



Sunday 17th December 2017

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo

Assistant Priests: Fr. Dong Tran & Fr. Tao Pham

Pastoral Associate: Jacinta Bright

Pastoral Worker: Sr. Margaret Sapsford

Pastoral Worker: Christina O'Connor

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.pol.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. Helen Anderson **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**

principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart

25 Gipson Street,

Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9438 1159

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Monday: Communion Service 9.15am

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

1st Saturday of the month: Vigil Mass at St. Peters 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

Secretaries: Mary Gargan & Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.30am

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Gail Smith **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**

principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 23rd & 24th December 2017

SACRED HEART 9:00am:

Special Ministers: C. Garzia, C. Ledda, J. Pittle, A. Keenan, P. Keenan

Reader: J. Hoyne

Commentator: Y. O'Brien

Welcoming: M. O'Dea

Set-Up: M. Farrell, P. Keenan

Counters: P. Guatta, G. Ind

Cleaners: A. Ridsdale

ST. PETER'S 7:15pm: Next Mass Saturday 6th January, 2018

Special Ministers: Volunteers

Reader: Volunteer

Commentator: Volunteer

Set-Up: P. Frisby

ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE 6:00pm & 10:30am:

Special Minsters 6:00pm: K. McMahon, R. Garner, W. Watson, D. & D. Haesler.

Special Minsters 10:30am: J. Jamieson, R. Rendina, M. Tipping, A. Letzia.

6:00pm: Reader: E. Rainsbury.

Commentator: P. Carty.

Set-Up: M. McKenzie.

10:30am: Reader: B. Watts.

Commentator: A. Fistic.

Set-Up: C. O'Brien.

Counters: Volunteers.

Cleaners: 23rd December: B. Guldon, G. Kilkenny.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2017

Sacred Heart:

Sunday 24th December; 6:00pm & 9:00pm Vigil Masses,

Monday 25th December; 9:00am Mass

St. Mary's:

Sunday 24th December: 6:30pm Vigil Mass

Monday 25th December; 12:00am Midnight Mass, 8:00am & 10:00am Mass

St. Thomas:

Sunday 24th December; 7:30pm Vigil Mass

Monday 25th December; 10:30am Mass

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

Diamond Creek: Angela Caccetta, Thelma Gill, Noela Atkinson, Lyn Stark, Novan Nguyen, Kay Christian, Catherine Leonard, Di Galea, Les Gale & June Saunders, Marjana Susec.

Greensborough North: Maureen Elks, Elaine Ledda, Noel Casemore, Rosemary Schneider, A Young Parishioner.

We Pray for Will Harvey who died this week and for those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom

Kevin Hewitt, Adam Hibbert, Des Vincent, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Gwen Dalwood, Russell Eames, Adrian DeGier, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter.

COMMUNITY LIFE

YOUR HELP IS REQUIRED

Due to family illness we have lost a member of our team that visits Leith Park each Tuesday with Communion. If you are able to give some time on a Tuesday to visit the residents on a roster basis could you please contact Mary in the Parish Office.

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 20th St. Thomas 7.30pm to 8pm

Thursday 21st Sacred Heart 7.30pm to 8pm

FORMATION IN FAITH

RCIA: If you are interested in learning more about your Catholic faith or perhaps looking at becoming a member of the Catholic Church please contact Mandy through either of the Parish Offices

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE December issue is available in the Gathering Space at \$4 per copy. In this edition there are articles on the way Christmas is or has been celebrated and who Christmas impacts on us in many different ways.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

HEALING MASS You are most welcome to come and join us for our final Healing Mass for 2017 and Christmas break-up on Thursday, 21st December at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Henry Street, Eltham 7.30pm. Please contact Emilia on 9435 7475 or Sandra 9434 7553 with any enquiries.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION HOSTS: Gluten, Wheat, Dairy & Corn Free Communion Hosts are available for those who require them. Please see Father before Mass to arrange.

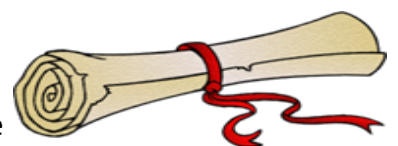
THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Dear Parishioners with the delivery this week of the final report to the Federal Government from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we move as a Church to the next stage of the painful process of atoning for the sins of the past. The stronger Advent light reminds us that we draw nearer to the great feast of Christmas, when we will once again celebrate the goodness of God born anew in our hearts and our world and the hope that Jesus brings. This is the God who journeys with us as we search to understand, accept and acknowledge the wrongs of the past. Importantly we now have the task of ensuring that we move forward in a manner that brings hope, accountabilities and healing. We continue to hold in our thoughts and prayers all those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy, religious, teachers and volunteers in our Catholic schools and homes. It is for these children, women and men that we offer our humble prayers for their healing and health as they, too, move to this next stage in their journey of their story. As a faithful people who join in prayer this Gaudete Sunday the first reading from Isaiah reminds us of our sacred task to 'bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives.' Let us pray that the coming of Jesus, the Emmanuel, will bring peace, hope and healing to all who are in need of his gentle companionship and care. Fr. Steven, Fr. Tao

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Week 3

The symbols to be hung on our Advent Tree this week are **small scrolls** to represent that just as John appeared as a witness, so too are we called on to be witnesses to the light. **'John appeared as a witness.'** *John 1:6*



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.

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

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

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17 December 2017

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.



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.

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