



Sunday 17th December 2023

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough)

**Secretaries:** Tanya O'Meara & 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](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday** 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](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://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

**Parish School Principal**

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**  
[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

**Saints of the Week:** St Lucy, 13th December, St John of the Cross, 14th December

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**



O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B.

17th December 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-3-advent-year-b>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

[www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)

St Mary's Facebook page

[facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/](https://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.**

# PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

## THEME FOR ADVENT

The theme for Advent this year is Messengers of Hope. In today's world, it can often be hard to see signs of hope, for our planet, in our communities, for our families. Once again war, tragedy, violence and natural disasters have challenged and upset our sense of peace and safety. Fear, uncertainty and self-interest have flourished at times when love, generosity and reconciliation were needed. In the history of our Church, we have always had messengers of hope to remind us of the love of God: the prophets, the angels, the saints, John the Baptist, to name a few. This Advent, let us look around for messengers of hope and as a start we need to look no further than our children. These young ones, full of life and promise, are the children of God, loved by Jesus and our hope for the future.

*"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14)*

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

In the Gospel this week, we again hear from John the Baptist. He identifies himself as a man, called by God, to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. He has recognised Jesus as Saviour since he was a baby in his mother's womb, leaping at the sound of Mary's voice. He has lived a life of faith, dedicated to bearing witness, with hope and certainty, to the One to come. John does not seek power or fame but to herald the coming of Jesus, the light and life of the world. We too may be witnesses to Christ through all that we say and do, each day. This is our call from God.

*"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word." (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)*

## ADVENT CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2023

### Communal Penitential Service

Will take place at **St Thomas'** on **Friday, 15th December** at 7:00 pm (supper to follow)

### Individual Reconciliation

<b>Sacred Heart</b>	Friday	15/22 December	9:45-10:15 am
<b>St Mary's</b>	Saturday	16 December	5:45-6:15 pm
<b>St Thomas</b>	Saturday	16/23 December	9:30-10:00 am

Each Parish by appointment

### Masses for Christmas

<b>Sacred Heart</b>	Christmas Eve	5:00 pm
	Christmas Day	9:00 am
<b>St Mary's</b>	Christmas Eve	<b><u>no 5:00 pm Mass</u></b> Carols 5:30 pm, Mass 6:00 pm Carols 9:00 pm, Mass 9:30 pm
	Christmas Day	8:00 am and 10:00 am <b><u>no 5:00 pm Mass</u></b>
<b>St Thomas</b>	Christmas Eve	7:00 pm
	Christmas Day	10:30 am



**NEWSLETTER:**-All parishioners are encouraged to contact your parish office to add your name to the email distribution list for our partnered parishes newsletter. This will allow you to always have access to the newsletter on your phone or computer and will help reduce our carbon footprint by saving paper. Copies will continue to be available at our churches and on our parish websites.

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS



*Faith Formation*  
LIFELONG AND ONGOING

Formation will be offered to the members who serve our Partnered Parishes in volunteer ministers as **Readers of the Word/Lecterns, Special Eucharist Ministers, taking Communion to the Sick** and **welcoming and preparing families bringing their children for Baptism**. Don't miss out! Mark your calendars now with the date for your group's formation! (formation for each Ministry is different and offers particular opportunities for prayer and reflections for that particular Ministry\* – *if you serve on more than one ministry group, we hope you will be available to attend the session relevant for your groups.* 😊)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 – Readers of the Word/Lecterns Ministry Group**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Baptism Ministry Group**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Communion to the Sick Ministry Group**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Special Eucharist Ministers Group**

All sessions will be held from 10.00am – 1.00pm (*morning tea provided*)

**The venue for all 4 sessions will be The Gathering Space of St Mary's Church**

As the Gathering Space has air conditioning as is large enough to seat as many of our volunteers who are available to attend. We believe the Gathering Space will allow us to come together comfortably with adequate space to enjoy a cuppa with morning tea.

**Please RSVP your group contact person or**

**Pat (Sacred Heart – Diamond Creek), Lisa (St Thomas'- Greensborough North, or Tanya (St Mary's – Greensborough).**

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

*'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.'*

Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

**Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.**

You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413



### **GAZA CRISIS APPEAL**

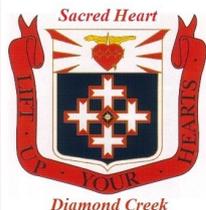
Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



**DONATE NOW**

[www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza)  
1800 024 413

## 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 Isabelle & Jaden who will be welcomed into our Sacred Heart community in December.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Diamond Creek St Vincent de Paul is hoping to bring some Christmas joy to the families that we help out through the year. If you can donate in any way by giving **gift cards** or **cash** it would be very much appreciated. There will be a **leaving collection after 9am Mass this Sunday**. Donations in envelopes can also be left at Parish Office. THANK YOU



**COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** THE Columban Art Calendar is now available in the Church. \$10.00 each, limited stock.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wishing everyone a Holy, Safe and Happy Christmas.

2024 Planning Meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 12pm in Parish Centre. New members welcome.

**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](mailto:alisonpieper52@gmail.com)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 19<sup>th</sup> December** C. & F. Ledda

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** F. Ledda

**Commentator:** R. McEvoy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Pieper, P. Keenan

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Sacred Heart Christmas Eve 5pm**

**Reader:** M. Walsh

**Commentator:** J. Hoyne

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Keenan, P. Leonard

**Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** Y. O'Brien

**Commentator:** F. Ledda

**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Cusack, T. Sirianni

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

*Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard*

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

*Adam Hibbert, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Frank Orders, Julian Federico, Brian Bell, John Elliott, Clara Mercieca, Paul Clements, Bernice Burke, Rose Hegarty.*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 10am-4pm.

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



**LADIES AUXILIARY:** Winner of our Christmas stocking raffle was George Ebrahim. Thank you for your support throughout the year. Happy Christmas to all.

**SACRISTANS, PROJECTIONISTS, READERS AND COMMUNION MINISTERS Christmas Masses Invitation.** If you are available to exercise your ministry at our Christmas celebrations, please add your name to the roster in the gathering space on the table near the kitchen. Thank you.

**CHURCH SECURITY :** Group members and parishioners are reminded to check that ALL doors of the church and gathering space are securely locked and all lights are off when you leave after evening Masses and meetings. Thank you.

**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 .

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE 2023 CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

This year's Christmas Appeal will be officially launched at St. Mary's Parish on the weekend of **2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December**. The local 'Companions' we visit in Greensborough and Watsonia are often hungry, anxious and desperate. Christmas will look different this year for struggling families.

If possible we ask Parishioners to please consider donating whatever is affordable to enable us to continue our Conference's work of providing help to those who seek it. To donate please see below-

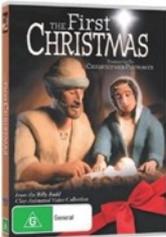
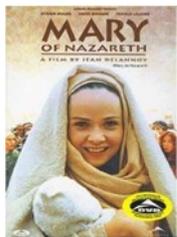
1. *Appeal envelopes will be provided at the end of the pews and in the Gathering Space of the Church - they can then be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection or in the 'after Mass' Collection bag. Donations can also be placed in the Collection bags on the following weekends.*
2. *Credit card donations can be arranged by calling [13 18 12](tel:131812) and stating you are donating to the **Greensborough** Conference **Christmas Appeal***

3. *Donations can be made online via [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) – please make sure you include **Greensborough** in the 'Comments/Conference Name' section.*

*With our continued gratitude for your ongoing support and incredible generosity!*

**Maureen Lonsdale, Greensborough Conference President**

## ***Be informed, inspired and entertained***



### **Books of the Week**

For those who still use them, the Library holds a substantial collection of DVDs, including some for children.

Mary of Nazareth is a particularly well-made film which provides entertainment and inspiration for the Christmas season. Children 3-11 years would enjoy The First Christmas, an animated movie.

Online access to the catalogue is available at: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



St Mary's Parish Library

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

### **Baptisms:**

***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.

**Recently Deceased:** Patricia Donahoo (Maree Girolami's mum)

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

Gerald Hill, Tom Murphy, Herwald Hipfel, Fr Leo Fitzpatrick, Mike D'Souza, Amelia Aspe, Eugenio Sergio, Benny Rebeiro, John Dunn, Patric Mary Boswell, Jacqueline Duncan, Shirley Griffin, Anecito Entice, Michael Cheng, Leonard Ollington, Ritty Beck, Jesiane St. Martin, Pamela Anne Griffin, John Hill, Ignacio Drendain, Nick Kelly, Giuseppe Agosta, Thecla Meneze, Paul Debonis, John Bowler, Gwen Phillips, Phyllis Shewan, Primo Santucci, Roland Gonzaga, Norman Rose, Mons John Murphy, Finbo Woroh, Hinko Novak, Philippa Morgan, Francesca Pezzopane, Anne Mackie, James Cheevers, Simon Sequeira, Sarah Robinson, Franc Hack, Charlie Bedington, Mario Sculli, Sr Aletha, Franz Denk, Cyril Shead, Antonio A Pena, David McAleer, David Turner, Gwen Rooney, Antonio San Pedro, Cliff Rowse, Joseph Puckeridge, Doris Doolan, Mary Russell, Betty Robins, Jose Tarnate, Sr Josephine, E.M.Thomas

## 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:**

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** You are warmly invited to our final Charismatic Mass for 2023 and Christmas break-up at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. Thursday, 21st December commencing with praise & worship at 7.30pm followed by Mass at 8pm. Enquiries: Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE 2023 CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

This year's Christmas Appeal will be officially launched at St. Mary's Parish on the weekend of 2nd/3rd December. The local 'Companions' we visit in Greensborough and Watsonia are often hungry, anxious and desperate. Christmas will look different this year for struggling families.

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3. Donations can be made online via [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) – please make sure you include Greensborough in the 'Comments/Conference Name' section.

With our continued gratitude for your ongoing support and incredible generosity!

**Maureen Lonsdale, Greensborough Conference President**

**St. Vincent De Paul Society**



### **Roster for Weekend 23rd & 24th December**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** P. Carty

**Commentator:** A. Fernando

**Eucharistic Ministers:** K. Salm, C. Leahy, J. Bohan

**Set Up:** M. McKenzie

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** B. Iacobucci

**Commentator:** J. Kerr

**Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Riordan, C. Riordan

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

**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*

**We pray for those who have died recently including Fr. Gerry Dowling and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

*Emilia Micomonaco, Adrian DeGier, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Nancy Marzella, Giovanni Marzella, Leo Glennon, Stjepan Kernjak*





## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny

There is some confusion about the identity of John and his relationship to Jesus in this week's gospel reading. The message is plain - John is not the light, rather he is 'a witness to speak for the light'. Light is the dominating image of the Advent/Christmas cycle.

### Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17 December 2023

#### First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

*(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

#### Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

#### Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

*Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

*a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'*

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



#### Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

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