



Sunday 30th July 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

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

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

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

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

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

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

**Sunday:** Mass 9.00am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Friday:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**  
[principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

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

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

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass 10.30am

**Reconciliation Times**

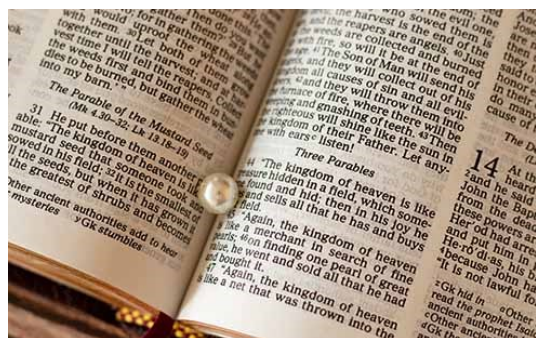
**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

**Parish School Principal**

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**  
[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

**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**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**



**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 in Ordinary Time Year A, 30th July 2023.**

**<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-17-sun-year-a>**

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



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

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

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



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



**The Parish Pastoral Councils of  
St Mary's Greensborough  
St Thomas North Greensborough  
Sacred Heart Diamond Creek**

invite you to the celebration of

# **Father Steven Rigo's 40th Anniversary of Ordination**

**St Mary's Catholic Parish Church  
Greensborough**

**Sunday 20 August**

**10am Mass followed by morning tea**

Members of our Partnered Parishes PPC have decided that one gift will be presented to Fr Rigo.

If you wish to contribute there will be marked envelopes within our Parishes, and a special collection will be taken up on the weekends of the 6th & 13th of August.

**Cash & Direct Debit donations only.**

**Account details:** St Mary's Parish **BSB:** 083347 **Account Number:** 647043167

**Reference:** SRigo40

## **SAINT COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY**

Dear Parishioners of St Mary's parish, Greensborough and St. Thomas the Apostle parish, North Greensborough, I am Fr. George Hogarty, a Columban Missionary who has worked in South Korea in Asia and in both Chile and Peru in South America. On the weekends of the 29th & 30th of July and the 5th & 6th of August 2023 in order to promote the Columban Far East magazine. Hence, I will be sharing some of my experience of the work of the Missionary Society of Saint Columban, or the Columbans as we are generally known.

The Columbans were founded by two Irish Diocesan priests, Frs. Edward Galvin and John Blowick in 1916 and were originally known in Ireland as the Maynooth Mission to China. However, two years later when Rome gave canonical approval on the 29th of June 1918 to the original Maynooth Mission, it took the name The Missionary Society of St. Columban after its patron Saint Columbanus, the Irish missionary monk who evangelized pagan Europe in the sixth century. St. Columbanus or Columban is distinct from St. Columba, another Irish missionary Monk who went to the Island of Iona in Scotland roughly around the same time. Columban is famous for his words *Cristi Simus, non nostri* which is translated as We are Christ's, not our own.

Since 1918, Columban priests, and later the Columban Sisters and Columban Lay Missionaries inspired by the missionary spirit of St. Columban have been crossing boundaries of language and culture to bring Christ to the poor and marginalized and to protect creation.

I hope you will consider becoming readers of our Columban Far East magazine that shares stories of the joys and challenges of the different Christian communities in the 16 countries where Columbans work. By subscribing to our Far East Magazine, you will be able to inform yourselves of the work of the Columban Fathers, Sisters and Lay Missionaries and the peoples we live and work with and possibly become partners in helping the growth of the Churches in Asia, the Pacific and Latin-America where Columbans minister. I offer my thanks for your willingness to listen to my stories about the spirit and work of the Columbans. Until the weekends of the 29th & 30th of July and the 5th & 6th of August God bless.

**Fr. George G. Hogarty SSC.**

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM FR STEVEN



While I'm on vacation over the next few weeks, Fr. George Hogarty, a Columban missionary priest, will be assisting Frs. Martin and Ananda over the next three weekends. I have known George since 1983 when we were appointed to different parishes in Geelong, and before he served in Chile, Peru and South Korea.

He will be promoting Columban publications. I'm sure you will welcome him warmly.

I will be thinking of you and praying for you as I contemplate life in a warmer climate.

*Fr. Steven*

### SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

***To all of our valued volunteers, it is a requirement that as a volunteer in our parishes, all volunteers are required to have a current WWCC and you also need to complete the safeguarding training module.***

Could you please assist us by completing the online module as soon possible.

- Is your WWCC currently up to date?
- Is the parish you volunteer at listed with the department of Justice?
- Have you completed your safeguarding training?
- Make sure where you volunteer is registered with the: <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/>
- You are required to complete the Safeguarding Essential Training. Once complete please send in your certificate to the parish you volunteer in.
- To access the training go to: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>
- ***If you need help please contact your Parish office.***



### A MINISTERS OF THE WORD (READERS) FORMATION EVENING

***A Formation evening will be held at St Mary's Church Greensborough on Thursday 10 August at 7.30pm for our partnered parishes.***

If you are interested in proclaiming the Word of God and reading the Prayers of the Faithful at weekend Masses, please consider attending this session which will include the historical and spiritual background to the ministry and the opportunity for practical input and feedback.

Current Readers are also invited to attend.

***Please contact Marian 0409 591 527 for more information.***



### SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

Catholic Social Teaching has been described as perhaps the most important contribution the Catholic Church has made to the world community during the last two centuries, a cohesive body of thought ratified by our Popes, and which is drawn from the Scriptures, and linked to Society's ever-changing situations. Various Catholic Organisations have been applying its teachings for some time and we believe it's in the interests of subsidiarity for us as parishioners of our partnered parishes to explore practical ways that we can involve ourselves in this wonderful concept.

Our purpose would be to look at the way changes and developments that are occurring, or have already occurred, in our Society impact on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and to attempt to deal with that impact in practical ways, using the experience and expertise of organisations currently working in the field of Social Justice.

We are inviting any of our parishioners who feel that they would like to be more informed and involved in this mission to contribute to the common good in our society.

To find out more, email Ted on mailto:[tedthejenk@bigond.com](mailto:tedthejenk@bigond.com)

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



**BAPTISMS:** We pray for Xavi who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community next week.

**THANK YOU:** To the generous parishioners who have been cleaning the hall, the church windows and those working in the church gardens. You are very much appreciated.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 2nd August: Lunch & Movie at Pat Frisby's home.

Wednesday 16th August: Scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre. BYO light lunch.

**FAMILY GROUPS:** Thank you to Frank for organizing Sacred Heart Family Groups to volunteer at Diamond Creek Rotary Tram Café. They are rostered on again this Sunday 30th July. If you are out walking, please support their efforts. Portion of profits forwarded to parish bank account by Rotary so far is \$500.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Next Meeting Thursday 10th August. Suggestion box in church or Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Sacred Heart School Fete and Craft Market Saturday 28th October.

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 1st August** M. Dunn, A. Ridsdale, T. Gallagher

**Saturday 5th August St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** R. Nicolaisen

**Commentator:** Amindha

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Dharshanie

**Sunday 6th August Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** M. Farrell

**Commentator:** M. Walsh

**Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Padget, T. Sirianni



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

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 August that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:***

Jim Beattie, Fr Gerard Loughnan, Kevin Nihill, Win Atkinson, Mary Burke, Wayne Robinson, John O'Connor, Kevin Callaghan, Colleen Gardner



LPFA PROUDLY PRESENTS

Trivia &  
Entertainment  
Night

**SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST**  
OLYMPIC HOTEL, PRESTON  
7PM - LATE

**\$80 PER PERSON**  
ADULTS ONLY

TICKET INCLUDES 3 COURSE MEAL  
DOOR PRIZE RAFFLE  
LIVE MUSIC FROM THE 80S AND 90S  
COURTESY OF 'LOUIE AND THE PARTY BOYZ'

[WWW.LOYOLA.VIC.EDU.AU/TICKETS](http://WWW.LOYOLA.VIC.EDU.AU/TICKETS)



## 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

**REMINDER TO TURN OFF HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM:** Just a reminder to everyone who uses the Church.

Could you please check before you leave that the RAC are turned Off.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** You are most welcome to join The Way Prayer Group on Zoom in exploring Bishop Robert Barron's FREE series, "The Mass". 6 weekly sessions, commencing Thursday, 10th August, 8-9.30pm. Please register on Trybooking to receive the Zoom link. <https://www.trybooking.com/CKEUR>  
For further information please contact Emilia 0418 120 902.

### **Roster for Weekend 5th & 6th August 2023**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** S. McMahon

**Commentator:** E. Sacchetta

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

**Set Up:** M. McKenzie

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** B. Iacobucci

**Commentator:** M. Bates

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

**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, Tina Butera, Peter Kernjak*

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

Arthur Walker, Jane de Carlo, Rachael Casale, Frank McMahon, Frank Ventura, Tony Chirico, Marie Lewis, Michael De Popolo, Maris Sacchetta, Guido Micheluzzi, Orazio Palazzoto, Giovanna Formosa, Robert Capocchi, Denis McCarthy, James McCarthy, Bill Ahern, Marina Micai, Anne Honeywell, Giusepa Minutolo, Paul Silverwood, Jim Lysaght, Salvatore Scala, Margaret Hardwick, Ted Tremayne, Giselle Caliste, Nadia Mefflin, Alan Corcoran, Margaret Howse, Alan McCarthy, Salvador Catalogna, Rose Masabni, Dragan Zilic

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** The offering of Mass stipends is an ancient tradition in the Church. The priest who celebrates the Holy Mass does so for the intentions of the person who has given the Mass offering, whether it be for a sick person or the soul of a departed loved one or for some other private intention. The money given is in no sense a "payment" for the Mass but rather a free gift, given in gratitude and for the material support of the priest himself. For many priests in the poorest parts of the world, who often have no other means of support, such Mass offerings are a vital contribution to their survival and to their work on behalf of the whole parish. [ACN Australia - Mass Offerings \(aidtochurch.org\)](https://www.aidtochurch.org)

### **Windows onto God (in-person event), Sat 29 Jul, 10am-3pm**

The windows explored are incarnation, darkness, abundance and self- acceptance. Incarnation, seen in the broad sense of God being in the world, takes in the joy of being alive. With this joy, there is the experience of darkness, which is also part of our human reality. Abundance picks up the theme of incarnation. It reminds us that God is lavish with her/his gifts and wants us to enjoy them. Self-acceptance is linked to these themes since it means accepting both the darkness and the light in ourselves. An interactive event allowing time for reflection and sharing, facilitated by Br Tim Lockwood cfc.

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$60 (BYO Lunch). Book and pay via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](https://www.heartoflife.melbourne), email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101.

## 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](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

**GRANDPARENTS DAY:** *Friday the 4th of August is Grandparent's Day* and they are having a special mass at St. Mary's to celebrate the students and their Grandparents, *with mass starting at 9.00am not the usual 9.15.*

**LADIES AUXILARY:** We are holding a variety sale after Masses on weekend 12th/13th August. Many different goods we hope there is something that suits you. **Enquiries Maureen 94355906 Judy 9435 4506**

### **A MINISTERS OF THE WORD (READERS) FORMATION EVENING**

A Formation evening will be held at St Mary's Church Greensborough on Thursday 10 August at 7.30pm for our partnered parishes. If you are interested in proclaiming the Word of God and reading the Prayers of the Faithful at weekend Masses, please consider attending this session which will include the historical and spiritual background to the ministry and the opportunity for practical input and feedback. Current Readers are also invited to attend. Please contact Marian 0409 591 527 for more information.

**GARDEN POTS:** Thank you to everyone who has so kindly donated pots for the Parish Fete. We have ample pots due to your overwhelming donations. *Phil*

**ST MARY'S GARDENING NEEDS:** Would there be 'lovers of the garden' who would like to be involved in spending a little time caring for a portion surrounding St Mary's? (Barbara has offered to divide the garden into manageable sections) whenever time for each volunteer. Maybe a couple of people could organise to come together!

Please pray about it, as it is such a rewarding ministry and Barb is ever so willing to help you get started, and to help you find a section you'd like to be responsible for. Ever so grateful Anne. ( On behalf of Barbara)

**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.

**LITURGY NOTES – The Word of God.** At Mass we listen to the Word of God, reflect on its message, and respond in prayer. God's Word is active. It is both a word to be heard and a guide to the way we live. We are called to take the Word of God with us in our hearts when we leave the church and return to our everyday lives. As a reminder of this call, at the end of Mass, the book of scripture, open at the Gospel of the day, is placed on the front of the lectern facing the congregation. The Word of God leaves the church in the hearts of the people rather than in a closed book.

**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.

### ***Book of the week Be informed, inspired and entertained***



**Book of the week:** The Voice to Parliament Handbook by Thomas Mayo, Kerry O'Brien

This is an easy-to-follow guide for Australians who express support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart but want to better understand what a Voice to Parliament actually means.

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

Access to the catalogue is available at: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



St Mary's Parish Library

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

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### July 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

#### Recently Deceased:

*We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: William Conroy, Loyola McAleer, Muriel & James Laux, Ian White, Dennis Ryan, Brian McEntee (Jnr.), Constancia Doriendo, Andrew Watson, Francis Pickett, Benito Acosta, Umberto Pacione, Geoff Willett, Noel Rickard, Rita County, Vera Evans, Josephene Phelan, Allsopp Family; Bella Ngapera, Nepia, Tehan, Rakata; Michael Keegan Snr., Kath Fury, Eva Hanrahan, Brother Michael McMurray Danye Hardy, Patrick Hickey, Ron Webb, Herbert May, Agnes Cormick, Flia Galati, Angela Giudice, Pereirav, Oscar Fernandes, Giuseppina Zambara, Robert Eastaway, Beth McLary, Claude Boyle, Kathleen Ellis, Tony McCloskey, Tim Stapleton, Loan Ng, Pat Donnellan, Joyce Hyde, Philomena Harnan, Jacinta Perry, Michael Ryall, Aileen Day, Richard Omant, Sr Mary Justinian RSM, Frank Carr, Anna Villanti, Greg Rudderham, Antonio Paras, Vivienne Rickards, James Booker, Sheila Booker, Allan Corcoran, Lorenzo Favata, Dorothy Dixon, Catherine Fowler, Piotr Goral, Ted Rutter, Neville Davis, Mary McGrath, Bev Gurney, Emily Shaw, Sheila Heaton, Gwyndolyn Wright, Noel Coleman, Maureen Russo*



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**25 NOV 2023**

# St Mary's Community Fair

INFLATABLES & RIDES, MARKET STALLS,  
ENTERTAINMENT & STAGE, CARNIVAL GAMES,  
STUDENT LED ACTIVITIES, FOOD & BAR.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Community Fair Open Meeting**

**When**  
26TH JULY 2023  
7:30 PM

**Where**  
ST MARY'S UNIFORM SHOP

**All Welcome**  
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO  
HELP PLAN AND RUN THE  
COMMUNITY FAIR.

Come to the meeting, SHARE AN IDEA and  
FIND A ROLE that suits you!

Eg. Sourcing donations, baking goods,  
organising activities & games, assisting with  
stalls or rides, helping with set up or pack  
down & much much more...



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

'The Kingdom of heaven is like . . .' Jesus likens heaven to a hidden treasure, a pearl of great price and a fishing net. In the last image, heaven is described as a grab bag containing a jumble of marine life. The net drags everything in and then the catch is sorted. No rubbish gets into heaven!

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

30 July 2023

### First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97**

**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more  
to me  
than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight. (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your  
precepts:  
I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple. (R.)

### Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to

become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

### Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the  
mysteries of the kingdom.**

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Mt 13:44-52

**(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)**

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to "learn the language of heaven." We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practicing the language of Heaven.

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.  
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