



Sunday 10th 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 16th & 17th December 2017

SACRED HEART 9:00am:

Special Ministers: P. Leonard, C. Bell, T. Sirianni, C. Peckham, Sr. Margaret
Reader: B. Greaves. **Commentator:** M. Nguyen., **Welcoming:** M. O'Dea. **Set-Up:** P. Leonard
Counters: C. Bell, F. Peckham, Y. O'Brien **Cleaners:** F. Peckham

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: M. Bedford, K. McMahon, C. & L. Leahy, J. Bohan.
Special Ministers 10:30am: E. Sutherland, B. Iacobucci, B. Riordan, R. Piccolo, J. Millar.
6:00pm: **Reader:** B. Bedford. **Commentator:** S. McMahon. **Set-Up:** C. Leahy.
10:30am: **Reader:** A. Tomasiello. **Commentator:** L. Hobson. **Set-Up:** J. Kerr.
Counters: R. McEvoy, C. Leahy. **Cleaners:** 16th December: K. D'Angelis, J. D'Angelis.

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: Brian Bedford, Maureen Elks, Elaine Ledda, Noel Casemore, A Young Parishioner.

We Pray for Gia MacGinty 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 Padgett, Eileen Dunn, Gwen Dalwood, Russell Eames, Adrian DeGier, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Doris Morfea.

COMMUNITY LIFE

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

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION: Special leaving collection **Today** to support the work of the Missions and the many volunteers who help support many communities. Money raised from this collection will help the disadvantaged communities through Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Peru, Israel & West Africa.

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.

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 PENITENTIAL SERVICE

St. Thomas /Sacred Heart Tuesday 12th December 7pm at St. Thomas

St. Mary's Wednesday 13th December at 7pm

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

SAINTS OF THE WEEK: **Wednesday:** St. Lucy; **Thursday:** St. John of the Cross;

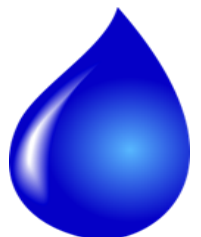
ADVENT REFLECTIONS - Currajeen Retreat Centre December 16, Sr. Maureen invites you to these two Saturday morning Reflections 10 –11.30am at Currajeen Retreat Centre, 811 Bridge Inn Rd, Doreen (white tyres at the entry). Let us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas time... See you there!

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 SEASON OF ADVENT

Week 2

The symbols to be hung on our Advent Tree this week are cut out **drops of water** to symbolise Baptism. John the Baptist came to baptise the people in preparation for coming of the Messiah. **'I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'** *Mark 1:8*



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.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10 December 2017

First Reading Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has
to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from
heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:**

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;

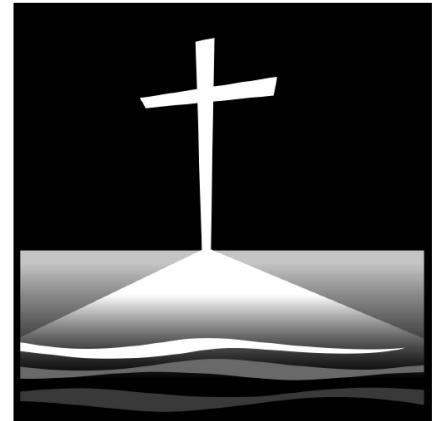
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

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