



**Sunday 13th December 2020**

**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:** 9432 2515

**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

**1st & 3rd Saturday of the month:** Vigil Mass at  
St. Peter's Hurstbridge 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

**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

**WORSHIP & PRAYER**

*The celebration of Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes.*

**Tuesday-Friday 9.15am St Mary's**

**Tuesday/Thursday 9.15am St Thomas**

**Wednesday/Friday 9.15am Sacred Heart**

**Saturday: 6.00pm St Thomas 6.30pm St Mary's**

**Sunday: 8.00am/10.00am /5.00pm St Mary's**

**Sunday: 9.00am Sacred Heart**

**Sunday: 1030am St Thomas**

**Bookings are essential for Weekend Mass via Trybooking:**

The collection plate will not be passed around could you please leave your contributions in the baskets provided.

**You can search Trybooking without the link: Sacred Heart Diamond Creek or St Thomas Greensborough Mass.**

**Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our websites.**

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

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

Martin Leonard, Bridie Burke, Rose Hegarty, Nicole Bistrice, Bernice Burke, Linda Bistrice, Joan Moran, Shirley Bourke, Annette Hyland, Catherine Leonard, Haylie Adams-Vivanxay, Giovanna Ng, Petronilla De Leo, Elaine Chapman, Jim Goodge, Tony Ledda, Fr Owen Doyle, Sarah Drummond

**We pray for those who have died including Bridgette Tancredi-Roberts, Barry Scully, Fay Bowkett and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom**

Adam Hilbert, Des Vincent, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Gwen Dalwood, Kevin Hewitt, Frank Orders, Emilia Micomonaco, Adrian DeGier, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Julian Federico, Nancy Marzella, Giovanni Marzella, Leo Glennon

## TIME TO BREAK OUT THE BEST CHINA.

*Join us for Morning Tea with Fr Steven & Jacinta Bright & parishioners & friends, over Zoom\* every Friday from 10.00am -11.00am*

We will make sure the conversation flows well and if we have a big enough number we can break up into small groups to allow you to have quieter conversations.

If you are interested, please contact Jacinta via the Greensborough parish office on 9435 1543 or Email

[jacinta.bright@cam.org.au](mailto:jacinta.bright@cam.org.au)



### LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION by Jenny Close

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

There is some confusion about the identity of John and his relationship to Jesus in this week's gospel reading. The message is plain - John is not the light, rather he is 'a witness to speak for the light'. Light is the dominating image of the Advent/Christmas cycle. The liturgical cycle and the natural cycle are harmonious in the northern hemisphere so that the advent of the light is a powerful image of hope. In Brisbane where I live, we have to reshape the light imagery to suit our seasons: Christmas is in the middle of summer and the warmth and light of the sun are present realities, not future prospects. This is by no means an insurmountable problem: the Advent/Christmas cycle is redolent of past, present and future time imagery. Further, because of its nature as a multi-valent symbol, the 'light' image can be read from many different perspectives and still be fruitful.

By December the sunflowers I have planted in my garden will, I hope, be two metres tall and flowering in time for the Christmas liturgies. If all goes well they will give powerful witness to the efficacy of light. Advent is a time of watching and waiting (on things natural and spiritual) in hopeful expectation.

*Dr Jennifer Close has qualifications in Fine Arts and education. She gained here PhD in Theology from Griffith University. She has extensive experience creating liturgical art, and teaching theology. Her particular interests are in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology.*



  
  
  
**The Art of Divine Encounters**  
**Post Rublev**  
  
**Zoom Tues 15th Dec 7.30pm**  
**book at:**  
**<https://www.trybooking.com/BNKVJ>**  
  


### THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES & SUPPORT FOR OUR PRIESTS

If you would like to continue to support the Parishes financially, you can drop Thanksgiving envelopes or money to support the Priests (in an envelope

clearly marked )to either Parish offices or alternatively placed in the letter box beside the front door of the Presbytery at St Thomas.

**( Not the Front Gate) Diamond Valley Deanery Refugee envelopes may be also left in the Parish Offices.**

Alternatively if you would like to change to Direct Debit or Credit Card please contact Pat or Lisa to make these arrangements.

Thankyou to everyone who have already taken it upon themselves to continue to support our Parishes and Priests.

We thank you all for your continued support through these trying times.

**Fr Steven, Fr Tao & Fr Lenin Lisa & Pat.**

#### EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS

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

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

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

*Personal information is collected, stored, used and disclosed by all Partner Parishes in conformity with Commonwealth & Victorian Legislation of 2001.*

*A copy of all Parishes Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner at the Parish Office and on our Websites.*

## RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST AT MASS

*I have noticed that some parishioners who have come to the Masses this last weekend have not received the Eucharist, and only asked for blessings. I would like to reassure everyone that over the last several months, because of the extraordinary circumstances, the normal obligations of Sunday Mass and celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to receive communion do not apply. When we are permitted to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we will offer opportunities to do so with individual and communal rites, but in the meantime, please make use of the opportunity to receive communion when you come to Mass.*

*Fr. Steven Rigo*

## St VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

### Greensborough Conference

The theme for this year's Annual Christmas Appeal is **"A Christmas Like No Other"** clearly the Christmas of the Covid year 2020. Now that congregations as large as 100 people are permitted, **a third collection basket has been added at the entrance, for cash donations to the Christmas Appeal.** You can still donate on line at [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or by phone on **13 18 12**, just as you did for our Winter appeal. **Please direct your contribution to the Greensborough Conference** if you donate on line. If you donate by phone, please tell the operator that you are donating to the **Greensborough Conference**. Also, Fr Steven has agreed that we can make our usual appeals at all Masses on the weekend of 12th/13th December.

We in the Greensborough Conference hope and pray that you will be able to donate to our Christmas Appeal, despite the economic challenges 2020 has thrown into our paths.

Thank you. Ian Fraser, President.

### Diamond Creek Conference

Diamond Creek St Vincent de Paul is hoping to bring some Christmas joy to the families that we help out through the year.

If you can donate in any way by giving **gift cards, cash or vouchers**, it would be very much appreciated.

Envelopes can be placed in the collection bags in the churches, **or left at the Parish Office by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Thank you.**



## MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION ANNUAL APPEAL 12TH & 13TH DECEMBER

Thank you for your support which has, over the years made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living standards to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating.

Please visit <http://mom.org.au> for more information to donate.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all the caring people of Sacred Heart Parish, who included Dad (John Prendergast) in their prayers when he was unwell, and who so kindly sent flowers, cards, messages, etc., when Dad sadly, but peacefully left us!

**Fran & Rob Peckham**



## MERCY CONNECT

Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week during school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding at the end of January.

Email: [somml@bigpond.com](mailto:somml@bigpond.com) (preferred for contact)

Website: [www.mercyworks.org.au](http://www.mercyworks.org.au) Mercy Connect Melbourne phone: 9326 1895

## 2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

The 2021 Columban Art Calendar is now available for purchase.

As our Churches are still closed if you would like to purchase a Calendar you can contact Lisa **9434 7373** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or Pat **9401 6361** [diamondcreek@cam.org.au](mailto:diamondcreek@cam.org.au) to reserve your Calendar.

**We only have limited stock at \$10.00 each.**



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

*Our Priests & liturgy teams are preparing for the Christmas Masses.*

*The timetable is as follows:*



### *Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December*

*	5.00pm	St Thomas <i>(Additional Mass)</i>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK</a>
*	6.00pm	Sacred Heart	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRZ">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRZ</a>
*	6.30pm	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSQ">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSQ</a>
*	7.30pm	St Thomas	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK</a>
*	9.00pm	Sacred Heart	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSC">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSC</a>
*	10.30pm	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTH">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTH</a>

### *Christmas Day 25th December*

*	8.00am	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTM">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTM</a>
*	9.00am	Sacred Heart	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRU">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRU</a>
*	10.00am	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTR">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTR</a>
*	10.30am	St Thomas	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRM">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRM</a>
*	<i>No 5.00pm Mass at St Mary's</i>		

*Bookings open St Thomas 11th December, Sacred Heart & St Mary's 15th December.*

### INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION FOR ADVENT

Individual Reconciliation for Advent will take place at Sacred Heart, St Thomas and St Mary's Churches on Thursday 17th December from 7.00pm-9.00pm.

Bookings are not required.

Reconciliations will take place on the sanctuary in each Parish.

### UPDATE GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

- Record keeping is still required for all attendees at Mass.
- People must carry a face covering. If a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained, then face covering must be worn.
- **Distribution of Communion**
- Required distancing between Communicants is maintained in the queue.
- Hands must be sanitized before receiving Communion.
- Sanitiser will be placed in the Church.
- Engages in the dialogue and receives the host in the hand





**Third Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**13 December 2020**

**First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11**

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

***(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.***

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24**

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (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 Jn1:6-8.19-28**

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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**Reflection by Greg Sunter**

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.