



Sunday 2nd June 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 & Libby

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

On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: 'TAKE IT', JESUS SAID. 'THIS IS MY BLOOD WHICH IS TO BE POURED OUT FOR MANY.'

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption.

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Year B, 2 June 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflections-corpus-christi-year-b-2024>

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.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS continued

Sr Professor Mary Coloe PBVM - REFLECTIONIT was a momentous occasion on Sunday, 5 May at St Mary's Church, where Sr Mary who is a biblical scholar specialising in the Gospel of St John, delivered a Reflection on St John's Gospel 15:9-17. Her two main points throughout the Reflection were: God does not have favourites; Love each other as God loves us. We were very blessed to have had Mary share her Reflection with us.

REFLECTION - 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Today, in various churches across Melbourne, women are being given the opportunity to speak on the readings. An opportunity I gladly accepted. At present women are not permitted to be deacons and to give the homily so this is simply a reflection not a homily. Today's second reading from the Acts of the Apostles could have been written for us in Greensborough and our global Church Luke, the author of Acts, is describing a critical time in the early Jesus movement – perhaps only 10 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. So, I invite you to take yourself back in time and put yourself in the shoes of these early women and men disciples.

A major question faced them and what are they going to decide? Their answer, 2000 years ago, is why we are here today.

What would you decide – Yes, or No.

Those first disciples were all Jews, just as Jesus and his mother. They grew up within the traditions, faith and festivals of Judaism – their ancestors had found that this was their way to encounter God. Then Jesus came. His ministry also, was mainly to Jews – teaching them, interpreting their scriptures, opening up a new way of encountering God – and he did this within Judaism.

But within ten years, his followers have moved beyond the land of Israel, into Greece, Turkey, Italy – and they are now finding non-Jews – or gentiles, also interested in their preaching about Jesus and wanting to join them. ***What will they decide?***

Some, like James in Jerusalem, say NO. Jesus came for the Jews, the children of Abraham. He didn't travel beyond the land of Israel to Rome, or Greece, so his movement should be restricted to Jews.

A great preacher named Paul, who was a Pharisee, so an educated leader within Judaism, he says the opposite. Based on his experience preaching the Jesus story, he has been welcomed by Gentiles. So Paul says they should be included. That the Jesus story is not to be restricted just to Jews.

So, you have some saying, No – Jesus came only for the Jews, and some saying Yes – the Jesus story should not be restricted. (Read Acts 10 and 11)

But it doesn't really matter what James wants, or what Paul wants – the real question is – ***what does God want?*** Then God breaks into the story through another great disciple, Peter. And this is the reading from Acts today.

Peter had been called to go to the house of a Roman soldier, a centurion, the leader of a large company of soldiers. On the way to the house of Cornelius Peter is hungry and tired. He rests on the roof of a house and seems to see a sheet being lowered from heaven filled with animals, birds, reptiles, and hear a voice telling him ***to kill and eat.***

But Peter says NO – Jewish laws forbade eating some of these creatures they were called unclean. So even though he was hungry he refused. There was also a voice from heaven saying, ***What God has made clean, you must not call unclean.*** This same dream happened to him three times. The dream left Peter puzzled.

What do you think is the point of this strange dream? How would you interpret it?

Then Peter arrives in the house of Cornelius, the Gentile and he is welcomed. This man wants to hear about Jesus – even though he is not a Jew.

The Peter begins to understand his strange dream and says, ***"I now realize, God does not have favourites" - all nations, races, are welcome.***

He realizes that we shouldn't put limits on what God wants.

Then, to confirm that Peter has now got it right – he experiences that the Holy Spirit comes into the life of Cornelius and his household - even before Peter has done anything – even before they are baptized - ***God has acted.***

In this episode, we see the beginnings of the Jesus' movement realizing that Jesus come for everyone – not just the Jews. ***God does not have favourites.*** God does not create boundaries like we do.

My friends, I said this reading could have been written for us today. Our Catholic church is facing similar critical questions.

Is it possible that women, like me, could be authorized to give a homily, could be a deacon?

Is it possible that a woman, like me, could be authorized to serve you at the Lord's table?

History tells us that women were deacons and led house churches in the early centuries of Christianity. Some women are even named in Paul's letters. Then gradually the ministries of opening up the Word and Breaking the Bread of Eucharist became restricted to men only – and to unmarried men only.

So, we have the situation we are in today – a church led by men only. But a church where many are starving for the Eucharist because of a shortage of male priests. Where parishes are being closed, or joined up with others.

Today's reading puts the challenge to us - is this what God wants? ***Does God only give vocations to men? Or could God be giving vocations to women as well?*** Just as God offered all creatures to Peter – but he was blinded by his tradition and said No.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

Then, in the house of Cornelius, Peter showed great wisdom – in recognizing that God’s spirit had already come to this gentile household. God had already acted. When he baptized Cornelius, he was simply acknowledging that God was already here. He learnt through experience what the voice had told him - God does not have favourites.

The Gospel then takes us into the heart of Jesus’ message – ***love one another, as I have loved you. No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.***

Jesus’ life and death demonstrates God’s love for us, and we are then asked to bear witness to this in our own time.

Can people today see God’s love at work in us today? In how we live and work. In how we lay down our life for the other in acts of kindness, in generosity, in forgiveness, in giving time to listen, in considering the needy and vulnerable in our midst – and seeking no return. When Covid struck, people did look out for each other? We can do it, and it is what the Gospel of Jesus demands – ***love as I have loved.*** If we live as luke-warm disciples, Christianity will be boring. No one would want to part of our group – our young people look beyond the words we say, to how we live and many say “No thanks.” They want a vital Christianity – that challenges the values of our world today- they want to see the Gospel message being lived.

Two short slogans from today

1. God has no favourites
2. Love as I love.

Bringing this to conclusion – Men and women, bishops and lay people are gathering at round tables in Rome later this year in a special Synod seeking God’s Wisdom together. Pray for this gathering. May they be touched by the Holy Spirit as those first Christians were to move the Church to serve the community and the world today. May our church, our community, be a better witness to the love that Jesus demonstrated.

Mary L. Coloe, PBVM. . Professor Emerita, University of Divinity.

SR KERIN’S TALK - “ LIFE’S FOR LIVING” – THE SPIRITUALITY OF AGEING.

On behalf of the LAMP group, we would like to thank all those who were able to attend our Evening with Sr Kerin Caldwell, who spoke to us on the topic of – ‘Life’s for Living’ – the Spirituality of Ageing’.

Sr Kerin discussed the importance of spirituality and personal growth. She reminded us that we are body, mind and Spirit. That we can embrace life to the fullest with a spirit of acceptance and gratitude for all we have achieved and still can achieve at any age.

She emphasised that while our pace of life may be slower and sometimes things beyond our control can cause some turmoil, our lives can still be full of hope and fulfillment.

From the feedback we have received it is evident that those present found this talk informative and nurturing which encouraged them to embrace life and the years ahead.

Sr Kerin has kindly offered to come back in the later part of the year to give a follow up talk that would also be suitable for anyone who was not able to attend this one.

Keep a look out in the Parish News Letter for information about when this talk will be held.

FAMILIES IN SPIRITUAL HARMONY



Calling all tweens, teens, young adults and families with children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Are you looking for a place for you and your children to meaningfully connect with other Catholic families? We have the pleasure of introducing Families In Spiritual Harmony (**FISH**). This group has been created by families for families; with the objective of creating a spiritual safety-net for our youth and fostering our catholic community. It is open to everyone, and is for the benefit of all three of our parishes.

We will focus on and encourage faith formation, reflection and discussion in these sessions – all whilst having some fun! These sessions will be held every Friday, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

On the first Friday of every month, we will also have The First Friday’s Devotion, along with confession, and all are welcome to join in.

We hope to see you all soon.

Fr Ananda Maddineni

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS continued

CARITAS LAUNCHES APPEAL TO SUPPORT PNG COMMUNITIES HIT BY LANDSLIDE

Caritas has an appeal for the people who have been affected by the horrific landslide. There will be a Leaving Collection this weekend in support of our needy neighbours. At times they have helped us, now we can help them. No amount is too small. Thank you.

You can also donate through: www.caritas.org.au/PNG

SAFEGUARDING

Our Partnered Parishes are so incredibly thankful for the amazing work of our Volunteers.

Without your time, talent and commitment, the inner workings of our Parish community would not be the same. As a reminder, to be compliant as a Volunteer there are some vital steps that need to be taken first.

These include obtaining a Working With Children Check or VIT registration for Children and Vulnerable people, registering your place of volunteering on your WWC Check application or on MyCheck page and keeping it active throughout your entire service, completing the Essential Safeguarding training online and signing the Code of Conduct. Once again, thank you for your generous and valuable service to the Parish.

Links:

* <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

* <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

RETAIN THE LORD'S PRAYER IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS | PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

Below is a link from faith leaders to sign a petition which we would be seeking parishioners from our communities to support.

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/retain-the-lords-prayer-in-legislative-council-proceedings/>

Join us for Fiat—A Weekend of Prayer Friday 31st May—Sunday 2nd June 2024

For the second year running, our local communities of grace across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June 2024.

Beginning with the Feast of the Visitation on Friday and concluding with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, parishes, movements and communities are invited to host a time of prayer.

Fiat may be a time to explore various forms of prayer, particularly with Mary and the Eucharist. ***Your 'How to' guide to the Year of*** <https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Year-of-Prayer-guide.pdf>

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 27th May—3rd June 2024 *Now more than ever*

National Reconciliation Week's theme for 2024, *Now More Than Ever*, is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must continue.

There have been many moments in Australia's reconciliation journey that make us want to turn away. But when things are divisive, the worst thing we can do is disengage or disconnect. Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.

National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The week is framed by the anniversaries of two significant milestones in our reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 Referendum (27 May) and the High Court Mabo decision (3 June).

[Learn more about National Reconciliation Week in Victoria.](#)



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 Flynn, Anderson, Noah & Flynn who are welcomed into our community in June.

FAMILY GROUPS FUNDRAISING: Thank you to Sacred Heart Family Groups for generously volunteering at Rotary Tram Café. They have kindly rostered on again Saturday 29th June. Please enjoy a walk, say hello and buy a coffee.

ANGELA CACCETTA: is now in Diamond Creek Care Community, 203 Broadgully Road, Diamond Creek Room 201. If anyone wishes to visit the only day she is unavailable is Wednesdays.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office if you, or anyone you know, would appreciate Communion at home.

SACRED HEART MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES: The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com or leave a message with Pat in the Parish Office if you would like a loved one remembered in this way.

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 5th June Lunch 12pm Diamond Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant.

Wednesday 19th June 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next PPC meeting is on 13th June. Suggestion box in church or email:

ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

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 4th June M. Cusack, W. McEvoy

Sunday 9th June Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: L. Armiento **Commentator:** C. Fernando **Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Beeby, G. Beeby

St Peter's Saturday 6th July 7.15pm

Reader: M. Frisby **Commentator:** J. Robinson

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

Denney Hegarty, Mary O'Dea, Tony Watson, 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: Antoinette Politi (Carmela Garzia's mother)

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

Carmel & Albert Mowlam, Nicola Nesci, Ken Parker, Maureen Parker, Michael Cusack, Saviour Camilleri.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 11am-3pm*

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



SACRIFICIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES AT ST MARY'S: In order to make it easier for the counters, could you please write the amount on the front of the envelope.

The envelopes are made to accommodate the larger notes, please don't fold the notes.

Also if you miss some weeks, just put in one envelope with the total amount and throw away the other envelopes.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Our next stall will be a "Book Sale" on the 1st weekend 1st & 2nd of June.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th June at 10.30am in the gathering space.

Enquiries to Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990.

WANTED: Plant pots, plastic or other. Any size (not seedling pots) can be left on seat behind Parish House, or phone Phil 94345 4506

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS: It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

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.

A LOST PROPERTY BOX is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.

Be informed, inspired and entertained

The Library holds a collection of Papal encyclicals and Apostolic Letters ranging from that of Pius XI in 1925 to the more prolific publications of recent popes. They are stored in boxes above the bookshelves.



An Encyclical is a pastoral letter written by the Pope for the whole Church on matters of doctrine and morals. An Apostolic Letter carries less authority, is less solemn, and urges the faithful to consider matters of importance to the Pope.



St Mary's Parish Library

cloud.collectorz.com/247780

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, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York

Recently Deceased:

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Mark Clark, Edie Mauer, James Darmody, Jim Ryan, Frank Clark, John Forssman, Eileen McConnell, Irene Joachim, Thelma Charlton, Judy Wynd, Irene Joachim, Kathleen Roonds, Antoni Krupko, Baylon Ryan, Francine Rutter, Patrick Ryan, Auguste Leboeuf, Jean Carr, Rina Carli, Mons. Kevin Toomey, Frank DeSensi, Vincent Borg, George McCormick, Desmond Fitt Jnr., Frances Mary Hanlon, John Forssman, Gabriel Silvapulle, Pasquale De Sensi, Ivy Poole, Max Phillips, Giuseppe LoPianto, Annie Nihill, Myra Dixon, Christine Addamo, Bert Brown, George Aanensen, Kath Gilmore, Kaz Goral, Maria-Angela Galati, Michael Bourne, Kit Tillack, Kaz Goral, Kevin O'Callaghan, Joyce Webb, John Darnie, John Downing, George Graham, Fezapanta-Lopez, Minda Puno, Esther Reid, Evangelina del Mondo, Joe Gomes, Elliot Green, John Collum, Eileen Kennan, Jean Credlin

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 Kate and Autumn who are being baptised later this month.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP LUNCH: Our inaugural Building Bonds of Friendship lunch held on Thursday 23rd May was very successful and was enjoyed by all who came. We made good use of our new coffee machine and microwave and enjoyed the yummy sandwiches, vegie slice and fruit slice generously prepared by three of our ladies.

These light lunches will be held on the 4th Thursday of each month in St Thomas' Parish Meeting Room at 12.30pm.

Please come along and join us for some friendly chatter while we enjoy our light lunch together.

Donation \$10

To assist with catering, it is helpful to know how many will be coming.

For our June lunch on the 27th June, please RSVP to Edith Sutherland suthe4841@bigpond.com

Roster for Weekend 8th & 9th June

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: J. Bohan

Commentator: E. Sacchetta

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Leahy, S. Bishop

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: B. Iacobucci

Commentator: T. Williamson

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, A. Letzia

Set Up: S. Dossa

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle. Please contact Lisa or Tim stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.

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

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

Pauline Georgiades, Joanne Tubb, Antonio Napoleone, Eric Rosario, Leo Campbell, Des Price, Bert Smooker. Gordon Shannon, Saverio Posterino, Domenico Di Giandomenico, David Wong, John Iacobucci



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close: One of the most wonderful things about Eucharist is that bread and wine (the ordinary fruits of the earth and the work of human hands) are understood to have many layers of meaning. Their relationship to the earth is not broken at the consecration – on the contrary the earthiness of the elements is valorised and blessed.

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year B

2 June 2024

First Reading Ex 24:3-8

This is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you.

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.' Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. 'This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:12-13. 15-18. R. v.13

*(R.) I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.
or*

(R.) Alleluia!

- How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
- O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. (R.)
- A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 9:11-15

The blood of Christ will purify our inner selves.

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal

redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the living bread from heaven, says
the Lord;*

whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

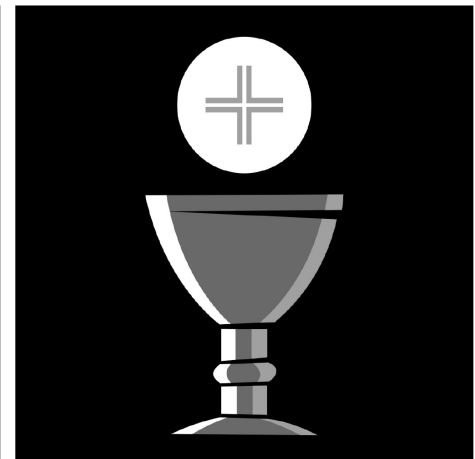
Gospel Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

This is my body. This is my blood.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings, which reflect some aspect of the feast, feature three prominent themes: the importance of blood in the ratification of the covenant; the atoning actions of Christ; the attitude of thanksgiving.

Most people today would probably be repelled by the ritual use of blood. Yet birth blood is not subject to the same revulsion, nor is blood transfusion frowned upon. Blood is recognised as a life force, and blood relationships are cherished. In a sense this ritual makes us blood sisters and brothers of God and of each other. It seals our fate and it entitles us to the family inheritance.

This feast celebrates the incomparable love of Christ. He offered himself for the expiation of our sins; he spread a banquet table for us at which we are able to eat the bread of companionship and share the blood of the new covenant.

How shall we make a return to the Lord for all the good that we have received? The only appropriate response to God's graciousness is thanksgiving (*eucharistia*). We have been chosen; we have been delivered; we have a witness in heaven; and now we have been given the bread of eternal life and the blood of salvation. What return can we give? A life of gratitude lived in the presence of God; a life of union with all those who eat the same bread and drink from the same cup; a life of faithful expectation, waiting for the coming of the reign of God in all its fullness.

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