

Sunday 8th September 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: Lisa & Libby

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

Parish School Principal

Mrs Trish Vanderkolk **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: Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage, do not be afraid!'

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B, 9th September 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-23-sun-year-b-2024>

Next week: 24th Sunday in Ordinary time.

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.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Committee has gained the services of Tara McNamara, Melbourne Archdiocese Northern Region Safeguarding Officer, to assist volunteer ministries to complete a Risk Assessment which is a central component of our Parish's duty of care. There are four opportunities where you can attend a session.

Venue: St. Mary's Church Gathering Space.

Sessions: Thursday 19th September: 2.30-4.00pm & 7.00pm-8.30pm.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing back the Booking Form to diamondcreekgreensboroughgroup leaders@cam.org.au by 30th August 2024 or contact the Parish Office.



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.

*Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the beauty of your creation
so that our hearts may rejoice in the wonder and greatness of your works.*

ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

The Archdiocese of Melbourne will run two pilgrimages to Rome next year as we celebrate Jubilee Year 2025.

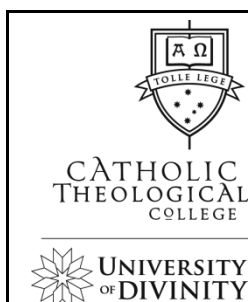
The first pilgrimage will be held in May and June 2025, coinciding with the **Jubilee for Families, Grandparents and the Elderly**.

The second pilgrimage will be for young adults (18-35 years), journeying to the **Jubilee of Youth** in July and August 2025.

These graced and hope-filled pilgrimages will journey through the towns and cities of Italy, the homes of great saints like St Francis and St Clare (and soon to be canonised saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati), before walking through the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica.

Be a *pilgrim of hope*! Embark on an incredible pilgrimage to encounter God and deepen your faith with others.

Be the first to receive the latest updates, including booking information and itineraries, by submitting an expression of interest <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ST83H75>



Upcoming CTC Events

Information Session for Educators

Information Session for Prospective Students

Engaging Your Faith Online Sessions

For more information:

<https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/>

<https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/>

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS



PEACE & HOPE = OUR FUTURE

Wednesday

18th September 2024

7pm – 8pm

St Thomas the Apostle Church

All welcomed

Peace & Hope = Our Future – This event will involve members of our Partnered Parishes of St Mary's, St Thomas' and Sacred Heart in collaboration with our Parish Schools. A contemplative embrace of inner peace will be reflected in a service of prayer, Scripture and music held in the “*deep listening and quiet still awareness*,”* of our inner being. The evening will provide us with an opportunity to be united in faith and trust in our Loving God, as we hear the words of Jesus– “*I leave you peace, my peace I give to you*,” with a response from our hopeful hearts. If you have any questions please call me on 7036 9326 or come by the Parish Office.

****a reflection 'Dadirri-Inner Deep Listening and quiet Still awareness' - Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr***



Migrant Youth Festival

Celebrating the
110th World Day of
Migrants and Refugees

“God walks with His people”

29 September 2024 · Cathedral Hall, ACU Melbourne

- 9:00 am** Registration, Keynote Address, A Conversation with Archbishop Peter, Group Activities, Lunch and Concert at **Cathedral Hall, ACU**
- 1:30 pm** Pilgrim Walk from ACU to **St Patrick's Cathedral**
- 2:00 pm** Rosary Procession around the Cathedral
- 3:00 pm** Migrant and Refugee Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and migrant chaplains of the Archdiocese of Melbourne



Scan the QR code to register or visit
trybooking.com/CSAYK
Registrations close **EXTENDED UNTIL 15 SEPTEMBER!**

Tickets
\$30



The Migrant Youth Festival is supported by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am-1.00pm Friday 12.30pm-2.30pm*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Dear parishioners and friends: Thank you for the memorable celebration Mass and morning tea, and your generous gifts following my recent retirement. I had hoped to personally respond to everyone but I am overwhelmed by your kind messages, cards and emails. Much appreciated. Regards, Pat Guatta



NO LITURGY OF THE WORD FRIDAY 13TH & 20TH SEPTEMBER

Thank you to Rosemary Herbert, Donation from sale of hand made gifts of \$252:75. Many thanks Rosemary.

HELP NEEDED: Help is required to clean the hall toilets every Friday afternoon. This task will take less than an hour and is a paid role. Please contact the parish office for further information.

SENIOR MOMENTS: 18th September, Parish Centre Scrabble & Lunch, BYO, 12.00pm.

2nd October, Mr Rooster Chicken & Chips. 12.00pm

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

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

This will once again be held from the weekend of **25th/26th of August until 5th/6th of October**. Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. Some of the urgent items are: *Tuna in oil of any size (95g, 185g or 425g), Tomato paste, Coconut cream or milk, Honey, Full cream UHT milk 1 litre, Instant coffee / black tea bags, Sweet / savoury biscuits, Basmati rice, Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, corn kernels), Oil (750ml – 1 litre), Dried legumes (chickpeas, split red lentils, yellow split peas), Spices (cumin, turmeric, chilli, coriander), Laundry powder 1kg packs, Laundry liquid 1 litre, Unsalted dried nuts, Dried fruit.*

At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive the items; there will also be a basket/box 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. <https://asrc.org.au>

Partnered Parish Pastoral Council Report from 14 August, 2024

- Request to be made to school principals to publish the letter to parishioners of partnered parishes in their school newsletters and, every 2 months, a brief report on the actions of the PPPC. The letter informs parishioners about the role of the PPPC and the strengths of working in partnership. At the time of this report, all principals had agreed to the request.
- The schools will be invited to raise any matters for discussion with the PPPC to encourage working together and effective two-way communication.
- The report from the PPPC will also be published regularly in the parish newsletter.
- Service for Peace and Hope to be held at St Thomas at 7pm on 18 September. Our parish schools are involved in the preparation of this service as well as planning their own school services.
- Discussion on the importance of fostering a culture of continual growth and learning of the laity including the importance of formation and support
- Discussion regarding the proposed building of a kindergarten at St Thomas. No word yet from the Council regarding approval.
- Future Planning: Continuation of our work including assessing assets held by parishes and their valuations.
- Review of the functions of the PPPC in the light of a framework from the Archdiocese on parish renewal. Father Steven and parish representatives to attend a meeting regarding a Parish Resource Guide.
- Episcopal Visit to our partnered parishes and schools on 18 – 20 October. The archbishop will be visiting each parish, touring each school, meeting with parishioners, parish leaders, staff and young people, visiting some older people and saying Masses.

Next meeting Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 10th September: Lino Armiento, Margaret Dunn, Ann Risdale

Sunday 8th September Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: L. Armiento **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** G. Beeby, M. Beeby

St Peter's Saturday 5th October 7.15pm

Reader: Aminda **Commentator:** M. Frisby

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

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

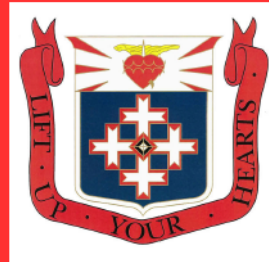
Tony Watson, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, George Garzia, Alan Beeby, Kath Rickard, Martin Leonard, Fran Peckham, and the residents of Wattle Glen & Diamond Creek Care Community Aged Care Facilities.

We pray for those who have died recently including Alphons Ratnam, Fr Des Magennis & Fr Gerard O'Collins 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,

Mary Cecelia Ratnam, Josephine Louisa Ratnam, Francis Ratnam, Pearl & David Lawrence.



SACRED HEART MEN'S NIGHT

- Sacred Heart Hall, 25 Gipson St, Diamond Creek
- \$45, Classic Spit Roast dinner, & dessert
- Vegetarian options
- BYO Alcohol and soft drinks
- Bookings Essential via QR Code below
- Bookings can be individual and groups welcome!

Arrive 6:30pm for 7pm start
Friday 18th October

GUEST SPEAKERS

George Schickert - Swap 'n Go Founder
Business and Entrepreneurship

Adam Smith - Aust Defence Force & Vic Police
Leadership & Motivational Speaker

Rachid Imam - Master of Ceremonies

Bookings Via link or QR:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CUAPH>



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 9am-12pm*

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD WEDNESDAY 11th & THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 9.15am

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE: As our two partnered parishes are organising Food Drives for people Seeking Asylum, a reminder that St Mary's parish has a year long collection. The box is in the Gathering Space - near the front door. Especially needed are tuna (in oil), milk, tinned fruit, tea, coffee, detergent, soap powder. The Centre is very grateful to St Mary's for the food and toilet-ries, that continues to be donated.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th September In the gathering space. 12pm- 2.0pm BYO lunch. Bingo \$5.00 per book of 10 games. Afternoon tea provided. All welcome: The more we have the bigger the Jackpot.

We have a day trip to Kilmore Races organised for Tuesday 15th October, 2 seats still available: call Geraldine. 0438 148 896.

THE PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION fundraiser is now part of the Archbishop's Campaign, however if you wish to donate specifically to the Priests Retirement Foundation, envelopes are available in the pews and in the gathering space and can be placed in one of the collections this weekend or in the coming weeks.

COMBINED PARISHES CAR RAFFLE : tickets on sale after Masses @\$2.00 per ticket.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Coming event Morning Tea with a "Footy theme" on Wednesday 18th August at 10.30am in the gathering space Entertainment by "Monty Singers" \$10.00 entry per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990

CARER'S DINNER LAMP: will be hosting a Carer's Dinner on Friday 13th of September in the Gathering Space at St Mary's, 6:30 pm. If you or someone you know would like to attend this dinner please contact Mary Jahne 0412 813 512 by Tuesday 10th of September to book a seat.

MUSIC AT MASS The license issues which prevent embedding music into PowerPoint slides are ongoing. We can show hymn words on the screen, but music must be provided by musicians or by using CDs. To have music at most Masses, we are inviting parishioners to assist with playing CDs at 8am Masses and at 6.30pm, 10am and 5pm Masses when musicians are not available. The CD player will be beside the computer box next to the projectionist. CDs for each week, clearly labelled for Entrance, Communion and Recessional hymns, will be provided. Please contact Marian for more information mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

Be informed, inspired and entertained.

Book of the Week

Ten Commandments for the Environment by Woodeene Koenig-Bricker and Pope Benedict XVI This book includes Pope Benedict's key statements on environmental justice and explains the "Ten Commandments for the Environment" released by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. With practical everyday ideas for reducing our ecological footprint Koenig-Bricker sees an environmentally responsible lifestyle as a moral responsibility to protect the poor who suffer most when climate change creates a shortage of resources.



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, Maureen Carr, Garry York, Enlee Lew, Rachael Angelotti, Janice Duffell, John Taylor, Mary Bowler

Recently Deceased: Fr Des Magennis & Fr Gerard O'Collins

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

Bertram Van Hoff, Kevin O'Reilly, Mary Dietrich, Annette Monteleone, Thomas Staveley, Dulcie Hower, Matt Cashin, Giuseppe Di Benedetto, Allan Ash, Margaret O'Meara, 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, Carol Del Papa, Kathleen Murphy, Don Tobin, Wilma Gonzaga, Joan Quix, 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, Annie Young, Christopher Newman, Bill Crow, George Jones, Bradbury Family, Myrtle Devitt, Marie & Brian Herrick, Samantha Dragwidge, 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, George Colvin, Nell Toohey

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 8.00am-12.00pm, Wednesdays 12.30pm-4.00pm, Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am, Friday 8.00am-4.00pm* **Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm, Sacred Heart, Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's)**

LITURGY OF THE WORD TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 9.15AM

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Christian and Finnley who are being baptised later this month.

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: You are warmly invited to join us for Mass by Candlelight on Thursday 19th September at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Road, North Greensborough. Celebrated in the spirit of Taize, quiet music will commence at 7.30pm, followed by Mass at 8.00pm. All welcome.

Enquiries: *Rose 0411 650339 or Emilia 0418 120902.*

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE & SACRED HEART PARISHES FOOD DRIVE FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

This will once again be held from the weekend of **25th/26th of August until 5th/6th of October**. Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women. Some of the urgent items are: *Tuna in oil of any size (95g, 185g or 425g), Tomato paste, Coconut cream or milk, Honey, Full cream UHT milk 1 litre, Instant coffee / black tea bags, Sweet / savoury biscuits, Basmati rice, Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, corn kernels), Oil (750ml – 1 litre), Dried legumes (chickpeas, split red lentils, yellow split peas), Spices (cumin, turmeric, chilli, coriander), Laundry powder 1kg packs, Laundry liquid 1 litre, Unsalted dried nuts, Dried fruit.*

At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive the items; there will also be a basket/box 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. <https://asrc.org.au>

Roster for Weekend 14th & 15th September

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: H. Fernando

Commentator: J. Bohan

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Bishop, J. Bohan

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: T. Williamson

Commentator: M. Bates

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, A. Letizia

Set Up: C. O'Brien

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

Miran Kasalo, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri,

Fr Terry Kean, Vince Granata, Wil Watson, Bernie Murray

We pray for those who have died recently including Fr Des Magennis & Fr Gerard O'Collins 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



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close:

Jesus shows that he is intimately involved in, and has command over, the stuff of life in this story of healing. The healing is not done from a safe, sanitary distance, but up close and personal. Jesus makes body contact with a man whose tongue and ears are touched and cured.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

8 September 2024

First Reading Is 35:4-7

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the
blind,
who raises up those who are
bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *(R.)*
3. The Lord upholds the widow and
orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading Jas 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes,

and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

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