



Sunday 26th March 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti

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: 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

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

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

7.00pm Wednesday 29th March at St Thomas Church



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 26th March 2023.

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

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

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

LENT WEEK FIVE

Open our eyes to see the power of love

Today is the fifth weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today Jesus is confronted with the death of his good friend, Lazarus. He deeply loves this family of Lazarus, Martha and Mary and is moved by the sisters' grief and that of their friends, a deeply human response. Martha and Mary had hoped that Jesus could save their brother from death. Jesus instead reveals that he is the resurrection and the life and that those who believe will have eternal life. Martha becomes another witness to the divinity of Jesus by proclaiming her belief that he is the Messiah and the Son of God. Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, a life in God.

Faith and love conquer death and Jesus offers us a life that never ends. That life begins on earth as we place our belief and trust in him.

'And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent' John 17:3

LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2023

COMBINED PARISHES COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

St Thomas: Wednesday **29th March** 7:00pm (with supper following)

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

St Mary's: Saturday evenings 5:45pm - 6:15pm

Thursday 30th March 7:00pm - 8:00pm

St Thomas: Holy Saturday 8th April 9:30am - 10:00am



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - 1st/2nd APRIL *(Please bring own foliage)*

Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart: Sunday 9:00am

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

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

HOLY THURSDAY - 6th APRIL *No morning Mass*

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

St Thomas: 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 7th APRIL *No morning Mass*

Sacred Heart: 3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (lay-led service)

St Mary's: 11:30am Stations of the Cross (Combined Parishes)

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

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

HOLY SATURDAY - 8th APRIL

St Mary's: 10:00am Morning Prayer

EASTER VIGIL - 8th APRIL

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

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

EASTER SUNDAY - 9th APRIL

Sacred Heart: 9:00am

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

St. Thomas: 10:30am



SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

Our Partnered Parishes, hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a fundamental responsibility of the Church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A culture of safety within the Partnered Parishes ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community.

- ◆ We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.
- ◆ We are committed to creating a child safe culture across the Archdiocese that safeguards children and young people from all forms of abuse.
- ◆ We are committed to zero tolerance of all forms child abuse and discrimination, and will always act to safeguard children and young people and report suspected abuse promptly to the appropriate authorities.
- ◆ We are committed to ensuring that all persons who have, or may be expected to have, contact with children and young people acknowledge their responsibility to safeguard children and young people from abuse and discrimination.

Our Parishes will confirm our Statement of Commitment at all Masses this weekend.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 25th & 26th March



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu.

Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Project Compassion is a demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia – without it, we could not do the vital work we do. Thank you for helping transform lives today and for all future Generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2023

REFLECTION

It must be difficult for somebody who has never experienced love to understand the Gospels. They are so full of different emotions, many of them tender. Just think of the beautiful reconciliation between Jesus and Peter after the resurrection. Jesus allows Peter to say that he loves him on no less than three occasions.

Thankfully, most of us can write down a long list of people we have loved and also of those who have loved us. Many names would appear on both lists! We keep a special place in our hearts and prayers for the people we know who have died. Even after a long time, their memory will still bring a tear to our eyes. That sorrow comes from a place of deep gratitude. God changes the world one heart at a time.

When we encounter today's Gospel, the story of the raising of Lazarus, we are in a world of emotion. Martha and Mary are grieving for their brother. Jesus loves these two women. Thomas, the twin, is full of bravado and bluster, just as he was later when he wanted proof of the resurrection. Both Martha and Mary are disappointed, even angry, that Jesus has not come sooner. Jesus weeps at the grave of his friend. The mourners who have come to comfort the family must also have been sensitive to the situation. When Jesus says 'I am the resurrection and the life' he is not explaining an idea. He is responding to the deepest longings of our hearts, as he always does.

Today's Psalm reminds us 'My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watcher for daybreak.' Over the last few weeks we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. There have been stories from Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Nepal and First Australians. Through your generosity, Caritas Australia is able to support partners in 18 different countries. These are all people who, not unlike Lazarus, are longing to be unbound and set free. The Gospel calls us to believe in the Life to which Jesus invites us; that Life is built on justice and compassion.

Written by Michael McGirr

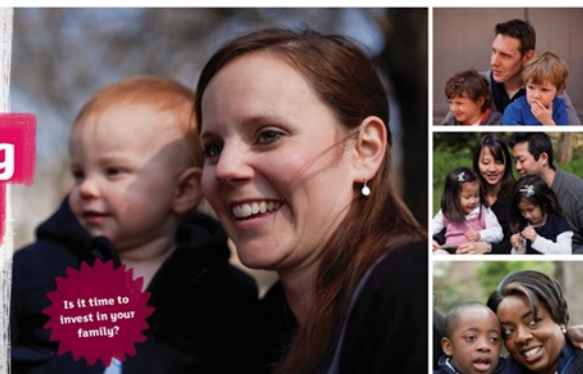


St Thomas the Apostle Parish

is hosting

The Alpha Parenting Children Course

Starting 9th May 2023



Are you a parent, grandparent or care-giver of children aged 0-10 years?

Are you looking for practical support to strengthen your family relationships?

Over **five sessions**, the course will help you to:

**build strong foundations,
meet your children's needs and
teach healthy relationships.**

The course emphasises the role of the family, and acknowledges there is no instant recipe for bringing up children. However, some general principles apply to all families, and there is great value in discussions with others. The Parenting Children Course is based on Christian principles but designed for all people with or without a church background.

When: Tuesday evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm

Where: In your own home – Online via Zoom

Dates: May 9, 16, 23, 30 & June 6

Bookings essential by 7pm Sunday 7 May at

Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGZJF>

For more information contact: Emilia 0418 120902 or emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com

***** Alpha begins 23 May – Register now *****



SCAN ME

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



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 Alayna, Sophia, Isabella and Charlotte who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in April.

EASTER RAFFLE: for those who would like to support the Sacred Heart School Parents Association Easter Raffle, tickets will be available from the Parish Office this week.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: For young children Mass may seem to be long time. However Children's Liturgy of the Word is being held during Mass at Sacred Heart on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, excluding school holidays. Children's Liturgy is when children leave the Assembly to gather in the Parish Centre to hear the Gospel proclaimed from the easier translation of the Children's Lectionary.

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL INVITATION: SHPS would like you to join us at our official School Refurbishment Opening & Blessing Ceremony to be held on Monday 3 April 2023 1.30pm – 3pm.

Honourable guests; past and present staff, students, families and parishioners; valued community members and visitors are invited to celebrate this landmark event in the Sacred Heart story as we showcase a retrospective of the School's 60-year history and officially commemorate today's impressive refurbishment – a monumental platform to present to you, our future. An afternoon tea will be provided. Please RSVP to principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au by Thursday 30 March.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY GROUPS: Save the Day - Sunday 7th May

Fr Steven will celebrate Mass at 9am on this day and we would like to invite all parishioners to morning tea in the church hall afterwards. If you know any former Family Group members we would love to see them.

VOLUNTEER WORK: Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email ray.belli57@gmail.com

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER: Thank you for the wonderful response. Roster in church. Contact Marg Farrell or Wendy McEvoy if you would like to join the team.

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 5th April Fish & Chips in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5th April Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting Thursday 13th April. Suggestion box at back of church.

Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Week 28th March

Cleaning: M. Dunn, A. Ridsdale, T. Gallagher

Saturday 1st April St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: Aminda, R. Nicolaisen, E. Gittens

Commentator: J. Robinson

Eucharistic Ministers: P. Leonard, Dharshanie

Sunday 2nd April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: T. Jenkins, Y. O'Brien, M. Walsh

Commentator: F. Ledda

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Belli, A. Schellens

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

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

Recently Deceased: *Tony O'Shea*

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, Owen Doyle

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



BAPTISMS: Please pray for Parker, Sullivan, Jude, Ari, Oliver and Fiadh who are being baptised later this month.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP : Come for a coffee and chat. EVERYONE welcome.

Thursday 23rd March at 1.30 at Phoenix Diamond Creek Road Plenty. Contact me and let me know if coming so I can book a table. stewmarq@bigpond.net.au or 0408370685 Marg



CLEANING OF CHURCH: I was hoping to get a team together to give the Church a clean before

Easter. If you are available after Mass at 9.45am on Tuesday the 4th April could you please contact me the office. 9434 7373.

NEW AIR CONDITIONERS: Our new RAC are now running in the Church, could you please bear with us as we adjust the temperature controls to suit.

ST THOMAS' PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Meeting 15th March, 2023

- * The PPC welcomed John Bohan who provided Financial Reports and updates on the Early Learning Centre, indicating permit applications are currently being prepared for submission.
- * Data from the 2022 school survey has been tabled and discussed, with the following initial directives emerging-
- * Provide student-led Masses with creative resources to encourage participation.
- * Present *The Parenting Children Course* (for parents/grandparents) between May and June. Further details to follow.
- * PPC AGM has been set for Wednesday, 19th April at 7pm in the Parish meeting room.
- * Split system air-conditioning has been installed in the Church.
- * Plaques in memory of Fr Peter Fulton and Fr Tao Pham for their years of service to the St Thomas community are being designed. Arrangements will be made to accept donations towards the plaques.
- * Discussion continues regarding key areas of focus for PPC in 2023.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next Meeting, Wednesday 15th March, 7.00pm. Email: stthomasppc@gmail.com

Rosters for Weekend 1st & 2nd April 2023

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: E. Sacchetta **Commentator:** P. Carty **Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Leahy, C. Leahy, S. Bishop

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: B. Iacobucci **Commentator:** M. Bates **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Kerr, B. Riordan, C. Riordan

Set Up: M. Bates

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, Lilian Hobson

We pray for those who have died including Stjepan Degac 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

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend "Live Your Best Life in Love" Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples the tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details. 28th– 30th April 2023 in Melbourne (Book early to avoid disappointment) Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

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 by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

HOLY WEEK INFORMATION

PALM SUNDAY 1/2 April 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 exercise your ministry at the Holy Week ceremonies - Holy Thursday 6 April at 7.30pm, Good Friday 7 April at 3pm, the Easter Vigil 8 April at 6.30pm and Easter Sunday 9 April at 8am and 10am. If you are available, please add your name to the roster in the Gathering Space.

HOLY THURSDAY 6 April 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.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK A blessing service will be held on Holy Thursday 6 April 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.

GOOD FRIDAY 7 April 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.

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 We are seeking knitters to assist with knitting beanies and/or fingerless gloves. Patterns and wool are available on the table in the gathering space this weekend.

RUBBISH REMOVAL AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE needs please call Bill Graham 0407 562 028

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 on our parish website during Lent – one based on the *Gospel of St Matthew*, another are *Mary's Stations*, and there is 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday during Lent at 7pm at St Mary's.

ANOINTING MASS at St Mary's, Thursday 30th March 11.00am.



The **2023 Prep Parents Connection Night** will be **Tuesday 28th March – 7.00pm – 9.15pm.**

This night is an initiative commenced in 2005 hosted by the Parish to provide an opportunity for Prep Parents to connect with each other while being welcomed as members of St Mary's Parish. It is a social evening for the parents to come, meet other parents and members of our Parish while being guided to a reflective time all centred on their Prep child. Would you be

available to be one of the **FACES OF WELCOME** on the **28th of March**? There is much to be done and we need you to help us make this year's experience a meaningful and long lasting memory for everyone. If you can spare 30 minutes at school pick up time to help with setting up (The MLC), or assisting at the end of the evening with packing up chairs, tables, etc., or during the evening greeting parents, showing them to their allocated table, serving drinks and being that welcoming presence to them. Join us at our **meeting with all volunteers on Thursday, 23rd March – 7pm**... (you can join either via zoom or in person) as we put the final touches on the night's program. Please contact me by email sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au or phone the Parish Office – 9435 1543.

Thanking you in great anticipation! Sandy Starbuck – Pastoral Associate.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

Be informed, inspired and entertained

Book of the week: Friendly Guides series. These easily understood books deepen and enrich our understanding of Scripture and important Catholic beliefs without being difficult, tedious or academic. Written by leading Australian scholars and theologians, they are colourful books with illustrations, maps, charts, timelines and summary boxes, and are a great way to understand our faith a little more. The Library has Friendly guides to: The Prophets, Jesus, Prayer, Luke's Gospel, Vatican II, Women in the New Testament, Birth of Jesus, The Mass, Matthew's Gospel, The New Testament, The Old Testament, The Resurrection of Jesus, Paul. We hope to acquire more. 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. Access to the catalogue is available at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780



Thank you to everyone who supported our St. Patrick's Day celebration it was a wonderful day. Special thanks to our musicians who provided such great entertainment. Raffle winners were 1st.prize Mary, 2nd.Lyn. We are looking to have more activities and would love to hear from musicians who would like to take part. Enquiries. Maureen 9435 5906, Lucy 9435 6990.



PALM SUNDAY RALLY - In advocating for the just and humane treatment of people seeking asylum in Australia, the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) invites you to walk together on **Palm Sunday, 2nd April 2023**. We will be walking in solidarity with members of Catholic and other school, church and civic communities in our local areas around Australia. This year's walks will call for **Justice for Refugees**. It is Permanent Visas for all, Fair Processes and income support. While the change of government at the federal election last year has brought hope for more compassionate polices, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for justice and certainty about their future.



Time? Join CAPSA at **1:00pm** for a group reflection and prayer led by **Fr Andy Hamilton SJ**, with official Walk for Justice music and speeches starting around 1:30pm.

Where? Meet at the State Library of Victoria (opposite Central railway station) - you'll see a large 'CAPSA', or 'Jesuit Social Services' banner.

St Mary's Social Justice Group

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.

SILENCE IN LITURGY God addresses us through the scriptures. But silence is what helps us discover the meaning and power of these words, letting them 'sink in' and be absorbed into our minds and hearts. In addition to the short periods of silence observed by the Reader after the first and second readings, we will again have a period of silent reflection following the Homily. **The first collection** will be taken up after this period of reflection.

VISITING SEMINARIANS. We again welcome 2 fourth year seminarians from Corpus Christi College, **Nicolas Calandra and Josh McDermid** who will join us for some of our Sunday morning Masses as part of their formation towards priesthood. Please make them welcome, and you might consider inviting them for lunch on a Sunday after the Masses. They are scheduled to be here on April 2, 9, 30; May 21 and 28."

PLEASE PRAY FOR

March Baptisms: Raphael Davis, Jed O'Rourke, Daisy and Sunny Mitchem, Mason Mitoski, Margot Bergantino, Thomas Sinni

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time: Peter Mejak, Michael McAleer, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Noah Thorley, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, John Mullins, Margaret Bramley, Dan Quigley, Rosie Bray, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander

Recently Deceased: Sr Estelita Manabo,

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Colin Wade, Bill Reynolds, Louie Agpawa, Jenny Kenny, Colm Kiernan, Raymond Lee, Allan Doupe, Margot Doyle, Brian Doyle, Jacob de Graaff, Fr. Francis Kissane, Cecil Dorney, Mary O'Malley, Jana Radic, James Foley, Jim Barry, Stjepan Friscic, Serge Leclair, Errol Hodges, John McLean, Maudie Baillie, Jock McCorkell, Michael Heaton, Rose Emirzian, David Faux, Jennifer Mullavey, Andrew Appleton, Charles Bugeja, Bill Bunt, John Bentley, Muntague Juriansz, Sheila Caldwell, John Collins, Daniel Leahy, Kevin Boyle, Norman Seymon, Des Hill, Eliane Jean-Francois, Frances Skelton, May Early, Theresa Hodgson, Rollo Jackson, Patrick Dennis, Brian McKenna, Mrs. Gilligan, Tom Kil-martin, Rose Gomes, Florence Williams, Jean Miles, Ashley O'Leary, Robert Ward, W & M Wycherley, Vicki Nihill, Mary Lane, John McCaig, Laurie May, R. Burns, Rosina Chiodo, Audray Sykes, Luke Nolan, Gregoio Colaci, Rosa Chiodo, Alesandro Cabacungan, Ray Trembath, John Hardy (Senior)



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close 'Unbind him and let him go.' Lazarus was bound by more than bandages, he was wrapped in his own mortality. He was pretty convincingly dead and the stench of death ruled out coma. The witnesses thought it was too late to do any miracles, but Jesus knew the power of God. That did not stop him from weeping, though. This is a very human story! Just look at the state Lazarus was in after his resurrection – was he an angel, or a spirit? No, he was still a human being. The God of Jesus is God of the living and in the story of Lazarus we see some of the finer aspects of being alive.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year: Alternate Readings, Year A

26 March 2023

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25. 26

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.*

Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 or longer form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling; bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.

We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be *the Resurrection and the Life*.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.