





Sunday 3rd 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 9th & 10th December 2017

SACRED HEART 9:00am:

Special Ministers: S. Yeoh, K. Watson, M. Cusack, J. Bruce, E. Elso

Reader: Sr. Margaret Commentator: B. Ward Welcoming: M. Dunn Set-Up: J. Bruce, A. Pieper

Counters: L. McCrohan, M. Farrell Cleaners: P. Guatta

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: M. McKenzie, S. Bishop, M. Sturmar, W. Watson, K. Salm.

Special Minsters 10:30am: R. Rendina, J. Millar, D. Nixon, A. Letzia,

6:00pm: Reader: M. Gargan. **Commentator:** T. Holland. Set-Up: T. Butera. 10:30am: Commentator: B. Watts. Set-Up: M. Bates. Reader: M. Bates.

Counters: T. Quinlan, B. Murray, M. Cullinan. Cleaners: 9th December: A. & L. Hobson, M. Manison.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 8th Dec. Annual Anointing Mass 11am Sacred Heart followed by light lunch.

Tuesday 12th dec. 7pm St Thomas Reconciliation Service

12th Dec. 8pm Liturgy meeting **Tuesday**

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

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

Greensborough North: Brian Bedford, Maureen Elks, Elaine Ledda, Noel Casemore, Nathan Fistric, A Young Parishioner.

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

Adam Hibbert, Des Vincent, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Gwen Dalwood, Russell Eames, Adrian DeGier, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan,

COMMUNITY LIFE

SENIORS MOMENTS Wednesday 6th December 12pm Christmas Lunch in the Sacred Heart Parish Centre.

CHRISTMAS CARDS that depict different scenes of Bethlehem are available in the Gathering Space of both Churches.

ST MARY'S MATURE AGE GROUP Please come and join us for our last outing for the year to the Noorlim Estate Homestead, on the 13 December 2017, with a 2 course lunch at Nagambie Lakes Entertainment Centre, cost members TBA Non Members \$59.00. Seats still available. Bus will be leaving William Street entrance at 9.15am returning home 4.00pm. Please contact Geraldine 9435 4306, Angela 9444 6298 Kay 9435 736

<u>MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION</u> Special leaving collection next weekend. Money raised from this collection will help the disadvantaged communities through out Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Peru, Jerusalem and West Africa.

<u>FUNERAL</u> of Peter Kenny will be held at St. Mary's on Tuesday 5th December at 2pm. Peter was a regular at the 9am Mass at St. Thomas before the Mass changes took place. He was also the electrician around the parish for a long time and did a lot of work in helping make the Parish Fete a success in the early years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lou and her family at this time.

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.

ADVENT PANITENTIAL SERVICE

St. Thomas /Sacred Heart Tuesday 12th December 7pm at St. Thomas St. Mary's Wednesday 13th December at 7pm

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>ADVENT</u> begins **Year B** and the **Gospel of Mark**, so to prepare come and **Meet Mark**, **his Gospel and his Jesus**. Three Monday evenings: 27 Nov., 4 & 11 Dec. 7.30pm to 9.30pm at St Mary's Church Gathering Space. Donation only. Further information Sandra Bishop 9434 7553. This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

SAINTS OF THE WEEK: Thursday: St. Ambrose; Friday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

<u>ADVENT REFLECTIONS</u> - Currajeen Retreat Centre December 9 and 16, Sr. Maureen invites you to these two Saturday morning Reflections 10 –11.30am at Currajeen Retreat Centre, 811 Bridge Inn Rd, Doreen (white tyres at the entry). Let us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas time... See you there!

<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.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent begins this weekend, which is also the beginning of Year B in the liturgical calendar. In light of recent Royal Commission findings, our Liturgy Team has chosen the theme of Rebuilding Our Church to carry us through this season of Advent. We acknowledge that there has been much pain and we pray continually for the victims of abuse and their families. We are a church in crisis and we need to find ways to restore our church and its people through true sorrow, forgiveness and healing. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us work towards restoring the values of trust, honesty and compassion.



The symbol to be placed on our Advent Tree for this week is an alarm clock which helps us to be alert and ready for the coming of the Messiah, but also to be alert to the pain and suffering of many. The Gospel this week tells us to "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come." Mk 13:33

E-Conference Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos: The Hope of Pope Francis

St Mary's will be showing the DVD of the recent E-Conference "Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos: The Hope of Pope Francis" on Wednesday the 13th of December from 10.00 until 3.00. Speakers and panellists are Professor Massimo Faggioli, Mr Paul Kelly, Professor, the Hon Bob Carr, Sr Clare Condon SGS, Rev Dr Gerald Arbuckle SM, Ms Elizabeth Proust and Sr Ruth Durick OSU. The presenter is Mr Noel Debien. There will be time to view each presentation and discuss. Venue: St Mary's Gathering Space. Bring a small plate of lunch to share. In order to assist our planning for the day please contact St Mary's parish Office on 9435 1543 or email Jacinta Bright on Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au to let us know you will be coming. This E-Conference is presented by The Broken Bay Institute: The Australian Institute of Theological Education and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

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.

ANNUAL ANOINTING/HEALING MASS:

Sacred Heart Church 11.00am on Friday 8th December followed by a light luncheon in the hall.

Volunteers to help with hall set-up, transport and serving lunch will be appreciated.

Please note there is NO 9.15am Mass on this day.

PRESS RELEASE

In the Gathering Space at both churches on Yellow paper is the letter from **Archbishop Denis Hart** on the recent passing of the **Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill** through the Victorian Bill. Please take and read it. Further enquiries at shane.healy@cam.org.au

2017 St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

St Thomas

The Christmas Appeal to be conducted over the weekend of 2/3 December is Vinnies' major end of year appeal. Your donations in past years have been distributed to support local families in need – donations for which those families and we, the Greensborough Conference, are heartily thankful. Again this year, we are asking for cash or credit card donations, to provide direct financial support to families to meet their immediate needs.

Please place your donations in the envelopes provided, and place them in the leaving collection. More envelopes will be provided in the gathering space if required. Collection bins will also be provided for any non-perishable food or Christmas items which might be donated. The group is always appreciative of gift toiletries for both males and females. Thank you Ian Fraser, President

Sacred Heart

Diamond Creek St Vincent de Paul is hoping to bring some Christmas joy to the families that we help throughout the year. If you can donate by giving *gift cards* or *cash* for the hampers, it would be very much appreciated. Envelopes will be available in the churches. You can drop these off up till Sunday 10th December at the church or Parish Centre. There will also be a leaving collection on the weekend of 2rd & 3rd December. *Thank you*.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

<u>THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF DIAMOND CREEK</u>, together with Hall's Funeral Services, organise a quiet reflective service each year for those who have been bereaved or who have experienced loss, ill health or other difficulties throughout the year. This year the 'Quiet Christmas' service will be held on Tuesday 12th December at St John's Anglican Church 61 Main Street, Diamond Creek. The service will commence at 7.30pm and will be followed by a light supper. Please contact Parish Centre for more info.

<u>LOYOLA COLLEGE</u> is holding their *Twilight Market and Carols by Candlelight* on Sunday 3 December in the College grounds. Market starts at 3pm Carols at 7.45pm. Stall enquiries lpfa@loyola.vic.edu.au

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

GREENSBOROUGH INTER CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

SUNDAY (tonight) 3rd DECEMBER

St Mary's Church at 7.30pm

All Welcome

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.

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3 December 2017

First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways

and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down

at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the

wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our
sins

And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

- R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
 - O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,

the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers, the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never known when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is our situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me - his servants - have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

mtate@bigpond.com