



**Sunday 21st May 2023**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & Fr Ananda Maddineni

**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:** Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday to Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.30pm

**Sunday:** Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & **5.00pm**

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening Mass

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**

[principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday** 7.15pm

**Sunday:** Mass 9.00am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Friday:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**

[principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth)

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass 10.30am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**

[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**



*Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.*

**21st May 2023**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-ascension-year-a>

**Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.**



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

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

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



**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

**LAMP** Do you want to know more about Depression, Anxiety and PTSD?

An Information Evening about Mental Health will be given by Lauren McDonough, a mental health advocate, suicide survivor, amputee and model, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.30pm, in the Gathering Space at St Mary's Church.

**All Are Welcome**



### The Partnered Parishes of:

**Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, St. Mary's Greensborough &  
St. Thomas the Apostle Greensborough North**

27th April 2023

Dear Group leaders and volunteers,

Following on from our letter of 28 February 2023, where we outlined the requirement that all volunteers are to complete the Safeguarding Essential Training module, we write again to offer support to any of you who may not have yet completed this Essential Training. The Safeguarding Committee is offering two group sessions where participants will be able to complete their training supported by a facilitator.

After completing this group session, names will be recorded on the Archdiocesan data base as having completed the Essential Training, this information will then roll over to the Parish data base.

The dates/times and venues are listed below:

- ◆ **Sacred Heart School Administration Building, 31 May, 1.30pm – 2.30pm.**
- ◆ **Please bring your WWCC Card**

A cuppa will be provided during the session.

Could you please notify the Sacred Heart Parish (94016361) office of their attendance by Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

Thank you.

**Partnered Parishes Safeguarding Group.**

### SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

#### SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING MODULE LAUNCHED FOR CLERGY AND VOLUNTEERS

Safeguarding Essentials is a 30-60 minute online training module for all clergy and volunteers within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Employees will soon be able to access the training module on Employment Hero. This accessible and engaging resource provides clergy and volunteers with foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm.

This will be: an annual requirement for everyone/possible to complete individually online./At the completion of the training participants will receive a certificate of completion accessible via the training module dashboard./participants will receive email notification that the module has been completed successfully./**Training to be completed as soon as possible.**

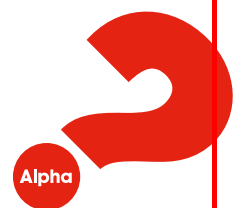
To access the online training go to: [www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org](http://www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org)

**\*\*\* Alpha begins 23 May, St Mary's Parish – Register now \*\*\***



Ever wanted to pause and consider the big questions about **life, meaning and faith?**

**Alpha** is a series of interactive sessions in a friendly, welcoming space. Participants gain an insight into the basics of the Christian faith and discuss its impact on various aspects of our lives. All are invited.



**We share a meal**

**We watch a video**

**We engage in discussion**

**Register** using the above QR code or by clicking this link <https://tinyurl.com/y87kzhj3>

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



**BAPTISMS:** We pray for Edie, Charlie, Matilda, Neeve and Michael who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in May.

**SACRED HEART KEYS:** We are updating the Parish Key Register. Please hand in keys you no longer use, or contact Pat to confirm your current key number. Thank you.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June Lunch 12pm at Diamond Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant Diamond Creek.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June Scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre. BYO light lunch.

### ROSTERS:

**Week 23<sup>rd</sup> May**                      **Cleaning:** C & F Ledda

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** R. McEvoy                      **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien      **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Pieper, C. Ledda

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** R. Nicolaisen                      **Commentator:** Aminda                      **Eucharistic Ministers:** E. Gittins

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Brian opened the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with a prayer. Agenda included:

- New batch of **memorial plaques**, including Fr Tao's now installed on church garden wall.
- ◆ **Family Groups 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass** & celebration went well. Photo display, AV presentation and morning tea well received.
- ◆ Further discussion regarding our Parishes' **Social Justice Groups**. Ted met with Ellen (St Mary's) and Michael (St Thomas') and tabled a report.
- ◆ Feedback from five Sacred Heart attendees after **Take the Way of the Gospel forum** at Loyola College.
- ◆ Report from **Sacred Heart School Advisory Council** included explanation of new RE program: Pedagogy of Encounter, which builds connections between faith & life for students.
- ◆ **Sacred Heart Feast Day Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June** our Priests away at important Annual Conference so no Friday 9.15am Mass. We will celebrate at 9am Mass Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- ◆ **Hall committee** report tabled.
- ◆ **Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council** PPPC (previously called Umbrella PPC). Martin elected as PPPC chairperson. A working group will discuss the purpose, vision and goals of group, and how it will work with the three PPCs in the parishes. The PPCs and Plenary Group will report to the new PPPC.
- ◆ Parish Annual **Women's Dinner** to be revitalized later in the year.
- ◆ **Altar equipment and supplies**. Owing to clutter in servery and distance to front of church, we will consider moving the sacred vessels, linen, breads, wine etc for storage in the now disused counting room.
- ◆ Parish and School **Working Bee** 9am Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

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

*Philip Leonard, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.*

**Recently Deceased:**

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

*Dorothy Pittle, Glenn Hurley, Michael Berriman, Peter Beaumont, Frank Perversi, Noela Atkinson, Mary Camilleri, Henry Van Oosterom, Kevin Rogers, Eddie Schellens.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**BAPTISMS:** Please pray for Grace, Valentia, Frederic, and Harrison who are being baptised later this month.

**PLAQUE FOR PRIESTS:** At our PPC meeting in March it was agreed that we should remember Priests who have died in service while at St Thomas.

Donations for plaques both for Fr Peter Fulton and Fr Tao Pham, if you wish to donate you can drop the donation into the Parish office in a clearly marked envelope, or in the collections on the weekend.

**Donations accepted up until the 31st May Envelopes are available in the church foyer.**

On the weekend of the Feast of Pentecost (27th and 28th May 2023), our parish will be celebrating the work performed by all the wonderful volunteers and groups who contribute so much to the community life of St Thomas.

We warmly invite you to be in attendance at one of the Masses, to receive a blessing and to be formally thanked for everything that you do.

At the conclusion of Mass, there will be an evening/morning tea and you and your family members are welcome to join with us in this celebration.

**BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP** You are invited to come for a coffee and chat.

**EVERYONE WELCOME THURSDAY 25TH MAY 1.30pm** at Phoenix Diamond Creek Road Plenty.

Contact me if you can make it so I can reserve a table at [stewmarg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stewmarg@bigpond.net.au) or 0408370685

.....Hope to see you Marg



**LOOKING FOR COUNTERS ON A TUESDAY MORNING:** If anyone is available to count on a Tuesday morning on a roster basis could you please let me know. Counting should not take more than an hour of your valuable time.

*Thank you Lisa*

**Roster for Weekend 27th & 28th May 2023**

**Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** EJ. Bohan

**Commentator:** K. McMahon

**Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Carty, K. Salm, M. Bedford

**Set Up:** M. McKenzie

**Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** M. Kenny

**Commentator:** J. Kerr

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

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

**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, John Iacobucci, Anelko Korculanin, Estelle Smooker, Tina Butera, Peter Kranjak, Dawn Ellis*

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

*Domenica Piccolo, Kath Mumford, Theodora Ellul, Maura McGauran, Stephen Ruzic, Marg Watson, Ray Money, Gaetano Palazzolo, Raymond Bowman*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you



**CHURCH SECURITY** Group members and parishioners are reminded to check that **ALL doors** of the church and gathering space **are securely locked** and **all lights are off** when you leave after evening Masses and meetings. Thank you.

## LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported our variety stalls over the past two weekends. Special thank you to all who knitted beanies & slippers for us. Winner of paintings donated by Judy Racz was Chandri. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990.



**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY GROUPS** Fr. Peter McGrath set up Family Groups 50 years ago in Sydney. After a few years it began to spread around Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Many Parishes will be celebrating 50 years of Family Groups on Sunday 7th May. Our Group has been running for 16 years here at St Mary's and our celebration will take place on **Sunday 28th May followed by morning tea after 10am in the Gathering Space**. We would like to invite all Parishioners to join us after this Mass to help celebrate this special occasion and to find out more about joining our social groups. Pauline Prendergast 0422 668 133.

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

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

*Be informed, inspired and entertained*

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

'The Year we Stayed at Home' – by Sarah Vandeppeer (2022)

This attractive little book for all the family is enhanced by Steph Briggs' lively illustrations. It captures the mood we

all experienced during the pandemic shutdowns. Remember the quieter streets, working and school from home, walking dogs, riding bikes, masks and forever sanitising.

Also available in the St Mary's Library are hard copies of our own similar eBook: 'Stories from our COVID-19 Bubbles' (2021)

**If the Library is not open** please ask a priest or sacristan to open the room and you can record your loans on the form provided. Please return in one month through the chute outside the Library.



St Mary's Parish Library



## ST MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS

**National Reconciliation Week (NRW)** is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW are the same each year; **27 May to 3 June**.

These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful [1967 referendum](#), and the [High Court Mabo decision](#).

**27 May 1967** On this day, Australia's most successful **referendum** saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognise them in the Census.

**3 June 1992** On this day, the Australian High Court delivered the Mabo decision, the culmination of Eddie Koiki Mabo's challenge to the legal fiction of 'terra nullius' (land belonging to no one) and leading to the legal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of lands. This decision paved the way for Native Title.

**Reconciliation** must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for this year is **Be a Voice for Generations**.



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

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**May Baptisms:** Heidi Miller, Lucas Loft, Ella Francis, Alexia Diener,

***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, Margaret Bramley, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer

**Recently Deceased:**

***We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:*** Hubert Johnston, Bishop Eric Perkins, Agnes O'Regan, Mary Haward, Myrtle Bridges, Annabelle Dillon, Tony Ippoliti, William Rule, Maria Antonia Galati, Tess Ward, Bill Harding, Ernest Davis, Matthew Curran, Tess Wilson, Caroline Marston, Francis Abrahams, Bertie Van Hoff, Janet Stephenson, Leo Hart, Helene McIndoe, Hazel Pollock, Paul Norris, Mary Curry, Kevin Wilson, Bill Millington, Alice Carty, Paul Perombelon, Christine Danaher, Roy Forssman, Faye Vennelloweth, Sandy Interlandi, Seamus McGahon, Tom Barnsley (Snr), George Knox, Olive Nash, Hayd Eccers, Les Miller, Michael Kelly, Josephine Silvapulle, Catherine Moore, Hazel Evans, Pasquale De Sensi, Glenys Bruce, Sheila Meehan, Lorraine Lowe, Kevin Dearsley, Mark Clark, Edie Mauer, James Darmody, Jim Ryan, Frank Clark, John Forssman, Eileen McConnell, Irene Joachim, Thelma Charlton, Judy Wynd, Irene Joachim, Kathleen Roonds, Antoni Krupko, Baylon Ryan, Francine Rutter, Patrick Ryan, Auguste Leboeuf, Jean Carr, Rina Carli, Mons. Kevin Toomey, Frank DeSensi, Vincent Borg

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### GARRATT PUBLISHING, TOGETHER WITH OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION INVITE YOU TO AN INDIGENOUS VOICE TO

PARLIAMENT WEBINAR. Join Fr Frank Brenna, SJ, AO and Vicki Clark as they explore the planned referendum suggesting an alteration to the Australian Constitution that establishes a First Nations Voice.

Frank and Vicki will outline the long road that has brought us to this historic moment in Australian history and cut through the political rhetoric to clarify how "The Voice" will enhance the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples– and all Australians. This webinar is ideal for all Australians seeking to understand what an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander "Voice to Parliament" will actually mean. It is your opportunity to learn, take action and make history. Be informed and understand how a Voice to Parliament will give First Nations communities a route to help inform policy and legal decisions that impact their lives.

Join us and make an informed decision at the referendum.

Event details:

**Wednesday 24th May 2023. Time: 5.00pm AEST Where: Via Zoom Free Event**

[CLICK HERE OR BELOW TO REGISTER ONLINE](#) or [An Indigenous Voice to Parliament Webinar \(wufoo.com\)](#) You need to be registered to receive the video link.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:** The Catholic Charity *Aid to the Church in Need* has launched their "Nigeria: Young. Faithful. Crucified" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit [www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal](http://www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal)

**MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES - THEIRS...AND YOURS PALMS AUSTRALIA** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: **RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.** [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

**PASSION ON THE BIG SCREEN – A Day @ the Movies with Peter Malone msc' (in-person event), Saturday 17 June 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (AEST)**

We often refer to Jesus as the Word made Flesh. But Colossians I proclaims Jesus as the Image of the Invisible God. Religious images have always been part of spirituality, The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw moving images emerging on screens, cinemas, television and new modes of streaming. How can we relate to these images as vision for our spiritual lives? Images, symbols, visual metaphors, Christ-figures? We appreciate Lectio Divina. Here we respond to Visio Divina, movie clips, their challenge. Facilitated by Peter Malone msc ~ author, lecturer, founding member of The Film Critics Association and priest. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch). Book and pay via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 03 9890 1101.

## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Before his Ascension, Jesus advises his closest disciples to proclaim the good news to 'all nations'. He places great significance on baptism. It is a brave new world that he is describing, an aura of wonder surrounds the work of those who speak in the name of Jesus.

### The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

21 May 2023

#### First Reading Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

*(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.  
or*

*(R.) Alleluia.*

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

#### Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

#### Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Go and teach all people my gospel.*

*I am with you always, until the end  
of the world.*

*Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Mt 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



#### Reflection by Greg Sunter

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

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