



Sunday 24th 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 30th & 31st December 2017

SACRED HEART 9:00am:

Special Ministers: C. Ledda, M. Cusack, C. Bell, A. Schellens, Sr. Margaret.

Reader: A. Pieper

Commentator: F. Ledda

Welcoming: P. Leonard

Set-Up: M. Roadley

Counters: A. Pieper

Cleaners: J. Hiser

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 Ministers 6:00pm: K. McMahon, R. Garner, K. Salm, A. McCarthy, M. Gargan

Special Ministers 10:30am: M. Tipping, B. Riordan, A. Kerr, R. Piccolo, R. Rendina

6:00pm: Reader: D. Haesler.

Commentator: S. McMahon.

Set-Up: K. Salm.

10:30am: Reader: J. Kerr.

Commentator: M. Bates.

Set-Up: M. Bates.

Counters: Volunteers.

Cleaners: 13th January: B. Iacobucci, V. Vella.

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 Pauline Nihill who died this week those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom

Frank Orders, 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

THANK YOU

Sacred Heart Parish is very appreciative of the long term contributions of Sandra Yeoh, Liz McCrohan and Claire Elso and wish them well as the families move from our district. We would be grateful for new volunteers to be Eucharistic Ministers, or join a cleaning or counters team. Please contact Parish Centre.

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.

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

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.

Thank you from St Vincent de Paul

The Greensborough Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society express our heartfelt gratitude for parishioners' magnificent response to our Christmas Appeal. The combined total donated from St Mary's and St Thomas' at this stage, is \$11,149 and we know from experience in previous years that this sum will continue increasing well into January.

While this sum of money will help us supporting people for the first half of 2018, just on 60 Christmas hampers and toys were delivered to families with young children, thanks to the magnificent donation of food items and toys from the communities of St Mary's and St Thomas' primary schools and Loyola College.

Thank you all so much,
Ian Fraser
President
Greensborough Conference

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Week 4

The symbols to be hung on our Advent Tree this week are small **images of Mary** who was called on to be the mother of the Messiah. **'Rejoice, so highly favoured,'** said the angel Gabriel to Mary, **'The Lord is with you.'** *Luke 1:26*



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.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE OBTAINED THEIR WWCC

If you perform any voluntary work in the parish you are required to obtain a WWCC. Anyone who hasn't obtained one as yet we ask that you do so immediately. To obtain your card go to www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au many thanks Pat and Mary.

FAMILY CATECHETICS PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:

ST. THOMAS PARISH

St. Thomas' provides a Family Catechetics Program for children who are unable attend a Catholic Primary School. This is a four year Sacrament Program commencing with Reconciliation for Grade 2 children and older, followed by First Eucharist with Confirmation, during the final two years. The program sessions are held on Thursday in the St. Thomas Parish House. Your child will be made to feel most welcome and will be instructed by a qualified primary school teacher. The children will also celebrate their sacraments each year with the children of St. Thomas Primary School were possible.

Please be assured that all our teachers meet the Archdiocese's Child Safety requirements and hold a current and valid Working with Children Check. For any additional information regarding next year's sessions please feel free to call our Parish Office, or check our website at: <http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth> or email: cagbn@vic.chariot.net.au

SACRED HEART PARISH

After school Faith Development classes (with Sacramental Preparation) for children in Grade Three and over, NOT currently attending the catholic school are held in the Sacred Heart Church, at 25 Gipson Street Diamond Creek, on Mondays 4.00pm-5.00pm beginning, on **Monday February 5th 2018**. There are more details on parish website, <http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek> For further information please telephone Parish office 9438 1159 or e-mail: diamondcreek@cam.org.au

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: A GIFT FOR THE WORLD We are offering a two and a half day workshop for women at the Benedictine Abbey, 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo. April 13-15, 2018 Arrive afternoon of Thursday 12 April, leaving after lunch on the Sunday. Cost of program is \$200. Accommodation fees depend upon type of room selected. Bookings or enquiries 0242360533 or cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

STUDY AT YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION IN 2018 A welcoming community for theological education offering undergraduate and postgraduate awards. **NEW Students welcome** Morning classes and/or Evening classes offered 98 Albion Road, Box Hill Ring Nicole or Katherine to make an appointment 9890 3771 #9 **Fee Help** available **Free Parking** Classes start 26th February 2018 www.vtu.edu.au

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: Study Tour of the Biblical Lands: 17 November – 14 December 2018 Jordan, Israel & Palestinian Territories, Turkey and Greece, and option for 3 days in Rome Tour Leaders: Dr Rosemary Canavan & Rev. Anthony Dean **CMInformation Session: Saturday 20 January 2018: 2.00pm to 4.00pm** RSVP & further information: Jenny Delahunt T: 9412 3314 E: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au

NEW YEARS EVE Family Dinner Dance at St Francis of Assisi Hall Childs Rd Mill Park 7pm to 1am Carvery Meal and Dessert BYO Drinks. Adults \$40 Child (12& under) \$20 Enquiries Ruth 9407 6704 Carmen 9404 3032



For any further information on some items in today's newsletter please feel free to go to your Parish Website

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

24 December 2017

First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

***I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.***

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

mtate@bigpond.com

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