



Sunday 26th May 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Lisa & Libby

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

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

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**
principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

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

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

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

On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: GLORY BE TO THE FATHER,
AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity Year B, 26 May 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-holy-trinity-year-b>



Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/

Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDY ON THE JOURNEY TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

“Lay members of the Catholic Church have scored lowest on a range of child safeguarding measures compared with those holding other roles, new ACU-led global research shows. Clergy recorded the strongest results when it came to their positive attitudes and taking personal responsibility for safeguarding children, as well as their awareness of policies, procedures, and cultures that support safety.

The research, led by ACU’s Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), involved 184 participants from ministries in Australia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Ghana, India, Poland, and a tertiary institution in Italy, who were grouped into roles – clergy, postgraduate students, lay people, and school staff and safeguarding officers.

*People in each group rated their beliefs about their organisational culture of safeguarding and **awareness** of policies and procedures, their **confidence** to act, their **attitude** to prevention and the agency of children/ young people, and their situational prevention **knowledge** and education out of a maximum score of five.*

Lead author and ICPS Senior Research Officer Douglas Russell said the research, using ICPS’s Safeguarding Capabilities Survey, showed people working in different roles within churches and church-affiliated institutions including schools and hospitals were at different stages of their safeguarding journey.

“This research shows us that safeguarding initiatives globally must focus on lay people in churches as well as clergy and designated safeguarding leaders to ensure widespread culture change and a safe environment for children and young people,” Mr Russell said.

... Professor Higgins said the research found varying levels of awareness, confidence, attitude, and knowledge, showing more needed to be done to keep children safe.

“When we compared these results to other Australian data we have already collected, the participants in this study scored higher in their knowledge and confidence, but lower in their attitudes and awareness,” he said. “But we know having positive attitudes is at the heart of effective safeguarding.”

Mr Russell said the results also showed participants from countries in which there have been inquiries into institutional sexual abuse, including in Australia and the UK, had more positive attitudes towards the importance of safeguarding compared with countries that had not.

“Conversely, participants in countries such as Ghana and India scored higher in their confidence to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse, however such perceived confidence must be aligned to knowledge and skill,” he said. “Knowledge and awareness in countries where there have not been national inquiries needs to be improved to achieve culture change across Catholic entities globally.”

The conclusion at which I arrive, based on this study and observing the reluctance by some in our parish communities to fulfill requirements for Safeguarding by having volunteers have valid ‘Working With Children’ checks, and where appropriate, ‘Police Checks’, and for parish groups to prepare ‘Risk Assessment’ forms for their events and meetings, is the importance that we need to all place on creating a culture of a keen awareness of protecting children and vulnerable adults in our communities. There is also a requirement that volunteers must complete the online Essential Training. There is a link to this training on the Parish website under ‘Induction Module’. You can seek assistance from the ‘Partnered Parishes Safeguarding Committee’ or the secretaries of our parishes if you have any questions. I ask for your patience and resolve to enable us to be compliant with the Safeguarding requirements for our communities.

On your behalf, I would also like to express gratitude to the members of our Safeguarding Committee for the extraordinary and arduous work it does on our behalf.

With gratitude to all who dedicate with generosity their time and skills for the life of our parishes,

Fr. Steven Rigo

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

FAMILIES IN SPIRITUAL HARMONY



Calling all tweens, teens, young adults and families with children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Are you looking for a place for you and your children to meaningfully connect with other Catholic families? We have the pleasure of introducing Families In Spiritual Harmony (**FISH**). This group has been created by families for families; with the objective of creating a spiritual safety-net for our youth and fostering our catholic community. It is open to everyone, and is for the benefit of all three of our parishes.

We will focus on and encourage faith formation, reflection and discussion in these sessions – all whilst having some fun! These sessions will be held every Friday, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

On the first Friday of every month, we will also have The First Friday's Devotion, along with confession, and all are welcome to join in.

We hope to see you all soon.

Fr Ananda Maddineni



A PARTNERED PARISHES EVENT

There is much unrest in the world – Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, the traumatic and senseless stabbings in Sydney, protests across many countries, the lingering presence of COVID and long COVID resulting in ongoing health concerns for our communities, the damage we continue to inflict on our earthly home and the list is growing. The impact of this reality has each of us unsettled, afraid, searching for signs that will bring change – for the common good – signs God has not forsaken his people. Perhaps this feeling of uncertainty and vulnerability is similar to how the disciples were feeling the night of Pentecost.

They too were experiencing a sense of abandonment, their Teacher was gone, what were they to do?

They called upon God to come to their aid – through their prayer God's Holy Spirit came upon them and their whole being filled with a powerful burning desire to go out and reassure people – God is with US! – His Son and our Savior is with us! Let us do the same – beginning with Prayer. With the support of the Partnered

Parishes Pastoral Council of Sacred Heart, St Thomas' and St Mary's, I am asking those who would like to join me in planning our local "Fiat" in this Year of Prayer to say YES!.

To everyone who has shown interest in organizing this event we will meet on Thursday 30th May at 2.00pm, in the St Thomas Parish House meeting room. Everyone is welcome to come along.

We are aiming to have this prayer service in September.

Please contact me through the Parish Office – 9435 1543 or email me sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

SAFEGUARDING

Our Partnered Parishes are so incredibly thankful for the amazing work of our Volunteers.

Without your time, talent and commitment, the inner workings of our Parish community would not be the same. As a reminder, to be compliant as a Volunteer there are some vital steps that need to be taken first.

These include obtaining a Working With Children Check or VIT registration for Children and Vulnerable people, registering your place of volunteering on your WWC Check application or on MyCheck page and keeping it active throughout your entire service, completing the Essential Safeguarding training online and signing the Code of Conduct. Once again, thank you for your generous and valuable service to the Parish.

Links:

* <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

* <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

Join us for Fiat—A Weekend of Prayer Friday 31st May—Sunday 2nd June 2024

For the second year running, our local communities of grace across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June 2024.

Beginning with the Feast of the Visitation on Friday and concluding with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, parishes, movements and communities are invited to host a time of prayer.

Fiat may be a time to explore various forms of prayer, particularly with Mary and the Eucharist. ***Your 'How to' guide to the Year of*** <https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Year-of-Prayer-guide.pdf>



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 27th May—3rd June 2024 *Now more than ever*

National Reconciliation Week's theme for 2024, *Now More Than Ever*, is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must continue.

There have been many moments in Australia's reconciliation journey that make us want to turn away. But when things are divisive, the worst thing we can do is disengage or disconnect. Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.

National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June – 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 week is framed by the anniversaries of two significant milestones in our reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 Referendum (27 May) and the High Court Mabo decision (3 June).

[Learn more about National Reconciliation Week in Victoria.](#)



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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Andre, Charlotte, Jackson, and Mia who will be welcomed into our community in May.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office if you, or anyone you know, would appreciate

Communion at home.

SACRED HEART MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES: The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com or leave a message with Pat in the Parish Office if you would like a loved one remembered in this way.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next PPC meeting is on 13th June.

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

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 5th June Lunch 12pm Diamond Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant.

Wednesday 19th June 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 28th May F. Geoghegan, P. Leonard

St Peter's Saturday 1st June 7.15pm

Reader: A. Perera **Commentator:** E. Gittins

Sunday 2nd June Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: M. Farrell **Commentator:** D. Botica **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Schellens, R. Padget

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

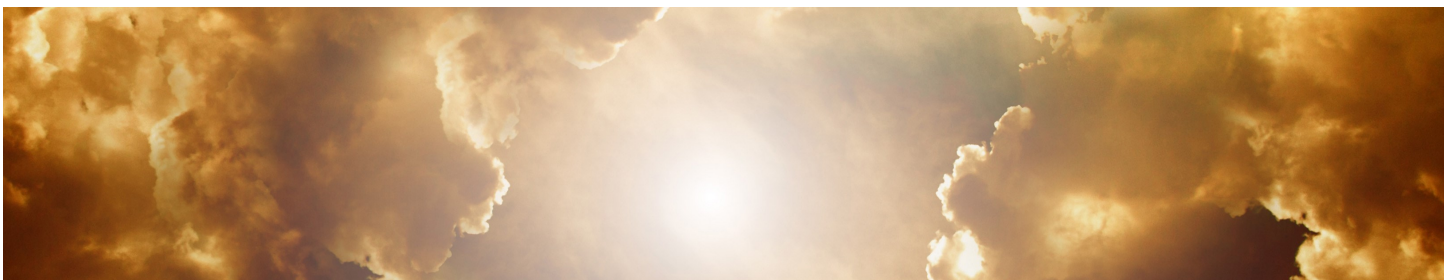
Mary O'Dea, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

Recently deceased: Mavis Laffy

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:

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

TRINITY SKY



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 11am-3pm*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

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



SACRIFICIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES AT ST MARY'S: In order to make it easier for the counters, could you please write the amount on the front of the envelope.

The envelopes are made to accommodate the larger notes, please don't fold the notes.

Also if you miss some weeks, just put in one envelope with the total amount and throw away the other envelopes.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Our next stall will be a "Book Sale" on the 1st weekend 1st & 2nd of June.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th June at 10.30am in the gathering space.

Enquiries to Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990.

WANTED: Plant pots, plastic or other. Any size (not seedling pots) can be left on seat behind Parish House, or phone Phil 94345 4506

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS: It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

MASS OF ANOINTING: A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

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.

A LOST PROPERTY BOX is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.

Be informed, inspired and entertained



During May the Library is displaying a selection of books and DVDs about Our Lady.

They include books of theology, history and devotion related to Mary. To find other similar books on the shelf go to 232.91.

cloud.collectorz.com/247780



PLEASE PRAY FOR

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, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York

Recently Deceased: John Devlin

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Marie Walsh, Dr. Jose & Mrs. Catalina Arce, Fr. Tom Ashe, Jack O'Callaghan, Albert Minney, Fiona Robinson, Shiela Cowell, Flosis O'Rourke, Susan McCormack, Joe Amato, Glenys Bruce, Tegan Amber Kennet, Amor Teves-Péna, Peter Dalton, Harold Haarburger, Vern Birthisel, Helen Hughes, Pauline Attard, Geoff Dalgliesh, 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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Mallory, Theodore and Leo who are being baptised later this month.

REPORT FROM PPC MEETING HELD ON 15th May 2024

Michael Bates opened the meeting with a prayer focused on the issue of domestic violence.

Fr Steve shared his recent camping trip where he experienced of the wonders of a lush desert under an amazing night sky. Sandra thanked the PPC members for their prayer cover during her recent mission to Goroka PNG.

The ongoing business included updates on the Early Learning Centre; progress on developing a new parish website and information brochure. In August an application is to be made for a Grant for an artist-in-residence, with the aim of working with the school children to produce a set of Stations of the Cross.

Cathy O'Brien reported on a recent PPPC meeting and we are to expect a letter to all parishioners detailing the development of the partnership these past 7 years. Keep a look out for a prayer service for peace.

Michael Bates provided a brief report on the activities of the Social Justice Group, how they were raising funds for the charities they are assisting.

Much of the night's discussion was regarding the 25th anniversary of the building of the church. Make a diary note for the period Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th August for a proposed week-long celebration. Just a taste: church design features, the significance of the 'season' windows, old photos, etc. If you would like to be a part of a Committee to coordinate celebrations, or assist with hospitality, please contact Tim Holland or Lisa Leahy. Sandra Bishop to create an activity page for the St Thomas school children.

Roster for Weekend 1st & 2nd June

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: E. Sacchetta

Commentator: A. Fernando

Eucharistic Ministers: K. Salm, M. Bedford

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Bosco

Commentator: S. Millar

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Riordan, B. Riordan

Set Up: M. Bates

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle. Please contact Lisa or Tim stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.


Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.

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

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

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

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



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny: Jesus says that he will be with us always. 'Always' is an interesting way of putting it because it can mean 'in every way' and it can mean 'in every moment'. If we are attentive, signs of God become apparent everywhere we look and whenever we look for them. Sometimes God-sign is tangible; but at other times it is as subtle as a whisper or a reflected colour.

The Most Holy Trinity, Year B

26 May 2024

First Reading Dt 4:32-34. 39-40

The Lord himself is God in heaven above and on earth below: there is no other.

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors - all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-6. 9. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. With his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and they came to be. He commanded; they sprang into being. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
4. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:14-17

You have received the Spirit that makes you God's own children, and in that Spirit we call God: Father, our Father!

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

Gospel Acclamation See Rv 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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 to 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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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.
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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

We humans are created into the image of God. If our idea of God is wrong then we can imagine ourselves in a way which is dangerously de-humanising.

If we think of God as solitary Being then we might imagine that the best way of being human is to be solitary, self-sufficient, totally in-dependent of others. However, Jesus Christ revealed a different way for the eyes of faith to see God.

He had a sense of the most intimate communion with 'Abba', Father, and he had such a close relationship with the Holy Spirit that his very breathing on his disciples imparted this Breath of God upon them. The early Church was forced to conclude that Being and Relationship were both fundamentally primordial and true of the Tri-une God, or the Trinity for short.

Now, if we are created into *this* image of God, then our very existence needs to be relational for us to be fully human in this life and the next. To be totally self-absorbed is to consign oneself to a Hellish existence. To be open to communion with God, other human beings and the whole of creation is to enjoy a Heavenly existence.

We can take a moment to pray to thank God for this revelation not granted to, or at least not believed by, other great world religions. We thank Jesus Christ for satisfying our yearning to know the truth about our Creator, and helping us to understand what it is to be fully human. May we recall this every time we dip our fingers in the holy water font on entering a church, remembering our baptism: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

mtate@bigpond.com