



Sunday 10th March 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **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

Secretary: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to
ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

**Communal Penitential Service will be held at St Thomas the Apostle Parish on
Tuesday 19th March at 7.00pm**



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: We are created in Christ Jesus to live
the good life.**

*O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a
wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager
faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to
come.*

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B, 10 March 2024

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-4-lent-year-b>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/



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

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Week 4

Today is the fourth weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today Jesus tells us why God the Father sent him into our world: that through his death and resurrection, all of humanity who believes in Jesus may have eternal life. Jesus was calling the people away from their traditional way of life to embrace a new way of being, to be saved by grace which is the gift of God.

We who wish to be saved do so through the heart, through recognising the light of God's love already present in us.

"Above all else guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Proverbs 4:23)

ST MARY'S LADIES AUXILARY: St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome.

TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION: at St John's Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19th – 28th April at 12 noon until 4pm. TOGETHER 2024 is inviting local artists to display their work in the welcoming space of St John's.

All mediums welcome. Art has the power to transcend words, fostering connections that go beyond the ordinary.

TOGETHER aims to be a space where community members connect, resonate, and find common ground through the language of art.

Free Entry. www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together

Dear Parishioners of Partnered Parishes;

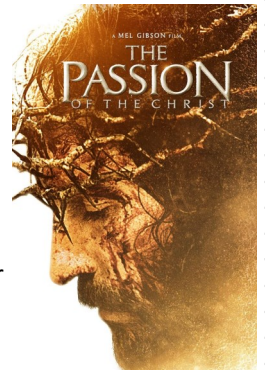
Here is great opportunity to spend your Wednesday of Holy Week this year (27th March, 2024) as an intense preparation for Easter. We will gather in St. Thomas Parish Church in Greensborough North (251 Diamond Creek Road) at 7.00 pm to watch the movie, "The Passion of Christ" (Mel Gibson) and also pray the "Sorrowful Mysteries" of the Holy Rosary. It gives us in the middle of Holy Week to reflect on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus and thus prepare for the Holy Triduum in a worthy manner.

Parents please be advised that due to the graphic nature of the Passion, this movie may not be suitable for Children.

For more information please call the Parish Office

Have a fruitful and prayerful Lent

F Ananda Maddineni MFFS



PALMS AUSTRALIA

Mission Transforms Lives—theirs....and yours

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives.

63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self reliant, community development.

Learn even more: Join our two week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024. to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together

Contact 02 9560 5333. palms@palms.org.au



Palms Australia

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross will be held at St Thomas Church every Friday during lent commencing at 7.00pm.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT WEEKEND OF 9-10 MARCH 2024

REFLECTION

We have all lived through a great deal of change. Even young people have seen plenty. ChatGPT is a recent development and so are electric cars. Older people can remember having a phone plugged into a socket that you couldn't carry around with you. Sometimes we have discussions about the good old days. They are often tinged with nostalgia for things we miss and gratitude for improvements. We no longer need to buy film for our cameras or change typewriter ribbons. Climate change is deeply troubling. Many medical improvements are inspiring.

Change can certainly be frightening. It can also be an occasion of great hope. Jesus seems to have understood this. Nicodemus comes across as a character who is looking for change in his life, but he is nervous about it, so he comes to see Jesus under cover of darkness. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus uses the image of being born again. Of starting all over again. It is a dramatic description of change.

Jesus says that the light has come into the world and that people prefer the same old darkness. They are set in their ways.

Every Lent, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia asks us to help bring light into the world and to make positive change. An example is presented to us this week in the story of Memory, a young

woman from rural Malawi, the eldest child in a family living at the level of subsistence farming.

Listen to some of Memory's words: 'Growing up in the village was not easy. My parents don't have a job, so they depend on farming. When the season goes wrong, we suffer a lot and become food insecure. Sometimes we need to bathe without soap. Sometimes we need to walk without shoes.'

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt practical skills in carpentry. A new life became possible. She was able to offer more to her family and her community.

Today, the letter to the Ephesians reminds us that every person is 'God's work of art.' God is the artist who never signs off on a painting but is always trying to make it better. Perhaps we can see the world in the same way.

**DON'T FORGET
TO CREATE YOUR
PARISH FUNDRAISING
PAGE AT: FUNDRAISE.
PROJECTCOMPASSION.
ORG.AU**

MEMORY'S STORY, MALAWI



Growing up in the Mwanza district in southern Malawi, 26-year-old Memory was born to a low-income family who relies on subsistence farming for survival.

Memory's parents struggled to pay for her school fees and supplies, and she often had to walk to school barefoot. As the eldest of five children, Memory also faced the challenge of balancing her education with domestic chores, such as farming, cooking, cleaning, and carrying water.

Despite the challenges she faced, Memory understood that education was her best chance of breaking the cycle of poverty, "I told myself I can't stop going to school because this is the only way I can get a better life."

With the support of Caritas Australia and the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM) – Caritas Australia's local partner in Malawi – Memory enrolled in a technical college where she undertook a three-year carpentry course. Her tuition and boarding fees were partially funded by CADECOM through funds provided by Caritas Australia.

Memory now stands proudly as the first female carpenter from her village, working at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can now support her family while inspiring other young women in her community to finish their education and seize opportunities within male-dominated industries.

"Being a female carpenter sets an example to others in my community," she said. "They see a woman can do what a man can do."

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for all people who make things. We thank God for their skill. May our support of Project Compassion help people around the world find the opportunity to use their talents to support their families and communities. Lord, hear us.



FUNDRAISING IDEA

Ask your parishioners to bring in a meal or light refreshments to share after Mass. Discuss what impact basic schooling has on the most vulnerable people around the world. Ask the question, "where would you be now if you didn't receive schooling?" Collect donations through your fundraising page or donations boxes.

BULLETIN NOTICE

You can help women like Memory seize better job opportunities and thrive in their community. Please make a generous donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phone 1800 024 413.

LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2024

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

St Thomas: Continuing on Fridays **1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March** at 7:00 pm

COMBINED PARISHES COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

St Thomas: Tuesday **19th March**, 7:00 pm *(with supper following)*

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart: Fridays (not Good Friday) 9:45 - 10:15 am

St Mary's: Saturday evenings 5:45 - 6:15 pm *(or by appointment)*

St Thomas: Saturdays 9:30 - 10:00 am *at each Parish)*

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY – 23rd/24th MARCH *(Please bring own foliage)*

Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart : Sunday 9:00 am

St Mary's: Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

St Thomas: Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:30 am

HOLY THURSDAY – 28th MARCH **NO morning Mass**

St Mary's: 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

St Thomas: 6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

(St Mary's & St Thomas -Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass

Concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30 pm)

GOOD FRIDAY – 29th MARCH **NO morning Mass**

St Thomas: 11:00 am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (Combined local Churches)

St Mary's: 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Sacred Heart: 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY – 30th MARCH

St Mary's: 10:00 am Morning Prayer

EASTER VIGIL - 30th MARCH

St Mary's: 6:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart : 7:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

EASTER SUNDAY - 31st MARCH

Sacred Heart: 9:00 am

St. Mary's: 8:00 am & 10:00 am **NO 5:00 pm**

St. Thomas: 10:30 am



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Lenny, Mila and Oscar who will be welcomed into our community in March.

WOMEN'S DINNER: Friday 3rd May @7pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Cost \$35 per head. Donations for the raffle and offers of help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Patricia 0418992488 or Tonina 0419154524.

PARISH RAFFLE: tickets are now available in the church for next month's raffle, the prize is a Voucher for Vines Café/Nillumbik Cellars.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: at Sacred Heart on Fridays, when Fr Steven is away on holidays this year, we are planning to celebrate Liturgy of the Word instead of Mass. Any generous volunteers, interested in leading Liturgy of the Word, would be most welcome to contact the Parish Pastoral Council via email at ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com Support and formation will be provided.

With thanks, Marg Farrell. PPC Chair

AUDIO-DIVINA: is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. The-RightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/> The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: 'Let the little children come to me' Mathew 19:14

Children's liturgy of the word is commencing in 2024 during 9am mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of school terms for children from preschool to grade 3. Volunteer leaders are welcome. Working with children card and safeguarding training is mandatory. Training provided. For information call Jasna Bruce 0403827350.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting 14th March. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 20th March 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 3rd April 12pm Fish and Chips in the Parish Centre.

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 12th March L. Armiento, M. Dunn, A. Ridsdale

Sunday 17th March Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: C. Fernando

Commentator: F. Ledda

Eucharistic Ministers: Y. O'Brien, T. Sirianni

Saturday 6th April St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: R. Nicolaisen

Commentator: E. Gittins

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

Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

Recently Deceased:

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au or greensborough@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

HOLY WEEK INFORMATION

PALM SUNDAY 23/24 March All Palm Sunday Masses will commence on the verandah outside the Gathering Space (weather permitting) with the blessing of branches and procession into the church. ***Please bring your own branches to these Masses.***

READERS, COMMUNION MINISTERS, PROJECTIONISTS and SACRISTANS are invited to participate in the Holy Week ceremonies - Holy Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm, Good Friday 29 March at 3pm, the Easter Vigil 30 March at 6.30pm and Easter Sunday 31 March at 8am and 10am. ***If you are available, please add your name to the roster in the gathering space.***

HOLY THURSDAY 28 March at 7.30pm – Washing of the Feet Twelve parishioners are invited to have a foot washed during the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

If you would like to be involved in this commemorative action of service, ***please add your name to the roster in the gathering space.***

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS: Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email mamitchem@gmail.com for further information.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Next Gathering will be on Wednesday 13th March. Lunch at Watsonia RSL. \$15 for 2 course lunch. RSL Bus can pick from St Mary's as there is no parking at the club. Let's support them during this difficult time in Watsonia. Please call Geraldine on 0438148896 to book.

LADIES AUXILARY: St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome

OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT During Lent, our worship space is simplified with no flowers or greenery in the church or gathering space representing the barren desert where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. This is symbolic of the Lenten Season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty - only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Three Stations of the Cross services are available: one based on the *Gospel of St Mark*, another *Mary's Stations*, and a video *Way of the Cross* with images of the Stations at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Deepdene carved by Austrian immigrant Leopoldine Mimovich.

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK: Choir Practice for Holy Week Ceremonies will take place on **Fridays 8, 15 & 22 March** in the Church from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Dom LaFerlita our Saturday night pianist will accompany us. The Liturgy is the centre of the Church's life and music adds another prayer dimension. We sing at the Palm Sunday Vigil (Sat 23/3), Holy Thursday (28/3), Good Friday (29/3) and the Easter Vigil (Sat 30/3). All are very welcome to join and no experience is necessary.

Please contact Megan Mitchem via email: mamitchem@gmail.com if you would like to be part of the choir so that music can be organised for you.

SUNDAY CATECHIST CLASSES: For primary school children attending Government Schools classes commenced in February at 9.00am in St Mary's School. Classes are for children from Grades 3 to 6, and include the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, and are held during each school term. ***All enquiries - Geraldine - 0438 148 896***

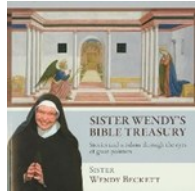
HOLY ROSARY is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

Be informed, inspired and entertained

Books of the week



Sister Wendy Beckett (1930-2018) was a British religious sister and art historian who became known internationally when she presented a series of BBC TV documentaries on the history of art. The Library holds 5 of her books which feature beautiful reproductions of religious art works paired with inspirational text.



Online access to the catalogue is available at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780

PLEA FOR COMPASSION, MERCY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE-AND AN END TO GLOBAL CONFLICTS: Pope Francis has been publicly vocal about war since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and his voice has become louder since the beginning of the Israel-Palestine War. In his calls he does not take side.

The Pope is quoted as saying: "Either we do not realise it or we are pretending not to see that we are on the brink of the abyss.... A global cease fire is urgent....I will never tire of reiterating my call, addressed in particular to those who political responsibility: stop the bombs and missiles now, put an end to hostilities. Everywhere, 'pointing out that humanity is embroiled in a "piecemeal world war three"."

Let us work for Peace to All St Mary's Social Justice Group.

AUDIO DIVINA: Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms: Marcus, Darcy, Eliza, Jackson, Riley

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Lois Jones, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Mick O'Meara, Fr Terry Kean, Betty Luttick

Recently Deceased:

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Aileen Feehy, George Cummins, Mary Oxenford, Jim Evans, Kevin Maskell, Concetta Dinoto, Bob Jones, Catherine Smith, Ronald Sinclair, Carmel Phillips, John Patmore, Stella Linard, Lesley Lilburn, Aileen McMahon, Pauline Toner, Terrence Joyce, Kathleen Cugley, Joseph Brown, Tony Patena, Amalraj Fernando, John Caruana, Stephen Bennie, Rev Bro Thomas Horgan.FMS, Patricia Hollowood, Clare Cashin, James Laux, Daniel White, Robert Pike, Harry Sealey, Steven Devine, Michael Bowlen, Anne Cousins, Marie Johnson, Harry Alderson, Clive Reid, Phyllis Sertori, Alice Hoy, Ana Paula Fernandes, Anne Zuckor, Tony D'Amico, Christian Breier, Bill Munford, Leigh Eddington, Renee Hodges, David Sutton, John Rutter, Margaret Pitts, Neil Zarnardo, Barry Foley, Graeme Armstrong, Peter Liaw, Margaret Ericson, Deirdre O'Reilly, Diane Davine

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Andrew, Hannah and Lucy who are being baptised later this month.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP: As our regular catch-up falls on Holy Thursday I have decided not to have a get together this month. See you all on the 25th April. *Marg*

PPC for 2024 was held on Wednesday 21 February

The first meeting of the PPC for 2024 was held on Wednesday 21 February. The following matters were discussed:

- Parish finances were discussed including progress on building the Early Learning Centre
- Data was provided about enrolments in Catholic schools across the diocese. Numbers have consistently fallen in our area and this trend may continue into the future.
- Continued discussion about the significant anniversaries: 25th anniversary of the church this year; the 40th anniversary of the parish in 2026. Importance of forming a planning committee and developing a number of events/activities.
- Exploration of applying for a grant for an Artist in Residence to create a significant piece of work for the parish's 40th anniversary.
- Continued work on producing a Parish Information Brochure.
- Discussion about the role of the parish website and the need to use other forms of social media to reach out to people in the parish and those in the local community.
- Discussion about ways to support our priests as Father Martin has now left the parish.
- As an acknowledgement of Martin's contribution to our parish, a thank you card will be placed in the Gathering Space for parishioners to sign. They may also donate towards a gift for him.
- A report from the primary school - many activities underway and in planning. A panel has been formed to begin the process of selecting a new principal.
- Report from the Liturgy Team about Lenten activities. There was discussion about services to be held across the three parishes during Lent and through the Easter period.

The next meeting is Wednesday 20 March, 7pm in St Thomas meeting room.

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TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/> The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC. StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

Roster for Weekend 16th & 17th March

Saturday 6.00pm

Readers: A. Fernando

Commentator: K. Salm

Eucharistic Ministers: M. McKenzie, J. Bohan

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Bates

Commentator: B. Iacobucci

Eucharistic Ministers: A. Kerr, C. O'Brien

Set Up: S. Dossa

St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:

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

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

We pray for those who have died recently and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahon, Matthew Van Beek, Mary Tan, Owen Doyle, Anthony Barker, Stjepan Degaac, Cathrine Formosa



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Here is another reading from John's gospel and it contains the third reference to the passion/resurrection: 'so must the Son of Man be lifted up'. Here it is apparent that the material world is so precious that, in order to save the world, God was prepared to blur the boundaries between divinity and materiality in the person of Jesus.

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

10 March 2024

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' "

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

**(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal
life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not
be lost

but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be
saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned
already,

because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he does
is done in God.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son - the Word made Flesh - is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love - will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

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