



Sunday 24th September 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & 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: Tanya O'Meara & Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

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

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st & 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

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

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
24th September 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflections-25-ot-year-a>

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



www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

We are delighted to announce the return in October 2023 of our popular online lecture series, **Engaging Your Faith**. Fourteen stand-alone sessions on a range of themes will be presented by members of our lecturing staff. For full details please see the attached flyer. These sessions would be an ideal opportunity for lay leaders and other interested people in your parish to explore the possibilities offered at CTC for personal, theological, and spiritual development.

Topics include the following:

Explorations in the Bible, Basic Listening Skills for Pastoral Ministry, Catholic Social Teaching, The Plenary Council, the Catholic Church, Lectio Divina, Science and faith issues.

Cost: \$25 per session or \$40 if seeking teacher accreditation.

Book and pay directly through our website: [website](#)



THE SIGN ADVENT PROGRAM 2023

Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with *The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023*, a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024).

Immerse yourself in the timeless words of Scripture, expertly curated to illuminate the true essence of these holy seasons heralding the birth of Christ. Whether you seek to deepen your faith, foster a sense of contemplation, or simply embrace the beauty of everything that Advent and Christmas brings, *The Sign* serves as a guiding light leading you through these sacred stories that continue to resonate throughout the ages.

IF ANY OF OUR PARISHIONERS WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE BOOK COULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PARISH OFFICE ASAP, BY PHONE OR EMAIL, A DONATION OF \$5.00 WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

5
OCT

7:30PM

Liturgy of LAMENT

Everybody is welcome and encouraged to attend this service to express our sorrow for the various forms of abuse perpetrated throughout our church within our own lifetimes.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all those affected, either directly or indirectly, to participate in this liturgy that aims to acknowledge the pain that has been felt, and assist with a healing in our communities.

**LOCATION: SACRED HEART
CHURCH, DIAMOND CREEK**



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

"FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO MIGRATE OR TO STAY" is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). In this year's World Day for Migrants and Refugees Message, Pope Francis focuses on the theme, "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay." In the message he points out that for a healthy society there should always be "the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land." Migration movements throughout the world continue unabated. The Pope insists that we should always be "ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern." We don't often reflect on this given our current understanding of refugees, but the Pope reminds us, once again, that there are Biblical examples of refugees. We think first of all of the experiences of the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Pope notes, "The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision." He then insists that, "The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not." He reminds us of St John Paul II who stated that there should be a real commitment "to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one's own country."

The Pope concludes his reflection by reminding us again that "the migrant is not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door." We are to construct "bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration. (Taken from a Reflection by Archbishop Christopher Prowse on His Holiness Pope Francis' Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2023)

Read Pope Francis' full message [at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20230511-world-migrants-day-2023.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20230511-world-migrants-day-2023.html)

Prayer (by Pope Francis)

God, Father Almighty,

grant us the grace to work tirelessly

for justice, solidarity and peace,

so that all your children may enjoy

the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.

Grant us the courage to denounce

all the horrors of our world,

and to combat every injustice

that mars the beauty of your children

and the harmony of our common home.

Sustain us by the power of your Spirit,

so that we can reflect your tender love

to every migrant whom you place in our path,

and to spread in hearts and in every situation

the culture of encounter and of care.

Amen



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS – MOROCCO / LIBYA



Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance.

Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals.

Donate at: www.caritas.org.au

ARCHDIOCESE TRAINING MODULE

For those of you who have been unable to complete your safeguarding training module, the error has now been fixed, you need to login with your WWCC or VIT card to begin.

To access the training follow the link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

OBTAINING COMPLETION CERTIFICATE FOR ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

- ◆ Login to training link using WWCC number www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org
- ◆ They send a 6 digit code by email.
- ◆ Enter code and verify.
- ◆ You are asked if you are clergy – click 'Next'.
- ◆ The screen below comes up.
- ◆ Click the green 'Acquired' icon.



2024 Study Tour

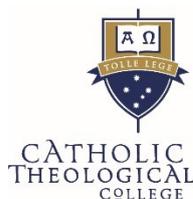
Journey with Paul: Türkiye – Greece: 20 September – 6 October 2024

Tour Leader: Dr Rosemary Canavan

Online Information Sessions: Saturday 23 September, or 7 October 2023 at 2pm

Participants have the opportunity to undertake a study unit with CTC in conjunction with the tour for credit towards an award

RSVP & further information: rosemary.canavan@ctc.edu.au



The Voice

Australian Catholic Bishops urge us all to respectfully consider our democratic vote in the upcoming Referendum. A robust and challenging debate is occurring. Try to listen and learn from reliable sources of information, and then decide.

From the Australian Electoral Commission Referendum Pamphlet -Bundjalung man and former politician Warren Mundine says:

'A national voice cannot speak for country.'

Wiradjuri woman and tennis star Evonne Goolagong Cawley says:

'Voting Yes is a chance for all Australians to celebrate the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made to our country and to help the next generation to chase their dreams. Let's grab this moment.'

from Parish Social Justice Groups

An article from FATHER FRANK BRENNAN SJ, is available in the Gathering Space. In it he outlines the ten steps needed when considering the coming Referendum. He refers to Catholic Social teaching and asks us to listen to the community leaders.

Frank Brennan has worked with Aboriginal communities over many years.



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



BAPTISMS: we pray for Mabel and Asher who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in October.

DIAMOND CREEK ST VINCENT DE PAUL: The Diamond Creek St Vinnies conference would like to thank the Loyola College Flynn House, for their wonderful donation. This support will go a long way in helping those struggling and to put food on their table, in these difficult times. Your efforts also help us attend to those who need our service.

Thanks, Ray Belli. President

100th BIRTHDAY INVITATION: Parishioners are welcome to stay after 9am Mass next Sunday 1st October

For morning tea as we celebrate Mary O'Dea's 100th birthday.



FAMILY GROUPS FUNDRAISING: Enjoy a walk, a coffee and socialising when members of Sacred Heart Family

Groups are again serving refreshments at the Diamond Creek Rotary Tram Café on Saturday 23rd September and Saturday 21st October. Thank you to those who volunteer as the Parish receives a generous donation.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: Some agenda items from recent meeting included

- **Fr Steven's 40th Anniversary** Mass and celebration was a great success. Partnered Parish organising teams worked well. Parishioners contributed and enjoyed morning tea. Steve was grateful and overwhelmed by generous donations which he aims to use for a sabbatical.
- **Sacred Heart School Advisory Council Report** Notified of Commitment Mass dates, working bee date and School Fete. Parish to offer volunteer assistance with fete.
- **Updating our Parish website** Archdiocese have encouraged parishes to prepare for use of their upcoming new website.
- November dates set for **Annual Baptism Families' Celebration Mass** and **Remembrance Mass**
- Cards from parish to be given to **Sacramental candidates** later in year.
- **PPC members turnover** at end of year. Encourage parishioners to consider nominating for a term.
- **Executive Committee** new member will be called for at end of year.
- Sacred Heart **Family Groups** new dates volunteering at Rotary Tram Café.
- **Hall hire fee structure** set. Advertise Hall for Hire in parish and school bulletins.
- Maintenance report: Wet carpet in Mary Chapel following recent heavy rain. Cracks in church tank lids require sealant.
- Frank gave feedback and provided brochures after attending a recent tour and promotion at **St John of God Accord** Greensborough Campus.

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

VOLUNTEERS: There are forms available in St Peter's & Sacred Heart churches (or the Parish Office) for parishioners who are interested in joining the Readers roster, Baptism Preparation Team or any other ministry. The form includes information about Working with Children Check and the Archdiocese Safeguarding Training Module. Thank you.

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 4th October Lunch 12pm at Diamond Creek Hotel

Wednesday 18th October Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in the Parish Centre.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL FETE, MARKET & CLASSIC CAR SHOW: Saturday 28th October 11am-3pm. The Fete is a public event that will see us welcome the wider community to share in the fun and games and aim to raise money for our new playground.

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 26th September C. & F. Ledda

Sunday 1st October Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: J. Hoyne

Commentator: D. Botica

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Padget, R. Belli

Saturday 7th October St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: E. Gittins

Commentator: R. Nicolaisen

Eucharistic Ministers: P. Leonard

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

Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard,

We pray for those who have died 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 THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm
Thursdays 8.00am-12.00pm (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.30-3.00pm St Mary's**)
Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: We pray for Hazel and Gemma who are being Baptised later this month.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP come join us for coffee & chat on Thursday 28th September 1.30pm at Phoenix 285



Diamond Creek Road Plenty. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

So I can book a table if coming email me stewmarg@bigpond.net.au or Text 0408 370685.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE will once again be held from the weekend of **26thth/27th of August until 1st/2nd of October.** Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. The large basket will be available to receive the items; 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: Many of you may not know that our handyman has been off on sick leave. Andrew will be undergoing surgery and will not be back until next year. If anyone is available to do some weeding or pruning (BYO Tools) in the garden beds near and around the Church it would be greatly appreciated. With the spring weather everything is starting to flourish.



You do need to have a current WWCC and have completed the Cam Safeguarding training to be on the school/ church property.

Please let me know if you assist in any way. Thank you. **Lisa**

Roster for Weekend 30th September & 1st October

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: T. Holland

Commentator: J. Bohan

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Bishop, T. Holland, L. Carty

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Bates

Commentator: J. Kerr

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, B. Riordan, F. Landy

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, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager

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, Barisa Zilic, Stjepan Kernjak, Bernard Healy

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 10am-4pm.

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

COLUMBAN FATHERS: Thank you to the parishioners of Saint Mary's community for their generous donation of to the Columban Fathers at the collections in August. 5 people signed up to receive the Far East magazine and 7 expressed a possible willingness to help Columban Mission in the future. Thank you to everyone.

CAN YOU HELP AT WEEKEND MASSES? We urgently need Projectionists and Sacristans. Projectionists display the PowerPoint slides which enable us to join as a community in prayer and song. This role does not require setting up the slides.

Sacristans prepare the church, altar and offertory gifts before Mass, and pack up after Mass. These duties take about 10 – 15 minutes. Please contact the office on 9435 1543 if you can help. 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.

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.

ART EXHIBITION: Exhibition of Flow Art by renowned Diamond Valley Artist, Judy Racz will be held at St Mary's Parish Church. It's a great opportunity to purchase a unique piece of artwork at significantly reduced prices.

Take this opportunity to buy your Christmas gifts and help our church....



Come along to an exhibition and sale of flow art paintings by Judy Racz

When: September 23-24, 2023

Time: before and after mass

Venue: Gathering space at St Mary's Catholic Church

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

Be informed, inspired and entertained

St Mary's Library is currently undertaking a stocktake. Can borrowers please check your shelves



and return any books you have had for more than a month or two? Please be assured that there are no penalties for lost or late books. We want to make your Library as efficient and useful as possible. (St Mary's Library Committee)

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 loans in one month through the chute outside the Library.



Access to the catalogue is available at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780

PLEASE PRAY FOR

September Baptisms:

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Lois Jones, Peter Miles, Leon Gray

Recently Deceased:

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

Florence Penry, John Alexander, Valentina Moore, Br. John Fillingham OFM, Anne Cantwell, Peter McClellan, Joseph Gogola, Garry Mansfield, Linda Nihill, Jack Hawshaw, Michael Monteleone, Onofrio Saltalamacchia, Marie Kelly, Roma Beach, Linda Nihill, Kate Williams, Angelo Rizzi, Maria Canale, Isabel Tippet, Carmel Lee, Michael Considine, Beryl Trenery, Maria Biagoni, Victoria Santos, Marie Purcell, Kit Finnigan, Sr Chrysostom Ashe, Doris Rooney, Mons Bernie O'Regan, Dr Sukumaran, Lionel Fonseca, Aileen Pettigrove, Beryl Trenery, Joseph Quigley, Leslie Waldron, Eileen Fleming, Nell Hawe, Ian Comrie, Alice Anderson, Mary Morton, Ray Davine, Shirley Finley, Fergus O'Neill, Frances Fernandez, Azucena Flores, Alfred Pacey, Luis Francisco, Phillip Lockington, Sr. Brigid Hussey, Frank Bainbridge, Christopher Cranenberg, Maria Vallejo, Eileen McManus, Rosalind Vaz, Thomas Tyquin, Grace Dalton, Ray Redmond, Frank Nihill, Rosa Rizzi, Katherine Anne Doyle, Jesus Marcelo, Santo Mercuri, Kevin Benny, Shae Mantle, Frederick Penry, Anastasia Money, Jozef Drzewucki, Rita Cosgriff, Aileen Pettigrove, Adin Reay, George Roy, Rosa Ficarra, Thom Williamson, Joan Busch, Len Shean

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS: Couples and their families are invited to join the celebration of the annual Marriage Anniversary Mass. Couples who register and are celebrating the following anniversaries – 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th or 40 years and above will receive a commemorative certificate.

Register by Sunday 15th October at [Anniversary Mass 2023 Tickets, St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne | TryBooking Australia](#)

HEART OF LIFE: Waiting at the Well - 4x Thu, 5, 12, 19 & 26 Oct, 10am–12.30pm (in-person event) Carole Carmody rsm, Julie Adam

This series offers an opportunity for those waiting to have their thirst quenched at the Well of Life to explore the depths of wisdom in their own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another, and to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Places limited.

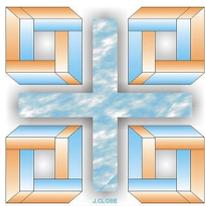
Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/waiting-at-the-well-series/?> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne.

Cost \$100 for the series or \$30 per session.

JAMES ALISON AUSTRALIAN TOUR EVENT DATES: "There is space in the Church for everyone... Everyone, everyone, everyone!"

Pope Francis at WYD, Lisbon, Portugal. Over the past two years, there have been two historic events affecting the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis' invitation to enter into a synodal journey and the Plenary Council of Australia. Both call for a more inclusive, participatory and synodal Church which listens and dialogues with the faithful and helps us to understand the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. During the Plenary Council, the need for inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community within the Church was raised. The National Council of CRA discussed the importance of this and decided to bring James Alison to Australia to continue the conversation. Through CRA's collaborative efforts with other organisations, James Alison several speaking engagements in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth from September to October 2023.

Please follow the link for more information: <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/james-alison-tour>



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close The Kingdom of heaven is like . . . ' a topsy-turvy environment in which 'the last will be first and the first will be last'. The Kingdom, the way Jesus describes it here, is similar to an optical illusion, where earthly logic is confounded. Some of the values we take for granted are turned upside down and our priorities are rearranged, for example generosity has precedence over equity. This parable would be seriously problematic for labour and capital alike in today's world.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

24 September 2023

First Reading Is 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. *(R.)*
2. The Lord is kind and full of
compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. *(R.)*

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

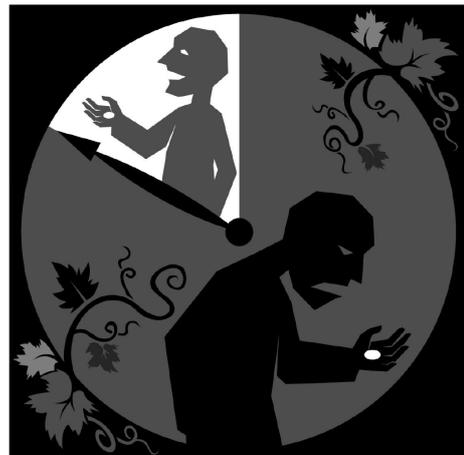
Gospel Acclamation See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

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