



Sunday 28th July 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://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](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

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

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

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st 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](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

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

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

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass 10.30am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs Trish Vanderkolk **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**  
[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto: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: Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.** O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B, 28th July 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflections-17-year-b-2024>

**Next week 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

St Mary's Facebook page

[facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/](https://facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/)



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

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### SAVE THE DATE:



Men's Dinner, Friday 18th October 2024, Sacred Heart Hall, two great guest speakers, more details to follow.

### RAISING FATHERS

With over 20 years experience in engaging with men across the country, menALIVE's RAISING FATHERS evenings bring valuable insights and practical advice on modern fathering in a powerful and transformative evening. The evening is based on the recent book of the same name, co-authored by menALIVE co-founder Robert Falzon together with twelve other men, of varying backgrounds and ages, who share their collective and diverse lived experiences of fathering in today's world.

Robert Falzon has presented RAISING FATHERS evenings across Australia together with one of his co-authors.

Event highlight: Practical advice for Modern Fatherhood, Powerful Stories, Real Discussions, Inclusive Invitation.

A menALIVE RAISING FATHERS evening has the potential to transform a father's approach to parenting. This has a powerful impact on the lives of the entire family and sets the children on a path to becoming successful, well-balanced, caring, engaged, and productive members of the community.

**Where:** St Martin of Tours Primary School on Wednesday 21st August from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

Bookings can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/CSJAR>



### SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 10.30AM MASS



*It is the 25th anniversary of the completion and blessing of St Thomas the Apostle Church this year. We wish to celebrate this momentous occasion by holding a special Mass on Sunday 18th August at 10.30am. This will be followed by a morning tea where you can chat with other parishioners, renew old friendships, make new connections, and reflect on the work of those who designed, planned and built our beautiful worship and community space with its many special and unique features.*

*All members of our partnered parishes are warmly invited to share this celebration.*

### 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 at St Thomas the Apostle Parish.

***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***



### 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/>

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS



### FURNITURE REQUEST FOR PARISH HOUSE

The St. Thomas Parish House is in need of a double bed for visiting priests/ family members etc. If anyone has a bed they no longer need and are willing to donate it to the Parish, could you please contact your local Parish Office and a message will be passed on to Frs Steven and Ananda. Thank you!

### YEAR OF PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR JUBILEE 2025

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

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

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

*Melbourne Catholic April 2024*



## You are invited to a **Mini Retreat of the Tree of Life Four Seasons Windows**



**10am-12.30pm, Saturday, August 17**

As part of St Thomas the Apostle Church 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, a mini retreat will be presented in the Church based on the **Tree of Life in the Four Seasons Windows**.

Viewed through the lens of our Christian faith, the Windows invite us to discover the presence of the Divine, challenging us to embrace our role as missionary disciples and reflect the image of Christ.

**For catering purposes please RSVP to Emilia by August 14**  
[emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com](mailto:emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com)

**Mob: 0418 120 902**

## 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

**MONTHLY RAFFLE:** tickets are available after 9am Masses. This month's prize is a "Winter Warmers" hamper.

Thank you to our Senior Moments Group. Tickets are \$2 or 6 for \$10.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Men's Dinner, Friday 18th October 2024, Sacred Heart Hall, two great guest speakers, more details to follow.

**SACRED HEART MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES:** The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 7th August 12pm Lunch at The French Lettuce patisserie Hurstbridge.

**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](mailto:alisonpieper52@gmail.com)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 30th July** M. Cusack, W. Mc Evoy

**Sunday 4th August Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** D. Botica **Commentator:** M. Farrell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Belli, Schellens

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

**Reader:** P. Leonard

**Commentator:** E. Gittins

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

*Denny Hegarty, Tony Watson, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard, Martin Leonard*

**We pray for those who have died recently including Vi Hurley and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of July that they may enter**

**joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

*Mary Keenan, Salvatore, Basil, Maria & Fortunato Caccetta, David Phillips, Kevin Jose, Caterina Borgolotto, Patricia Nettleton.*

### **Celebrating Pat Guatta**

Pat is retiring after 20 years as  
Parish Secretary of  
Sacred Heart  
Diamond Creek.

You are invited to a mass to celebrate her  
years of dedication

**WHEN:-** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 9am

**WHERE:-** Sacred Heart Diamond Creek

Mass will be followed by morning tea.

Please come along to show your  
appreciation for all she has done.

# 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](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you



## To the Parishioners of St. Marys and St. Thomas - Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul!

On behalf of the Greensborough Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, I wish to sincerely thank the parishioners of St. Marys and St. Thomas for their tremendous support of our recent Winter Appeal. Even though the final figure is still being processed, we know it will be substantial! Your donations will set us up well to continue to look after our local families through the Winter and the rest of the year. When there are many demands on your generosity during the year, we are so grateful that you have once again shown loyalty and appreciation for the work of your local Conference in such a practical way.

**With kindest regards**

**Maureen Lonsdale, President – Greensborough SVDP**

**OLIVEWOOD CARVINGS:** 'On the 3rd & 4th of August there will be handcrafted olivewood biblical items for sale. These items are handcrafted in Bethlehem the Holy Land by the catholic families there. Any purchase will help support the catholic community in the Holy Land and improve their livelihood and also support maintaining the Holy sites there.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD:** The next Readers roster for the period September to December 2024 will be prepared soon. Please let Marian know by Friday 28 July if there are any dates in this period when you know you will not be available. Thank you.

**COMMUNION TIME:** Blessings and gluten-free hosts. If you are not receiving Communion, you are welcome to come forward to the Celebrant or one of the Communion Ministers to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms on your chest when you approach the Minister. If you require a gluten-free host, please approach the Celebrant and request one.

**GREETING AND WELCOMING** St Mary's is known as a vibrant, positive community with a long history of hospitality and friendliness. To further extend this hospitality, parishioners are invited to greet and welcome people in the gathering space as they arrive for Mass. This gesture of hospitality is important for those we know, and particularly for visitors and new parishioners. You may be surprised by the positive impact for those you welcome and for yourself. You may offer the newsletter as part of your welcome. Thank you.

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

**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.

**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.

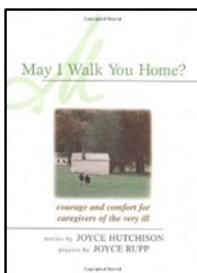
**A LOST PROPERTY BOX** is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.

*Be informed, inspired and entertained.*

### **Book of the Week**

**May I Walk You Home : Courage and Comfort for Caregivers of the Very Ill by Joyce Hutchinson and Joyce Rupp**

This book is an invaluable resource for professional caregivers and loved ones assisting someone on their final journey home. Accompanied by the experience and empathy of hospice educator Joyce Hutchinson and the wisdom and inspiration of author Joyce Rupp, readers will discover the courage necessary to embrace the struggles and rewards of this final companionship.



[cloud.collectorz.com/247780](https://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York, Enlee Lew

**Recently Deceased:** David Gillingham

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

Mary Shelley, Alice Puckeridge, Ron Mountney, Mary Shortal, Maria Cardamone, Carlos MiLiCup, Joyce Williamson, Kevin Clarke, Gaudio Tosetto, Maureen Bentley, Frank Cosgriff, Letitia Liston, Candy Paiva, Margaret Pini, Candice Paiva, Victoria Debono, Reg O'Connor, Tadviga Krolikowski, Edward Sheridan, Sarah Kelly, Stanislaw Krupko, Kevin Barnett, Doris Russell, Edward Beers, Sheila Hopkins, Daniel Joseph Carr, Rocco Galati, Irma Cole, Shannon Risson, Mick Phelan, Desmond O'Neill, Yvonne Michell, Kevin Bryan Dillon, Fr Stan Gaidelis, SJ, John Young, John Nugent, Philip Said, Baby del Prado, Carmen Pinzon-Atienza, Fr. Frank Shortis, Bruce Johnson, Denis Cail, Jim O'Connor, Mary McCormick, Jim T. Smith, Mary McMahan, Ellen Rutz, Amy Delves, Shelley Dodd, Manue Galea, Aileen Coffey, Angelina Cardamone, Elizabeth Eames, Annie Theresa Easton, Veronika Early, Scott Marchment, Bill Conroy, Agnes Antons, Alan Diwell, Gwenyth Herlihy, Len Moran, Sr Alphonse



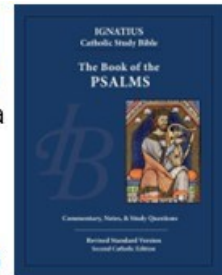
**Monday Bible Study Group**  
7.30 to 9.30pm on



On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. the group will commence a new study using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible on the Book of Psalms.

All welcome to click the link and join in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79611838040>



**SHRINES OF OUR LADY**

**FATIMA - AVILA - LOURDES - NEVERS -  
PARIS - LISIEUX - MEDJUGORJE - ZAGREB**

**28<sup>TH</sup> Oct - 12<sup>TH</sup> Nov 2024**

With

**Fr Ananda Prasad Maddineni MSFS**



**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Join the procession of Our Lady of Fatima
- Visit Avila, the home of St Teresa
- Pray at the Lourdes Grotto
- Visit the tomb of St Bernadette
- Visit Lisieux, the home of St Therese
- Climb the Cross Mountain, Medjugorje
- Follow the trail up to Apparition Hill

**FULLY INCLUSIVE**  
**\$8390 + TIPS**  
(30+ PILGRIMS)  
BOOK BEFORE  
30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024

**INCLUSIONS**

- Return Economy Class Airfare
- Accommodation in Premium Hotels
- Breakfast and Dinner
- Transfers on Deluxe A/C Coach
- Entrance Fees
- Services of Professional Guides

**INFORMATION SESSION**  
7:30 PM 20<sup>th</sup> July  
St Mary's Catholic Parish  
204 Grimshaw Street  
Greensborough



For details contact  
Fr Ananda Maddineni  
mapp1bb@gmail.com  
0424 912 196



1300 721 561  
03 8839 6615  
pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au  
magiholidays.com.au

## 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 Setyanna and River who are being baptised later this month.

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for some more volunteers to help with our morning tea. If you are able to bake/purchase something for our morning tea could you please contact me in the office.

### SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 10.30AM MASS



*It is the 25th anniversary of the completion and blessing of St Thomas the Apostle Church this year. We wish to celebrate this momentous occasion by holding a special Mass on Sunday 18th August at 10.30am. This will be followed by a morning tea where you can chat with other parishioners, renew old friendships, make new connections, and reflect on the work of those who designed, planned and built our beautiful worship and community space with its many special and unique features. All members of our partnered parishes are warmly invited to share this celebration.*

### To the Parishioners of St. Marys and St. Thomas - Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul!

On behalf of the Greensborough Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, I wish to sincerely thank the parishioners of St. Marys and St. Thomas for their tremendous support of our recent Winter Appeal. Even though the final figure is still being processed, we know it will be substantial! Your donations will set us up well to continue to look after our local families through the Winter and the rest of the year. When there are many demands on your generosity during the year, we are so grateful that you have once again shown loyalty and appreciation for the work of your local Conference in such a practical way.

With kindest regards

Maureen Lonsdale, President – Greensborough SVDP

### ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH turns 25 this year.

Do you know ...?

Our church, our 'tent', is built in the shape of an octagon. Other items with eight sides include the altar, the baptismal font and the platform on which the altar sits. The significance of this shape dates back to the early days of Christianity where the eight sides symbolised the resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of a new covenant with God. Many early churches were eight sided.

We have four sides of glass and four sides that each hold a special chapel: the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the south; Our Lady's Chapel in the north; the Reconciliation Chapel in the west and the Seasonal Chapel in the east. These solid sides act like tent poles, supporting the roof.

### Roster for Weekend 3rd & 4th August

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** E. Sacchetta

**Commentator:** P. Carty

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

**Set Up:** K. Salm

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** A. Dossa

**Commentator:** T. Williamson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Kerr, C. O'Brien

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

***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*

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

*Kevin Jose, Pat Gannon, Anna de Gier, Michael Pham, Hopetoun Chapman, Edwin Ray, Shannon Risson, Jack O'Brien, Nunzuio Napoleone, Mary Kenny, Eileen Mc Inerney, Guido Paciocco, Jack Sutherland, Domenico & Elidia Paliotta, Salvatore De Bartolo, Lynette Corcoran, Petronilla De Leo*



**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close:** Like last week 'the crowd' is being a bit of a nuisance to Jesus and his disciples. In this reading from John's gospel 'the crowd' again intrudes on their solitude. Nevertheless, Jesus gives the people a sign. The multiplication of the loaves and the fishes transforms a picnic into a wondrous and symbolic event which has a decidedly Eucharistic flavour

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

28 July 2024

### First Reading 2 Kgs 4:42-44

*They will eat and have some left over.*

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16**

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

- All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. (R.)
- The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
- 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 Eph 4:1-6

*There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

### Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.*

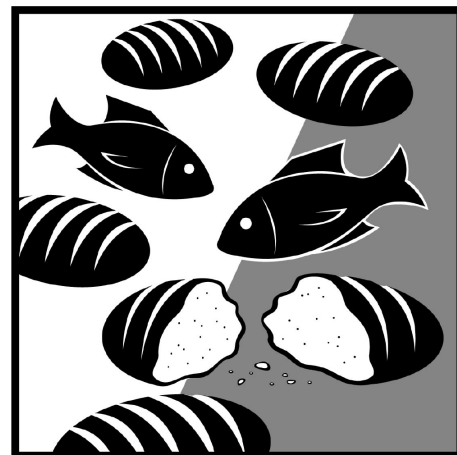
*Alleluia!*

### Gospel Jn 6:1-15

*He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.*

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The disciples fell into the verbal trap which Jesus set. They believed that market forces should dictate how the hunger of the crowd could be satisfied. It was a young lad who put the disciples to shame, simply handing over five barley loaves and two fish to Jesus. It was because of his generosity that Divine generosity was able to feed the crowd.

Divine desire to satisfy the hungers of humanity for the various necessities of life (food, shelter, companionship, education, medicines) require human generosity. Otherwise, Divine Compassion cannot be effective in the world.

Voluntary renunciation of property and sharing of wealth still occurs in the little oases of monasteries and convents, echoes of the radical redistribution of wealth recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4:32-35). St Luke makes it clear that this was essentially linked to the Apostles' testifying to the Resurrection 'with great power'.

Francis of Assisi and now Francis of Buenos Aires remind us that the Church itself needs to engage in the redistribution of its wealth to enable the hungers of humanity to be satisfied. This will give authenticity to its preaching of the Gospel, and enable its evangelising to be undertaken 'with great power'.

We could take a moment to pray that we become more like the little boy in the Gospel, more like Francis of Assisi, more like Francis of Buenos Aires, voluntarily sharing our wealth to satisfy the hungers of humanity.

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