parishioners are feeling inspired and supported to raise money for Caritas Australia, the aid agency of the Australian Catholic Church working to eradicate poverty and injustice.



## REFLECTION

The word 'heart' occurs almost a thousand times in the Bible, more than three times as often as the word 'soul.' Perhaps this is just another item of trivia but surely it gives us a clue about Christianity. It is a religion of the heart. It gets our blood pumping.

As we approach the climax of our Lenten journey, this week's readings ask questions about our hearts. The psalm begs 'a pure heart create for me, O God.' Those words invite the Lord to come right inside us, into the very core of our being. The prophet Jeremiah quotes the Lord as saying, 'deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts.' In other words, we won't find God's most intimate whisperings to us just in books or lectures. We will find it when we are genuinely in touch with our core, our most intimate space. God's love is inscribed on our hearts.

In his letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis speaks against 'a culture of walls.' He asks us to treasure the hope found in every heart:

Hope 'speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit

to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold.'

The word 'caritas' means love. The work of Caritas Australia is a heartfelt response to the needs of the world, one that gives expression to our shared hope. Caritas always works in partnership with others. During Lent, as we have listened to the experience of people we have helped through our support of Project Compassion, we will have noticed that life-giving partnerships with groups on the ground in many countries make this possible.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that must die to create a rich harvest. Of course, he is referring to his own passion. But there is a message here for us all. 'Anyone who loves their life will lose it.' We are called to wear our hearts on our sleeves. To reach beyond the safe and familiar.



**DON'T FORGET**  
TO CREATE YOUR  
PARISH FUNDRAISING  
PAGE AT: [FUNDRAISE.  
PROJECTCOMPASSION.  
ORG.AU](https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au)

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION



We pray for all who go out of their way to bring God's love to others, especially to those most in need. We pray in gratitude for the many partners of Caritas Australia who ensure our contributions to Project Compassion reach the places they are needed. Lord, hear us.

## FUNDRAISING IDEA

Host an information night to raise awareness of vulnerable women around the world. Did you know:

- 388 million women are living in extreme poverty?
- 60% of working people living in poverty are women?

- 90% of countries have at least one law that discriminates against women?

Invite parishioners to bring a donation for a night of 'food for thought'.

Source: United Nations

## LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2024

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

**St Thomas:** Continuing on Fridays **15th, 22nd March** at 7:00 pm

### COMBINED PARISHES COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

**St Thomas:** Tuesday **19th March**, 7:00 pm *(with supper following)*

### INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

**Sacred Heart:** Fridays (not Good Friday) 9:45 - 10:15 am

**St Mary's:** Saturday evenings 5:45 - 6:15 pm *(or by appointment)*

**St Thomas:** Saturdays 9:30 - 10:00 am *at each Parish)*

### PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY – 23rd/24th MARCH *(Please bring own foliage)*

*Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)*

**Sacred Heart :** Sunday 9:00 am

**St Mary's:** Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

**St Thomas:** Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:30 am

### HOLY THURSDAY – 28th MARCH **NO morning Mass**

**St Mary's:** 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**St Thomas:** 6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

*(St Mary's & St Thomas -Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass*

*Concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30 pm)*

### GOOD FRIDAY – 29th MARCH **NO morning Mass**

**St Thomas:** 11:00 am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (Combined local Churches)

**St Mary's:** 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**Sacred Heart:** 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

### HOLY SATURDAY – 30th MARCH

**St Mary's:** 10:00 am Morning Prayer

### EASTER VIGIL - 30th MARCH

**St Mary's:** 6:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

**Sacred Heart :** 7:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

### EASTER SUNDAY - 31st MARCH

**Sacred Heart:** 9:00 am

**St. Mary's:** 8:00 am & 10:00 am **NO 5:00 pm**

**St. Thomas:** 10:30 am



## 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 Lenny, Mila and Oscar who will be welcomed into our community in March.

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

Invitation to our partnered parishes Enjoy a two course meal and an evening out with friends. Organise a group and book your table. Cost \$35 per head to be paid at time of booking. Please state when booking any dietary requirements.

Inspirational and interesting guest speaker on the evening Donations for the raffle and offers of help would be greatly appreciated. All enquiries Patricia 041899248 Tonina 0419154524

**PARISH RAFFLE:** tickets are now available in the church for next month's raffle, the prize is a Voucher for Vines Café/Nillumbik Cellars.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** at Sacred Heart on Fridays, when Fr Steven is away on holidays this year, we are planning to celebrate

Liturgy of the Word instead of Mass. Any generous volunteers, interested in leading Liturgy of the Word, would be most welcome to contact the Parish Pastoral Council via email at [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com) Support and formation will be provided.

*With thanks, Marg Farrell. PPC Chair*

**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. The-RightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/> The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** 'Let the little children come to me' Mathew 19:14

Children's liturgy of the word is commencing in 2024 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.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 12pm Fish and Chips 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)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 19<sup>th</sup> March:** M. Cusack, W. Mc Evoy

**Sunday 24<sup>h</sup> March Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** R. Mc Evoy

**Commentator:** A. Pieper

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Keenan, C. Ledda

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** R. Nicolaisen

**Commentator:** E. Gittins

***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:***

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

*Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle*



# 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](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

## HOLY WEEK INFORMATION

**PALM SUNDAY 23/24 March** All Palm Sunday Masses will commence on the verandah outside the Gathering Space (weather permitting) with the blessing of branches and procession into the church. ***Please bring your own branches to these Masses.***

**READERS, COMMUNION MINISTERS, PROJECTIONISTS and SACRISTANS** are invited to participate in the Holy Week ceremonies - Holy Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm, Good Friday 29 March at 3pm, the Easter Vigil 30 March at 6.30pm and Easter Sunday 31 March at 8am and 10am. ***If you are available, please add your name to the roster in the gathering space.***

**MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK** A blessing service will be held in the church on Holy Thursday 28 March at 9.30am for ministers who are taking Communion to the sick and housebound of our parish. No Communion will be available on Good Friday.

**HOLY THURSDAY 28 March at 7.30pm – Washing of the Feet** Twelve parishioners are invited to have a foot washed during the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

If you would like to be involved in this commemorative action of service, ***please add your name to the roster in the gathering space.***

**GOOD FRIDAY 29 March at 3pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

**Veneration of the Cross will be by bowing or genuflecting.** Please do not touch or kiss the cross.

**Parishioners who have mobility difficulties are invited to sit in the front rows and Communion and the Veneration cross will be brought to them.** If the front row is not suitable, please sit at the end of a row down the centre aisle and ask the person sitting beside you to stand after others have received Communion, and again after the Celebrant has venerated the cross, and Communion and the cross will be brought to you.

**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](mailto:mamitchem@gmail.com) for further information.

**LADIES AUXILIARY:** St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome

**OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT** During Lent, our worship space is simplified with no flowers or greenery in the church or gathering space representing the barren desert where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. This is symbolic of the Lenten Season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty - only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT** Three Stations of the Cross services are available: one based on the *Gospel of St Mark*, another *Mary's Stations*, and a video *Way of the Cross* with images of the Stations at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Deepdene carved by Austrian immigrant Leopoldine Mimovich.

**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK:** Choir Practice for Holy Week Ceremonies will take place on **Fridays 15 & 22 March** in the Church from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Dom LaFerlita our Saturday night pianist will accompany us. The Liturgy is the centre of the Church's life and music adds another prayer dimension. We sing at the Palm Sunday Vigil (Sat 23/3), Holy Thursday (28/3), Good Friday (29/3) and the Easter Vigil (Sat 30/3). All are very welcome to join and no experience is necessary.

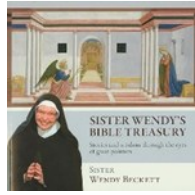
Please contact Megan Mitchem via email: [mamitchem@gmail.com](mailto:mamitchem@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the choir so that music can be organised for you.

**SUNDAY CATECHIST CLASSES:** For primary school children attending Government Schools classes commenced in February at 9.00am in St Mary's School. Classes are for children from Grades 3 to 6, and include the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, and are held during each school term. **All enquiries - Geraldine - 0438 148 896**

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

*Be informed, inspired and entertained*

### **Books of the week**



Sister Wendy Beckett (1930-2018) was a British religious sister and art historian who became known internationally when she presented a series of BBC TV documentaries on the history of art. The Library holds 5 of her books which feature beautiful reproductions of religious art works paired with inspirational text.



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

**PLEA FOR COMPASSION, MERCY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE-AND AN END TO GLOBAL CONFLICTS:** Pope Francis has been publicly vocal about war since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and his voice has become louder since the beginning of the Israel-Palestine War. In his calls he does not take side.

The Pope is quoted as saying: "Either we do not realise it or we are pretending not to see that we are on the brink of the abyss.... A global cease fire is urgent....I will never tire of reiterating my call, addressed in particular to those who political responsibility: stop the bombs and missiles now, put an end to hostilities. Everywhere, 'pointing out that humanity is embroiled in a "piecemeal world war three"."

***Let us work for Peace to All St Mary's Social Justice Group.***

**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.***

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Baptisms:** Marcus, Darcy, Eliza, Jackson, Riley

***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, Fr Terry Kean, Betty Luttick, Carlos Manabat

**Recently Deceased:** Mick O'Meara,

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

Kevin O'Donnell, Gregory Bourke, Rose Costello, John Desmond, Joseph De Costa, Anthony Pereira, Kathleen Drill, Linda Gogel, Michele Mastropaolo, Margaret McLennan, Genoveffa Sbaglia, Connie McNamara, Edna Ferguson, Rogelio Cruz, Cesar Guerrero, Louisa Pereira, Jack Beattie, Annie Barnes, Magdalena Varga, Mary Jolley, Helen Michalski, Victor Wittman, Mary Cass, Archer Trevanion, Margaret Rule, Mary Philp, Brian Purcell, Elizabeth Whelan, Agatha Liaw, George Groutsch, Leo Joyce, June Molyneux, Alfred Fernadopulle, John McKenna & family, Cass Tombs, A. Riel, Genoveffa Viddoto, Philip Darmody, Jack Watson, Steve Tingwell, Cecille Tubiera, Lessmann family, Patrick Luttick, Vincent Gillett, Jim Palmer, Ernest Pettigrove, Joseph Repo, John Attard, Rita Maguire, Catherine Magro, Val Henry, Tony Steele

## 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 Andrew, Hannah and Lucy who are being baptised later this month.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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. The evening will also be in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic School of Evangelisation (CSOE). All welcome. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

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

Invitation to our partnered parishes Enjoy a two course meal and an evening out with friends. Organise a group and book your table. Cost \$35 per head to be paid at time of booking. Please state when booking any dietary requirements. Inspirational and interesting guest speaker on the evening Donations for the raffle and offers of help would be greatly appreciated. All enquiries Patricia 041899248 Tonina 0419154524

**BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP:** As our regular catch-up falls on Holy Thursday I have decided not to have a get together this month. See you all on the 25th April. **Marg**

**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, Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/> The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC.** [StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au](mailto:StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au)

**Roster for Weekend 23rd & 24h March**

**Saturday 6.00pm**

**Readers:** A. Fernando

**Commentator:** P. Carty

**Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Carty, T. Holland

**Set Up:** M. Mc Kenzie

**Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** T. Williamson

**Commentator:** M. Bates

**Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Riordan, C. Riordan

**Set Up:** C. O'Brien

**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 March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahon, Matthew Van Beek, Mary Tan, Owen Doyle, Anthony Barker, Stjepan Degaac, Cathrine Formosa





**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close** Here is the third reading this Lent from John's gospel and the fourth reference to the passion/resurrection. This time John uses a nature metaphor of a grain of wheat that 'falls into the earth and dies'. But dying is not the point – the grain dies in order to be fruitful. Here the designs of God show in the patterns of nature. Here also, Jesus suggests that his actions are the pattern for our lives. What does it mean to die in order to be fruitful in your everyday life?

## Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

17 March 2024

### First Reading Jer 31:31-34

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12**

*(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

1. Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt.  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

### Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

### Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Gospel Jn 12:20-33

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I can observe a baby, but the parents 'see' their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response.

This Gospel passage begins with a request from some Greeks 'to see Jesus', surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response.

And there was a response full of allusions to the future.

Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground.

Our Lord says of that scene: 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.' How were people drawn to this scene?

People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life.

We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

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