



Monday 25th December 2017

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo

Pastoral Associate: Jacinta Bright

Pastoral Worker: Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

ONAS THE AD BOROUG

Pastoral Worker: Christina O'Connor

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

<u>St. Mary's</u>	Sacred Heart	St. Thomas the Apostle
204 Grimshaw St., Greensborough, 3088	25 Gipson Street,	251 Diamond Creek Road,
Parish: 9435 1543	Diamond Creek 3089	Greensborough Nth 3088
Presbytery: 9432 2515	Parish: 9438 1159	Parish: 9434 7373
Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au	<i>Email</i> : DiamondCreek@cam.org.au	<i>Email:</i> greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au
Website: www.pol.org.au/greensborough	Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek	Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth
Secretaries: Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser	Secretary: Pat Guatta	Secretaries: Mary Gargan & Lisa Leahy
Communications Officer: Denise Chang-Faux	Mass Times	Mass Times
<u>Mass Times</u>	Monday: Communion Service 9.15am	Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am
<i>Monday:</i> Liturgy of the word 9.15am	Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am	Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am	1st Saturday of the month: Vigil Mass at	Sunday: Mass 10.30am
Saturday: Mass 8.30am & Vigil Mass 6.30pm	St. Peters Hurstbridge 7.15pm	Reconciliation Times
<i>Sunday:</i> Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm	Sunday: Mass 9.00am	<i>Saturday:</i> 9.30am to 10.30am
Reconciliation Times	Reconciliation Times	Parish School Principal
Saturday: 9.00am & 5.45pm	<i>Friday:</i> 9.45am to 10.15am	Mrs. Gail Smith Ph: 9434 4565 or Email
Parish School Principal	Parish School Principal	principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au
Mrs. Helen Anderson <i>Ph</i> : 9433 4000 <i>or Email</i>	Mr. Jim O'Sullivan Ph: 9438 1590 or Email	r r · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 30th & 31st December 2017

principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

<u>SACRED HEART 9:00am:</u>

principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

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 Minsters 6:00pm: K. McMahon, R. Garner, K. Salm, A. McCarthy, M. Gargan Special Minsters 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. Set-Up: M. Bates. Commentator: M. Bates. Counters: Volunteers. Cleaners: 13th January: B. Iacobucci, V. Vella.



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

<u>RCIA</u>: 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

<u>MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE</u> 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

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

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

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.ytu.edu.au

<u>CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:</u> Study Tour of the Biblical Lands: 17 November – 14 December 2018 Jordan, Israel & Palestinian Territories, Turkey and Greece, and option for 3 days in RomeTour 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

<u>NEW YEARS EVE</u> 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

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.

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FROM FATHER STEVEN

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek, St. Mary's, Greensborough and St. Thomas, North Greensborough, As we approach the end of 2017, I would like to express my gratitude and my well-wishes to you all, the parishioners of our three partnered parishes. Particularly, I would like to publicly express my gratitude to Dong Tran and Tao Pham, our Assistant Priests and Owen Doyle, our dedicated and locally resident Retired Priest, Jacinta Bright, our Pastoral Associate, Christina O'Connor and Sr. Margaret Sapsford, our Pastoral Workers, Claudia Wilson, our Parish Counsellor; Jim O'Sullivan, Helen Anderson and Gail Smith, our school principals; because it is together that we lead the parishes in pastoral care, education and spiritual formation; and to Pat Guatta, Frances Olofsson and Sharon Prosser, Mary Gargan and Lisa Leahy the parish secretaries as well as to Denise Chang-Faux, our community liaison officer, who are the immediate face and voice of the parish offices and who especially assist me in my administrative responsibilities.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Gail Smith for her committed and tireless dedication to her role as Principal of St. Thomas over many years as she moves to retirement from this role from January 2018. We wish her well as she embarks on new ways of expressing her qualities and talents. In saying farewell to Gail, we welcome the new Principal of St. Thomas, David Delaney, who has gained experience in this role over a number of years in other schools in the Archdiocese and with whom I look forward to working in the leadership of the school.

We are also reliant on the many groups and committees with whom we work collaboratively, particularly the Parish Pastoral Councils, the School Advisory Board and Parish Education Board. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the many individuals and groups who dedicate so much time and energy to the life of our parishes in liturgy, pastoral care, catechesis, faith formation, fundraising, peer support and ministry and property maintenance and development because they are committed to the enrichment of our communities by what they do. In general I would like to thank everyone's involvement in the life of our parishes because your contribution and participation is what continues to give these communities their great spirit and energy and expresses a welcome to those who come to us with their needs.

The past year has been both daunting and filled with exciting challenges and opportunities as we embarked on the partnership of our three parishes that also incorporate the community of St. Peter's Hurstbridge. I am grateful for the 'Dreaming a Future Structure' group which has members who are priests, pastoral associates and parishioners from a number of the local parishes and which has met over several years preparing for the possibility of such a merging of our parishes. I am indebted to, and reliant on, this group and other visionaries and leaders of our parishes who have an expansive imagination of ways we can work together with greater efficiency and effectiveness while we retain the distinctiveness of our parish communities. With this development I invite parishioners from our three parishes to greater involvement and participation into a wide range of parish activities and ministries.

I cannot fail to mention the great pain and heartache that we have experienced over the last several years as a society and as Church with the exposure of the sexual abuse suffered by thousands of vulnerable people, and especially children in our care. The Inquiry and Final Report of the Royal Commission has confronted us with undeniable facts of the magnitude and breadth of the abuse of power over many generations and the unforgivable inaction of leaders in our community and Church to address the evil earlier. While this has meant that the Church has been brought to its knees, it also means that victims and their families have finally been heard, believed and vindicated. The coming year and years will necessitate that justice, compassion and reconciliation be extended to all who have been the victims of this abuse of power consistent with the recommendations that the Royal Commission has proposed. I know that this process has also been extremely painful for those who have remained in the Church because it has severely damaged our trustworthiness in our responsibilities of care of people and our relevance of our being bearers of the good news of the Gospel. I also know that many of you have had to justify your fidelity to the Church to family and friends who have challenged you. I am grateful to you for your fidelity in the face of all this and I commit myself to working with you to put into effect ways in which we can bring about change and reform in our partnered parishes and support change that will be demanded to be exercised by the leadership of the Church. The challenge is for all of us to be Church in an authentic way that is consistent with the commission given to us by Jesus Christ as his followers and disciples in our own time.

Finally, I thank the many parishioners who have showered me with gifts for Christmas; for your thoughtfulness and care of me throughout the year. I pray that each of you may have a joyous, peace-filled celebration of Christmas with your loved ones. May God guard you and keep you safe these holidays, especially as you travel, and that you may be revitalized for the coming year. I pray that God blesses you abundantly with all you need throughout 2018.

Heven Vigo

FROM THE PASTORAL WORKERS AND SECRETARIES

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us in our ministries during the year. Your friendship and help is very much appreciated and helps to make our jobs a little easier. We hope that everyone has a very happy peaceful and safe Christmas with family and friends and we look forward to working with you again in 2018

Sr. Margaret, Christina, Pat, Lisa and Mary

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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.

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.

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Dawn

First Reading Is 62:11-12

Your Saviour is born.

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your saviour comes, the prize of his victory with him, his trophies before him'. They shall be called 'The Holy People', 'The Lord's Redeemed'. And you shall be called 'The-sought-after', 'City-not-forsaken.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 96:1. 6. 11-12

- (R.) A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.
- The Lord is king. let earth rejoice, the many coastlands be glad. The skies proclaim his justice; all the peoples see his glory. (*R.*)
- 2. Light shines forth for the just and joy for the upright of heart. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; give glory to his holy name. (*R*.)

Second Reading Ti 3:4-7

His own compassion saved us.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:15-20

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

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25 December 2017



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass.

Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope. But *this* baby is unique. *This* Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. *This* baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. *This* baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant.

And *this* baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. *This* baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us.

Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by *all* peoples.'