



Sunday 27th June 2021

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Dixon George

Parish Pastoral Associates: Jacinta Bright & 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.cam.org.au/greensborough
Secretaries: Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser
Communications Officer: Denise Chang-Faux

Mass Times

Monday: Liturgy of the word 9.15am
Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am
Saturday: Mass 8.30am & Vigil Mass 6.30pm
Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.00am & 5.45pm

Parish School Principal

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

Sacred Heart

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089
Parish: 9401 6361
Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au
Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek
Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am
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

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

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 10th & 11th July

SACRED HEART 9.00am

Special Minister:

Reader:

ST THOMAS VIGIL 6.00pm & 10.30am

Special Minister 6.00pm: M. McKenzie, K. Salm, T. Holland

Special Minister 10.30am: C. O'Brien, F. Landy, M. McKenzie

6.00pm: Reader: E. Sacchetta **Commentator:** P. Carty **Set Up:** C. Leahy

10.30am: Reader: S. Millar **Commentator:** J. Kerr **Set Up:** J. Kerr

Counters: D. & D. Haesler **Cleaners:** L. & M Todesco, J. Millar (17th July)

Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our Websites

*******NO MASSES AT ST PETER'S UNTIL DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS ARE REMOVED*******

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherin Leonard,
Tony Ledda, Sarah Drummond, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Peg Wilcox

We pray for those who have died 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, Salrina Anello, David Phillips, Kevin Jose, Pat Gannon, Anna de Gier,
Michael Pham, Hopetoun, Chapman, Edwin Ray, Shannon Risson, Nunzuio Napoleone, Mary Kenny, Eileen Mc Inerney,
Guido Paciocco, Jack Sutherland, Caterina Borgolotto, Domenico & Elidia Paliotta, Jack O'Brien

WORSHIP & PRAYER

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS: There is now a small quantity of Low Gluten Hosts available at our Masses.

These hosts will be available from the main celebrant. If you approach him and let him know you would like to receive the Low Gluten Host.

NEW VISION, NEW ENERGY, NEW LIFE: Here is a link to an upcoming virtual conference [Alive in the Spirit](#) 8th -10th July 2021 (Being the Community Christ Calls us to be). Hosted by the Pastoral Ministry Network, Mission Planners Network of Oceania and the Christian Initiation Australia Network.

These groups have worked extremely hard to replace the planned 2020 in person conference, with a stimulating and informative online experience. All the keynotes and workshops will be available for up to six months afterwards for the very small fee.

WAY OF THE GOSPEL: Last Pentecost the Archbishop released his Pastoral Letter, 'Way of the Gospel'. During the months of June and July evenings of prayer are being held praying God's blessing upon the Melbourne Church at this time. Beginning at 7.30-8.00pm the prayer session will be held via Zoom. See www.melbournecatholic.org.au/mission for the Zoom link.

Alternatively, join with the Melbourne Church praying your favourite prayers. Praying is what is important.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK WITHIN OUR PARISHES: If you wish to have someone added or removed from the sick or Anniversaries list for our newsletter could you please notify **Pat 9401 6361** or **Lisa 9434 7373**.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 2021 WINTER APPEAL

This year's Appeal will be officially launched on the weekend of 3rd /4th July for all of our Partnered Parishes.

We have always been overwhelmed with the tremendous support of the St. Thomas the Apostle's Community for our local Greensborough Conference and we hope this year, parishioners will once again be in a position to donate in whatever capacity they can afford.

Appeal envelopes will be provided in the Gathering Space, they can then be placed in the Collection Baskets before/after Mass Credit card donations can be arranged by calling **13 18 12** and stating you are donating to the **Greensborough /Diamond Creek Conference**

Donations can be made online via vinnies.org.au – please make sure you include **Greensborough/Diamond Creek in the 'Comments/Conference Name' section.**

All funds raised locally are spent locally to provide food, clothes and other essentials.

Please consider giving what you can spare to those who have a lot less. Thank you.



VINNIES SLEEPOUT: I would like to personally thank all the wonderful and generous parishioners who supported me in the recent Vinnies Sleepout. Thanks to your generosity and that of many friends and family, I managed to raise \$7,535. That's \$1515 more than last year! It got down to 4 degrees but I managed to sleep thanks to my good sleeping bag and by wearing thermals. Due to COVID restrictions, we had to cancel the original venue and participants slept out at home or some other private space. Our dog came to sleep on top of me, but even she decided it was too cold and went back inside through the doggy door. She's not silly and no one was sponsoring her! Nationally Vinnies have raised \$8868,985 from the Sleepout. This is an amazing effort and will help greatly with our work of helping those most in need. I thank you all most sincerely and ask God to bless you for your generosity and care for others.

Kevin McMahon, Victorian State President of the St Vincent De Paul Society.

TRYBOOKING & QR CODES

UNDER CURRENT RESTRICTIONS 25TH MAY 2021, MASKS MUST BE WORN IN THE CHURCH.

As part of these changes, electronic record keeping became mandatory for all venues and facilities, including our Places of Worship. Importantly, activities involving ceremonies and religious gatherings, weddings and funerals within a Place of Worship, must use an electronic record keeping system that is compatible with the Victorian Government's visitation application programming interface (API).

- ***This density quotient still applies and API compatible electronic record keeping is now mandatory.***
- Everyone entering the Church can scan the QR Code using the camera on their smartphone or tablet device.
- In exceptional circumstances, due to age, disability etc., the Parish has the ability to manually record their attendance (and maintain records for a period of 28 days). This form of record keeping should only be offered as a backstop solution, as it does not provide 'real time' connectivity to the Department of Health's contact tracing system.
- ***Sacred Heart & St Thomas Parishes will continue to use the Trybooking system to enable parishioners to book in for Mass so we do not exceed our density quotient.***

COMMUNITY LIFE

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 7th July, 12.00pm at Bridges Restaurant. Contact Margaret, for bookings.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: We wish to advise all community groups that should you wish to have an event listed in our Weekly Newsletter the deadline is the 2.00pm on the Wednesday prior. Should you have any queries please contact Lisa in the Parish Office.

ALIGHT YOUTH GROUP

This invitation is open to all young people within our Parishes aged between 15 to 30. Our youth group meets on the 1st Friday of every month at 7.30pm. We come together in friendship, fun and to become "Alight" in our faith.

Our next gathering is scheduled for **Friday 9th July** and will be held in the Gathering Space at St Mary's Parish, Greensborough. Please contact us for more details if you would like to come along!

Youth Mass will be held every 3rd Sunday of each month, 5pm at St Mary's Church. The next Youth Mass will be held on **Sunday 18th July** and we look forward to seeing you all there. If you are aged between 15-30 yrs and would like to volunteer at one of our Youth Masses, please contact us. We would love more volunteers to read and participate in the mass!

If you would like to find out more, register your attendance to come along to our next gathering or enquire about participating in the Youth Mass, please contact **Nicole Ridler, 0403 714 045 or Caitlin Jakubik 0455 251 045**



PLENARY COUNCIL

Fan the Flame Prayer Initiative:

Together we continue to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for the Australian church.

'Listening to What the Spirit is Saying

FAN THE FLAME

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?'

Mark 4:35-41

As people of faith, we believe that, through the gift of his Church, the Lord has equipped us, and continues to equip us, to recognize the needs of our time and set ourselves to doing something about them.

(Instrumentum Laboris #65)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheffame/



ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

Every year, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. This year is particularly important following the COVID 19 Pandemic and its impact on the ways in which we interacted and made contact with one another. The National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Catholic Council (NATSICC) together with the Australian Bishops, have decided to adopt the NAIDOC theme for 2021 – **Heal Country**.

Today our world is in need of healing, environmentally, spiritually and socially. We must all come together as a global community to fight the injustices of inequality, racism and environmental damage.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is usually celebrated during NAIDOC Week in the first week of July 4 – 11 July. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. To see more resources go to: www.natsicc.org.au

MORNING TEA VIA ZOOM

Our partnered parishes Zoom morning tea has been transferred to the last Friday of each month. Come along and join in. We have enjoyed developing friendships across parishes and listening and sharing with each other whatever is happening in our day to day lives. We start at 10.30am, to give people who go to morning Mass time to get home again and we finish at 12.00pm.

We would love you to join us. If you are interested please contact Jacinta Bright by email at Jacina.bright@cam.org.au and she will send you a link to the gathering. It is very simple to join in via the link... just press and go.



EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS

In every Parish, there are two collections and two separate accounts,

The Presbytery collection/account (1st coll.) provides the pastoral stipend and living costs of the Priest.

The Church collection/account (2nd coll.) provides for the maintenance, office and staff expenses of the Parish.

HOMILY NOTES FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY



This year the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have adopted the NAIDOC theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday – Heal Country. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis has called us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Today's Gospel is very fitting because Mark tells us of Jesus returning to his 'native place' – Nazareth – to a non-accepting, hostile reaction. Jesus had been welcomed and revered in other places, why is it that he is mocked and disregarded in his own home? "Is he not the carpenter?" the crowd called because they saw him as "without honour" and were unable to believe in him. He did not fit into their ideological view and thus did not deserve respect in their eyes.

In Australia, our own First Nations people have suffered a similar reception to Jesus in Nazareth. Their knowledge and complex cultural systems, created and honed over millennia, are often dismissed as primitive and irrelevant to our fast-paced world of today. This could not be further from the truth, particularly as we become more aware of their continued care, love, and respect for 'country', grounded in a relationship with the creator that formed independently of Western influence.

2021 marks the 250th Anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in Australia. Yet the Spirit of God was poured out onto the original inhabitants of this great Southern Land many, many thousands of years prior. God's Spirit could be heard through the singing of the birds, the cascade of the waterfall, the rustle of the wind and, most importantly, in silence.

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, a respected Ngangiwumirr Elder, artist and 2021 Senior Australian of the year explains the importance of listening and understanding the silence:

"My people today, recognise and experience in this quietness, the great Life-Giving Spirit, the Father of us all. It is easy for me to experience God's presence. When I am out hunting, when I am in the bush, among the trees, on a hill or by a billabong; these are the times when I can simply be in God's presence. My people have been so aware of Nature. It is natural that we will feel close to the Creator."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are inextricably connected to country in Australia and its waters. This connection to country and all of God's creation is core to their spirituality as a people and that of their ancestors. The term itself, Country – encompasses far more than the physical land. ***"For us, Country is a word for all the values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations associated with that area and its features. It describes the entirety of our ancestral domains."*** explains Professor Mick Dodson.

Deacon Boniface Perdjert, who was both Australia's first permanent Deacon and first Aboriginal Deacon clearly expressed the translational role that 'country' or nature plays bringing together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and Catholic faith:

"We like the way he uses the things of nature to teach, and the important part nature plays in the Sacraments"

Deacon Boniface specifically mentions sacraments, because to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, all elements of life are sacramental. The gifts of God are evident and intertwined into every aspect of life, not just on Sundays, or when convenient. First Australian's are called to be stewards of creation, to care for and watch over their gift, and this responsibility is intrinsic to their belief systems. Many Language groups assign a Totem (a natural object, plant or animal) to a child at birth. This totem defines the responsibility of care between individuals and with creation itself. It is intrinsic and it is core to their survival and relationships.

HOMILY NOTES FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY - Continued

For Catholics, the Eucharist itself is a foundational sacramental reality in which natural elements—grain and grapes—symbolize not only our lives but also Jesus' farewell meal and his presence today. In those natural elements and through the Eucharistic prayer, Christ is truly present to us. These elements display the abundance provided by the Creator to sustain us, both physically and spiritually. It is a very natural and familiar 'ritual' to First Nations Peoples because it combines the elements of life with a greater being. It brings all aspects of life together.

Because of the connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognise between country, faith and the wellbeing, it is no surprise that when the world is in pain, Australia's First Peoples are in pain. During the COVID 19 Pandemic, many of the trappings of Western life became impossible. The rivers were calm and clear from the absence of boats, the cities were quiet and still as restrictions took hold. We saw images of animals returning to previous habitats, and the smog clearing from above cities across the world as our common home took a 'breath' from our constant consumerism and drive for development.

On this special Sunday, a day where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-indigenous Catholics come together and sit side by side (adhering to COVID restrictions of course!), we should acknowledge that we are united in a fight to save God's creation. It is one we cannot fight alone. We must combine the knowledge of First Australians with the technology borne of Western culture to ensure that future generations shall have the opportunity to experience the gifts of God's creation as intended.

Again, today's Gospel also speaks of the need for faith and acceptance to enable gifts to be shared. Mark says "So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them." Without faith, Jesus knew his miracles would not be accepted as such. This teaches us that we must have trust and faith to truly accept the wonders of God. To sit, talk, and listen is the first step towards acceptance and understanding. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have longed to share their knowledge and wisdom about the seasons, animals, and flora, but until we, as a society and a country are receptive, their contribution goes unappreciated and unutilised.

The more we share with each other, the more we realise that as humans, we have more similarities than differences. The differences between our cultures should not be seen as weaknesses, for they can also be where our strengths lie. Embracing these differences is an aspect of inculturation. Christian faith must find appropriate expression in each culture—that is what is meant by inculturation. Pope Francis, in his exhortation Beloved Amazonia says:

"Inculturation elevates and fulfills. Certainly, we should esteem the indigenous mysticism that sees the interconnection and interdependence of the whole of creation, the mysticism of gratuitousness that loves life as a gift, the mysticism of a sacred wonder before nature and all its forms of life."

Let us move forwards as a united people in Christ, committed to embracing the gifts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge to not only Heal Country, but to Heal our relationships with one another, and in doing so our creators' gifts to us all

— ***this world.***

Source: ATSI Sunday Booklet 2021 NATSICC

ABOUT NATSICC

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak Advisory Body to the Australian Catholic Bishops on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. The Council was founded in 1992 and the Secretariat is based in Adelaide.

Each State and Territory nominates a representative via their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry. The Council meets monthly via teleconference and twice yearly on a face to face basis. NATSICC advises the Bishops Commission for relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

NATSICC is a not for profit organization that is funded by the Catholic Church and Caritas Australia's First Nations program.

NATSICC LOGO

The NATSICC Logo depicts a willy willy, the wind force in the centre a symbol of God's Spirit. The round concentric circles at the top symbolise God and Life, the base depicts men and women receiving the Holy Spirit. The logo was designed by Mrs. Olive Boddington, from Western Australia.



NATSICC VISION STATEMENT

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council promotes and celebrates the cultural identity of our Peoples across the nation by living and expressing, in all its endeavours, the spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Peoples. Through this expression and recognition of our cultural identity we will find our rightful place within the Catholic Church in Australia.

First Reading Ez 2:2-5

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122. R. v.2

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. (R.)
2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of his mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he shows us his mercy. (R.)
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Cor 12:7-10

I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special

boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 6:1-6

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is not easy to recognise a true prophet. Frequently those with prophetic insight are treated without honour. The people to whom Ezekiel was sent were hard of face, obstinate of heart, a rebellious house. The Galileans who heard Jesus' words were no better. They questioned his authenticity because they thought he was no better than they were and, therefore, he had no right to act superior. We so often resent people who can do what we cannot. This resentment can be magnified when the person is someone with whom we have grown up, a member of the family or of the community.

True believers recognise and admit their human frailty. They also know that genuine weakness does not impede the saving action of God. In fact, God seems to *prefer* to act where pride and self-satisfaction do not prevail, for such attitudes are obstacles to personal transformation. However, when we open ourselves in humility and honest piety, the power of God can flood our minds and our hearts and shine forth from us to all around. When this happens, there will be no doubt in any mind as to the origin of this wondrous reality. It will be very clear that though it comes *through* us, it comes *from* God. The receptivity of Paul in this matter is in sharp contrast to the rebellion of the people at the time of Ezekiel and the resistance of those who thought that they knew Jesus so well.

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