

Sunday 1st 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: You must do what the word tells you God of might, giver of every good gift. put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B, 1 September 2024.
<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-22-sun-year-b-2024>

Next week: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary time.

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

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 5th September: 2.30pm-4.00pm & 7.00pm-8.30pm.

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.



YEAR OF PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR JUBILEE 2025

On 24 December 2024, the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome will open, commencing the Jubilee Year. To prepare for this year of celebration, Pope Francis invites us into a Year of Prayer throughout 2024, reflecting on the Jubilee's theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

The Pope said, 'In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer. Prayer above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him.'

This year invites us to intensify prayer as a personal dialogue with God so that our hearts will be ready to welcome the gifts of grace and forgiveness that the Jubilee Year offers.

*Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the beauty of your creation
so that our hearts may rejoice in the wonder and greatness of your works.*

2024 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED ENVELOPES TO YOUR PARISH THIS WEEKEND.

The 2024 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the Campaign brochure which you will find in your pew and in the foyer today. Gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift to help us continue to strengthen the Christian faith and address the needs of God's people. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishops campaign or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

I invite you to give generously to this important campaign.



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

NORTH EAST LINK PROJECT

Dear Parishioners,

Just some news that might be of interest to you.

On Monday 22 July, Ananda and I were asked to bless the tunnel boring machines and the statue of St. Barbara just before the works of boring the tunnels were commenced. The tradition of blessing a statue of St. Barbara at the start of tunnel construction is rooted in the Catholic belief that she is the patron saint of miners, tunnel workers, and those working with artillery. According to legend, St. Barbara was a 3rd-century martyr who was imprisoned in a tower by her father, which later led to her association with those working underground. Before beginning a tunnel project, a statue of St. Barbara is often blessed and placed at the construction site as a way to invoke her protection over the workers and to ensure the safe completion of the project. This ritual reflects a deep cultural and spiritual practice within communities that rely on tunnelling for infrastructure or mining. There was also a smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Ringo and some speeches from chief engineers.

Though it was a rostered day off for workers, there were about 80 to 100 workers present. I found it interesting that in our increasingly secular society, a priest was asked to conduct a religious ceremony.



ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

The Archdiocese of Melbourne will run two pilgrimages to Rome next year as we celebrate Jubilee Year 2025.

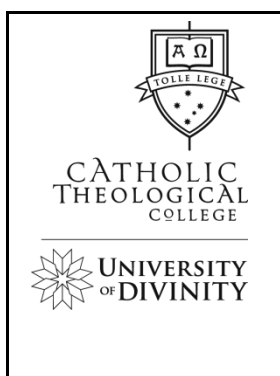
The first pilgrimage will be held in May and June 2025, coinciding with the **Jubilee for Families, Grandparents and the Elderly**.

The second pilgrimage will be for young adults (18-35 years), journeying to the **Jubilee of Youth** in July and August 2025.

These graced and hope-filled pilgrimages will journey through the towns and cities of Italy, the homes of great saints like St Francis and St Clare (and soon to be canonised saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati), before walking through the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica.

Be a *pilgrim of hope*! Embark on an incredible pilgrimage to encounter God and deepen your faith with others.

Be the first to receive the latest updates, including booking information and itineraries, by submitting an expression of interest <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ST83H75>



Upcoming CTC Events

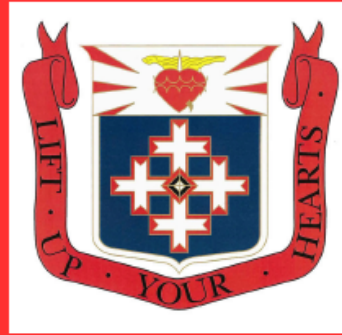
Information Session for Educators

Information Session for Prospective Students

Engaging Your Faith Online Sessions

For more information:

<https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/>



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

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

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



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS



PEACE & HOPE = OUR FUTURE

Wednesday

18th September 2024

7pm – 8pm

St Thomas the Apostle Church

All welcomed

Peace & Hope = Our Future – This event will involve members of our Partnered Parishes of St Mary's, St Thomas' and Sacred Heart in collaboration with our Parish Schools. A contemplative embrace of inner peace will be reflected in a service of prayer, Scripture and music held in the "deep listening and quiet still awareness,"* of our inner being. The evening will provide us with an opportunity to be united in faith and trust in our Loving God, as we hear the words of Jesus– "I leave you peace, my peace I give to you," with a response from our hopeful hearts. If you have any questions please call me on 7036 9326 or come by the Parish Office.

**a reflection 'Dadirri-Inner Deep Listening and quiet Still awareness' - Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr*

INVITATION to DISCOVER



7 YOUNG PEOPLE in the GOSPELS

Participants of all ages will relate to the examples of these young people, some made negative choices, some positive and one made several mistakes but didn't give up.

9am to 5pm, Sat 7 & 9am to 4pm Sun 8 Sept at Loyola College, Watsonia

Adult /Student Fee: **Donation only**, Book before 3rd Sept

<https://www.trybooking.com/CPPNM>

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY.

Today is Social Justice Sunday - The theme for the Social Justice Statement for 2024-2025 is, *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World.*

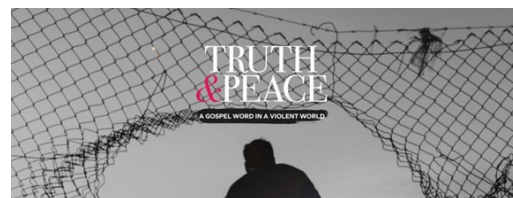
In the 2024 – 2025 Social Justice Statement, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World", Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace.

In a world full of pessimism, they put their faith and hope in the possibility of peace.

Using scripture and the guidance of Pope St. John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* and Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti*, we learn that peace is possible if we put our trust in Christ who is the way, the truth and the life and the Prince of Peace. It is from him that we learn about the architecture of peace. From him, we learn a commitment to the culture of encounter, the value of dialogue at all levels and the importance of seeing everyone as our sister, our brother.

(Copies of the Social Justice Statement & Prayer are available in the Gathering space. The Statement can also be downloaded at:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2024/07/25/social-justice-statement-2024-25/>



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



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

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

MONTHLY RAFFLE: The winners of the two prizes in the Winter Warmers' Raffle were Yvonne O'Brien and Carole Bell.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Men's Dinner, Friday 18th October 2024, Sacred Heart Hall, two great guest speakers, see flyer in PP section.

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

SENIOR MOMENTS: 4th September, Diamond Creek Hotel, 12.00pm.

18th September, Parish Centre Scrabble & Lunch, BYO, 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

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 3rd September: Marie Cusack, Wendy McEvoy

Sunday 8th September Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: J. Hoyne

Commentator: D. Botica

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Padget, R. Belli

St Peter's Saturday 7th September 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:

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

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 11am-3pm*

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



Dear Parishioners of St Marys,

It is with great pleasure that we can advise you that the loan for the Gathering Space has been paid off! This achievement has only been possible due to the wonderful support of you, the Parishioners, over the past 15 years.

We have had our issues along the way such as the COVID pandemic but due to your generosity we were able to maintain our repayments. Since COVID times we have had to carefully manage our cash flows yet we have successfully achieved our objective.

Going forward we need to be mindful that Insurance premiums are increasing enormously and given that the Church, Presbytery and James Kierce Centre are aging, they require increased maintenance and repairs. We are hoping that over the next couple of years we can change the heaters in the Church from gas to split systems and then look to install solar panels.

The Finance Committee

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 "footie theme" on Wednesday 18th August at 10.30am in the gathering space \$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.

1ST and 2ND COLLECTIONS An invitation is extended to all parishioners to assist with taking up the 1st and 2nd collections. Collection bags will be on the table in the gathering space before Mass, labelled with the 4 sections of the church. Each collection is noted on the screen so will know when to start. If you can assist, please take a bag as you arrive for Mass. Thank you.

MUSIC AT MASS The license issues which prevent embedding music into PowerPoint slides are ongoing. We can show hymn words on the screen, but music must be provided by musicians or by using CDs. To have music at most Masses, we are inviting parishioners to assist with playing CDs at 8am Masses and at 6.30pm, 10am and 5pm Masses when musicians are not available. The CD player will be beside the computer box next to the projectionist. CDs for each week, clearly labelled for Entrance, Communion and Recessional hymns, will be provided.

Please contact Marian for more information mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

Thank you

Be informed, inspired and entertained.



Book of the Week

An Audacious Aussie Dream: Family Care Sisters' Story by Penny Edman

Conceived in the desperate human need brought on by the Great Depression, an heroic Australian epic unfolded as practical women "rolled up their sleeves" on behalf of countless families. With a vision for the family based on the welfare of mother and children, the Family Care Sisters – the Grey Sisters – forged paths in social welfare and religious life that are now commonplace.



St Mary's Parish Library

Interested in the Catholic Faith?



If you wish to enquire into the Catholic Faith, or join the Catholic Church, St Marys welcomes you. We offer one-on-one meetings with enquirers. And if you wish to go further, we offer ongoing education in the Catholic Faith each week in small groups. There is no fee.

If you wish to receive the Sacraments and become Catholic, this education (called RCIA) will continue for some months. It is an experience which always brings great joy and wonderful comradery in a small group environment.

We also invite people who are already Catholic to join our groups, to learn more about their faith and to lend support and friendship.

Contact **Tim Hamilton (0412 070 511)** for more information, or come to our Enquiry session on **Sunday 25 August at 11 am** in St Marys parish house (door off the top carpark – across from the tennis courts). We'd love to see you.

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, John Taylor

Recently Deceased: Cath McDonald.

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

Catherine Gormley, Fred & Fran Pendry, Dennis Murray, Frank Sargent, Jeffrey Talania, Patricia (Trish) Brasier, Mary Ferguson, William Monagle, Walter Sheridan, Frances Bourke, James Wittingslow, Lorraine Mynard, Daniel Elliott, Des Cleary, Ann Buzza, Ian Joel Basiva Murray, Patricia Devoy, Robert Colbeck, Vic Barot, John Belfrage, Fredrick Easton, George and Ellen Jones, Harry Dixon, Patrick O'Neil, Janet Ferrazza, Ray McNamara, Merle Nowland, James Powell, Richard Anderson, Jack Siragusa, Gordon Beazley, Stan Krohn, Aileen Mottram, Rose D'Souza, Pat Fleming, John County, Paul O'Shea, Francis Moore, Stelio Leboeuf, Trevor Anderson, James Fitzpatrick, William Ryan Snr., Monica Krohn, Giuseppe Caruso, Fausto Giuliano, Filippo Cannizzo, Mary Terese Hyland, Rita O'Toole, Margarita A. Péna, Ella Salazar, Patrick James Fleming, John Kierce, Winifred Ryan, Gemma Parricali, Leo Lomas, Warwick White, Mariangela Galati, Ron Pitts, Nick Antons, Pam Zeplin, Maureen Reeves, Ern Edwards, Thomas Cullis, John Monagle, Jack Hoy, Beryl Brown, John Desmond, Jim Bradley, Charles Sargeant, Daniel Loughnanen John Mash, Frank Malia, Charles Ware, George Hansen, Mary Gertrude McNamara, Miguel Vicente Pena, Kathleen Maskell

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.

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>

Roster for Weekend 7th & 8th September

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: P. Carty

Commentator: E. Sacchetta

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Bedford, C. Leahy

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: B. Iacobucci

Commentator: A. Dossa

Eucharistic Ministers: C. & B. Riordan

Set Up: M. Bates

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 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



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close: Jesus often affronted traditionalists by breaking the rules. Here he reprimands the Pharisees for replacing heartfelt devotion with soulless laws. It is possible to be faithful to traditional laws and yet have a wicked heart – so often our laws have emerged from human traditions rather than 'the commandment of God'. The greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbour. The first commandment is most frequently expressed in the love and care that we show towards others – 'to care for orphans and widows' as the letter of James suggests in the second reading. Certainly care for persons rather than rules is foremost in the values of God's reign as witnessed by the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

1 September 2024

First Reading Dt 4:1-2, 6-8

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. *(R.)*
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. *(R.)*
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the
innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Many religious leaders have thought that some foods or some people are such a threat to the holiness of their followers that contact with 'unclean', 'defiling' foods or people must be avoided. Our Lord was totally opposed to the idea that holiness was something secured or gained by being quarantined or separated from anything or any-person.

On the contrary, he could touch a leper or have a meal with a prostitute. Rather than defilement flowing from the leper or prostitute to Jesus, his life flowed into them repairing their broken humanity, healing them bodymindspirit, holistically, making *them* holy.

The fact is that God, embodied in Jesus Christ, is contagious. The contagion of Divine Life is meant to flow into the inner depths of personality, into the heart. When this occurs, the Divine Life in the human person causes 'holiness'.

We have to strive to put ourselves in the way of this contagion. We become holy when we allow ourselves to be touched by our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we do this?

By hearing of His life in the Gospel, by being nourished by His life in Holy Communion, by being touched by the plight of those in whom He is to be found. St James in the second reading describes some who are particularly vulnerable in a patriarchal society with no social security system: the widows and orphans. No doubt, we can identify equivalent groups in our own society and overseas.

We could take a moment to pray that we might be more conscious of the Holy Spirit germinating something in our hearts, making us holy from the inside out, that our holiness be authenticated by good works so that we may be holy as the Lord our God is holy.

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