



**Sunday 3rd September 2023**

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

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

**St. Mary's**

204 Grimshaw St.,  
Greensborough, 3088

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

**Email:** [Greensborough@cam.org.au](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**



God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,  
3rd September 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-22-sunday-ot-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](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.**

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

Each year on Father's Day weekend a special appeal is held to raise funds to support the work of the Priests Retirement Foundation, which cares for clergy who have retired due to age or sickness.

The Priests Retirement Foundation was established more than 30 years ago with a mission to care for retired priests across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This includes the provision of suitable accommodation, health care and medical out of pocket expenses. The physical and mental wellbeing of all retired priests is continually overseen by two highly qualified nurses also funded by the Foundation.

Please donate using the envelopes on the pews or electronically by logging on to:

♦ <http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au/foundation> and make your donation through Paypal.

Thank you for your generous support of our Retired Priests.

### HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary,  
you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty.*

*You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands.*

*Kindly protect all the fathers who trustingly come to you.*

*You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes.*

*They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial,  
labor and weariness.*

*But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy  
with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother.*

*Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone.*

*Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.*

*-St. John XXIII*



**REFERENDUM:** Following on from Social Justice Sunday last weekend, at the end of Mass today (tonight), we are showing a video of Bishop Vincent Long's Social Justice Statement Launch. The video runs for 8 minutes. We urge you all to take the time to stay behind and watch. We hope you will find it most worthwhile. Each week for the next few weeks we will be leaving documentation in the Gathering Space, presenting information on the Voice to Parliament Referendum. Our aim is not to persuade you how to vote, rather to provide you with relevant information, that will assist you in making your voting decision. We ask you to take some of this documentation home with you to read.

### ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:** Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering visit [www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal](http://www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal)

**NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE, IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MacKILLOP:** The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry.

For more information you can contact: [pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or on 8912 4818.

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE** is running an Online Information Session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation on Monday 4 September at 7.30pm (AEST) that might be of interest to you, your lay ministers, or interested parishioners. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

For anyone interested in attending our information session, registration is essential. [Click](#) here to register.

### CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 4th-9th SEPTEMBER & SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

Child Protection Week is a national campaign held each year to raise awareness of child-abuse prevention in our communities. In 2023, the overarching message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme 'Where we start matters':

- Where we start our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us and the opportunities presented to us makes a significant difference to our life outcomes.
- Where we start as a Catholic community in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes.
- Where we start as decision-makers in addressing large, complex problems such as child abuse and neglect also has a significant impact on personal, social and economic outcomes.

Child Protection Week is a good time for us to think about how we, as adults, can address some of these issues that affect children and to consider how we can change things to make a difference.

In the Catholic Church, Child Protection Week is highlighted through Safeguarding Sunday, which falls this year on 10 September. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.



## LITURGY OF LAMENT

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

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



**WHERE:** Sacred Heart Church, Diamond Creek

**DATE:** Thursday, 5 October 2023, at 7:30 pm

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



**BAPTISMS:** We pray for Aurora, Freddy and Wylder who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in September.

**ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY APPEAL:** There will be a leaving collection this weekend for the care of ill and retired priests. Envelopes are available in the churches. Thank you.

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 6th September: Lunch at Diamond Creek Hotel.  
Wednesday 20th September Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Next Meeting 7.30pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Suggestion box in church or Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

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

**ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE** will once again be held from the weekend of **26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> of August until 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> of October**. Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. Some of the urgent items are: *Tuna in oil (400gm); Olive oil (750ml-1L); Raw, unsalted nuts; Honey (small bottles); Dried fruit; Tahini; Spices (turmeric, cumin, chilli, garam masala, curry powder); Tomato paste; Toothbrushes & tooth-paste; Laundry powder (1kg max.)*

At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive the items; there will also be a basket available at Sacred Heart. There will also be list of items needed available to take home.

**ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people, including children, every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. Every donation makes a difference.**

### ROSTERS:

**Cleaning: Week 5<sup>th</sup> September** M. Cusack, W. McEvoy

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** A. Dsouza      **Commentator:** C. Fernando      **Eucharistic Ministers:** G. Beeby, M. Beeby

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** P. Leonard      **Commentator:** J. Robinson      **Eucharistic Ministers:** H. Edmonds

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

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

***We pray for those who have died including Elva Mason and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of September that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:***

*Terry Moran, Michael Holland, Ann Cusack, Andrew O'Dea, George Ind, Peter Thomas, Francis Goodge, Margaret & Bernie Fitzgerald, Alexander Libertino.*

### OBTAINING COMPLETION CERTIFICATE FOR ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

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



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



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

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

**FUNERAL FOR TINA BUTERA:** The funeral for Tina will be held on Friday the 8th of September commencing with the Rosary at 10.30am followed by the Mass at 11.00am.

**ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE** will once again be held from the weekend of **26th<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> of August until 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> of October**. Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. Some of the urgent items are: *Tuna in oil (400gm); Olive oil (750ml-1L); Raw, unsalted nuts; Honey (small bottles); Dried fruit; Tahini; Spices (turmeric, cumin, chilli, garam masala, curry powder); Tomato paste; Toothbrushes & toothpaste; Laundry powder (1kg max.)*

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**ST JOHN OF GOD ACCORD:** St John of God Accord are hosting our 3 parishes for a tour, presentation from CEO, and meet & greet over lunch on Thursday 14th September from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The aim is for our parishes to be more involved in a volunteer capacity in the life of St John of God and their clients. The visit should provide us with a clearer understanding of the work performed, and ways in which we are able to help. To express your interest, please contact Michael Bates on 0418 104 206, or via the Parish Office.

**INVITATION TO DISCOVER:** 7 Young people in the Gospel. Participants of all ages will relate to the examples of these young people, some made negative choices, some positive and one made several mistakes but didn't give up.

9.00am—5.00pm, Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September at St Thomas the Apostle, Greensborough North.

Adults \$40.00, Concession \$35.00. Book before the 20th September at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CKTUD>

### Roster for Weekend 9th & 10th September

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** K. Salm

**Commentator:** T. Holland

**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Bedford, S. Bishop, T. Holland

**Set Up:** C. Leahy

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** M. Bosco

**Commentator:** M. Kenny

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

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

**St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:**

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

*Miran Kasalo, Tina Butera, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager*

**We pray for those who have died recently including Fr Steve Bohan (John Bohan's brother) Tina Butera and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of September that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

Jean Watson, Maria Scordo, Gennaro Mascia, Bernadette Richardson, Norah Moylan, Jane Tremayne, Tess Natoli, Barry Williamson, Mollie Kerr, Rocco Crea, Bernadette Linehan, Vincent Mascia, Jim Hardwick Snr, Kevin Power, Antonio Lunardello, Ines Lunardello, Vincenzina Varalla John Ryan, Fr Jim Feenan, John Muscat, Dawn Morgan, Varisa Zilic, Stjepan Kernjak, Bernard Healy

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

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

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](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



**NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** Your new thanksgiving envelopes are now available for collection from the gathering space in the church. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our Parish.



**PHOTOS FROM FR STEVEN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY MASS:** If anyone has taken some snapshots from Sunday could you please send them through to the parish office. Thank you in advance.

**LADIES AUXILIARY :** We are holding a cake stall in the gathering space after Masses weekend 9th./10th. September. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Judy 9435 4506.

**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.

**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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**August Baptisms:** Christopher Flores and Julie Abraham

***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:***

*Patrick Monagle, Rose Devlin, Jose Fabien, Alice Henry, John Parmansche, Dolores Said*

*Max Jean-Francois, Thomas & Margery O'Connell, Michael O'Hehir, Giovanni Cirillo, Antonio Dinoto, Steven Banhidi, Giuseppina Zambara, Mons Francis Lyons*

*Kathleen Murphy, Don Tobin, Wilma Gonzaga, Margaret Neeson, Stefan Gogola, Max Jean Francois, Antonio Papas, Gisele Olivia Caliste. Jack Whybrow, Mother Theresa, Mary Butcher, Joyce Reid,*

*Laurie Boyle, Laurie Sarjeant, Peter Cashen*

*Daisy Walters, Philip Cummins, Pat Thomas, Mick Higgins, Valda Duffy, Richard Cheong, Maria Geric, Mary O'Connell, Augustine Cheong, Margaret Kelly, Harry Saldeurle, Christopher Newman*

*Bill Crow, George Jones, Bradbury Family, Myrtle Devitt, Marie & Brian Herrick, Annie Young, Louis Cunden, Rose Carr, Gabriel Mitchell, Kathleen Harty, Barry Woolcock*

*Benita Drummond, Peggy Dugan, Thomas Tippet, Brendan Gallagher, Eileen Ryan, Martin Quinn, Millie Pisani, Clarice Stewart, Fredrick (Ted) Toomey, Joan Quix, Samantha Dragwidge, George Colvin, Nell Toohey*

*Ella Meagher, Monica Leake, Moyra Doyle, Maureen Daly, Merna Mills, Fr Jim De Laurier. O.carm*

*Neville Davis, Mieczyslaw Puka, Joseph Borg, Laura Mallia, Annie Loubey, Joseph Borg*

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

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

For Fathers Day we have some books of advise for fathers:

\* Good Dads, Great Dads by Mal White, A Mann's Guide to Raising Kids by Michael Grose.

And a picture book for the kids: Withmy Daddy: A book of love and Family by Jo Witek.

If the Library is not open please ask a Priest or sacristan to open thr room and you can record your loan on

The form provided. Please return loans in one month through the chute outside the library.

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



### *YES OR NO?!*

#### *An Invitation to Connect with Aboriginal Spirituality*

*Join us at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in exploring Social Justice and Aboriginal Spirituality, in the light of the Uluru Statement of the Heart and the Voice Referendum.*

*Up to four representatives from Parishes in the Melbourne Archdiocese are invited to spend a day at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry,*

*434 St Georges Rd, Thornbury*

*on one of the following dates:*

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

*As there are limited places available, kindly reply, indicating your interest and preferred date of attendance at your earliest convenience or by 5<sup>th</sup> September, [Odette.locastro@cam.org.au](mailto:Odette.locastro@cam.org.au)*

*The program for the day (details available on request) will commence at 10 am, and conclude at 2.30 pm.*

*Lunch will be provided.*

*All are most welcome!*

*From*

*Sherry Balcombe Coordinator*





## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Jesus puts a challenge to his disciples that they should 'take up their cross and follow' him, but the flip side of this challenge is the promise of ease: 'take my yoke upon you, and learn from me . . . my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' (Mt 11:29-30). We are challenged to dance in the shadow of the cross – celebrating life and living it with courage. The tension between challenge and promise is an integral part of the Christian journey.

## Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

3 September 2023

### First Reading Jer 20:7-9

*The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.*

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2**

*(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,  
O Lord my God.*

- O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
- So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
- For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

### Second Reading Rom 12:1-2

*May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled

by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

### Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great  
is the hope*

*to which we are called.*

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel Mt 16:21-27

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.*

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



### Reflection by Nick Brodie

In our own times, when the threat posed by climate change is becoming increasingly obvious, this Gospel passage asks us to look and act with openness to our sharing in God's plan. There is no mandate here for doing nothing and letting catastrophe happen. Ours is not a religion of sanctified fatalism or pious denialism. Ours is a faith which demands that we face reality, however scary it sometimes seems. We are people of hope.

After all, Jesus doesn't drift towards disaster. Rather, Jesus steps knowingly on the path towards salvation. His is a determined journey, aiming at redeeming the world. He has already told the disciples that good shall come of this. Peter's protestation comes from an understandable but misplaced attachment to the secure ways of the present. Peter, fearful of a change that is already underway, reflexively wants to deny it.

Like Peter before us, Jesus calls every one of us to follow him. We can do that by renouncing our selfishness and, like Peter eventually did, getting over our denialist habits.