



Sunday 4th September 2022

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Jacinta Bright & 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:** Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday to Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.30pm

**Sunday:** Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.00am-10.00am & 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)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

The Chief Health Officer has strongly recommended the use of face coverings in indoor and crowd settings during this winter period. Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. However, parishioners should be encouraged to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity.

Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers are asked to wear face coverings for the distribution of communion.



This Sunday's Gospel gives us Jesus' teaching on discipleship and the necessity of total commitment.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,  
4th September 2022

**Fr Brendan Byrne SJ**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection--true-discipleship>

Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.

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

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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



**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

***The Partnered Parishes THINK AND BREATHE Child Safety – KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.***

***With the return of families at our Masses and as our toilets are out of view, parental supervision of your children is required while using the facilities. Parents/guardians are to supervise children at all times when at our parishes.***

**Keeping children and young people safe from abuse and harm.**

- Not engaging in any form of child abuse or harm including emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect.
- Avoiding any form of physical punishment or degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating treatment.
- Ensuring that physical contact is appropriate, non-intrusive and not sexual in nature.

### MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Ministers of Communion to the Sick, from each of our parishes, are invited to a formation session at in the Gathering Space at St Marys' on September 9 at 1.00pm. A cuppa will be available beforehand. Come along if you are new to the ministry, or if you have been involved for some time. Shared wisdom will add to the morning. RSVP to Jacinta Bright 9435 1543 or [Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au) by the 7th September.

### MAJELLAN MEDIA

Majellan Media has provided several copies of *The Majellan Magazine* free for parishioners to take home.

There is no obligation, but should you enjoy reading it please consider subscribing.

You can subscribe on their website: [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)

### MASS BY CANDLELIGHT

Hundreds of candles and quiet, meditative music await you from 7.30pm before Mass at 8.00pm

If you accept Jesus' invitation to "Come away...and rest a while" (Mk 6:31).

Join us for the final 2022 Mass by Candlelight on Thursday 15th September at St Thomas Church, 251 Diamond Creek Road Greensborough North. Enquiries: Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.



### ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

Some 50 years ago with the introduction of the "new" canon law Archbishop Knox introduced the practice of retiring priests at age 75. In 1990 Archbishop Little established the Priests Retirement Foundation with the motto "caring for those who cared".

Priests are not employees of the Archbishop or the Parish so they are not eligible for Superannuation.

Like everyone else in the workplace priests provide for their retirement by contributing 12.5% of the weekly presbytery collection to the Foundation.

The foundation depends on your support. Envelopes will be available in our Parishes for the collection this weekend.

***There will be a leaving collection for the PRF in all of our Churches this weekend.***

### JACINTA BRIGHT'S FARWELL

Following Jacinta Bright's sad news last week that she is retiring in October as our Pastoral Associate, it is appropriate that we farewell her with her family present so as to express our gratitude and well-wishes to her.

All parishioners from our Partnered Parishes are warmly welcome to farewell Jacinta at the **10.00 am Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday October 2nd.**

This will be followed by refreshments in the Gathering Space of the church. If you are coming, you might consider bringing a plate to share.

Dear parishioners,

It is with mixed feelings that I announce that I am retiring from my Pastoral Associate role at the end of September (or the first week in October.) I have been here at St Marys' for over 17 years now and 32 years in total in Pastoral Associate Ministry in Melbourne.

I am older and tired and a recent spell of illness sharpened my appreciation of the need to slow down.

The parish will advertise for a new Pastoral Associate and I am sure you will welcome and support that person, as you have for me.

Thank you for everything you have given me over my time here and I look forward to seeing you over the next couple of months.

**Jacinta**

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



**Help needed:** Sacred Heart Parish Fundraiser Craft Market after Mass on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Hall.

Please contact the Office if you would like to assist with organisation or to book a table.

Parents and Grandparents – Kid's Liturgy or Children's Liturgy of the Word is returning

The Covid pandemic meant that the Parish's initiatives for Children during Mass ceased but now Children's Liturgy will be happening during 9am Mass at Sacred Heart church on the second and fourth Sundays commencing on

Sunday 11th September.

Consider bringing your children along to learn about the Lord Jesus as the Gospel reading is proclaimed in a child friendly environment which follows safeguarding procedures.

Once a year a parent or care giver is asked to complete a Permission to Participate form, a Safeguarding recommendation. Copies are available at the back of the church, in the school office or attached to the School newsletter.

**Diamond Creek Rotary have requested use of Sacred Heart grounds for Town Fair volunteers car parking next weekend.**

**Elizabeth Street will be closed 6am until 11pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

***Save the date: St Peter's Hurstbridge 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 5 pm Mass.***

**Senior Moments:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 12pm Lunch at Diamond Creek Tavern. All welcome.

Contact Margaret Jose for bookings.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 12pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com) Suggestion box at back of Church.

### **Rosters for Weekend 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September** 9am Sacred Heart

**Reader:** M. Walsh

**Commentator:** F. Ledda

**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Cusack, J. Bruce

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September** 7.15pm St Peter's

**Reader:** M. Frisby

**Commentator:** Amindha

**Eucharistic Ministers:** volunteer

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

*Mario Molinaro, Lina Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper,*

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

*Terry Moran, Michael Holland, Ann Cusack, Andrew O'Dea, George Ind, Peter Thomas, Francis Goodge, Margaret & Bernie Fitzgerald, Alexander Libertino*

### **SACRED HEART & ST THOMAS SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP**

**St Thomas the Apostle & Sacred Heart Parishes Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre** will once again (after a 2 year break due to COVID) be held from the weekend of **27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of August until 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> of October.**

Parishioners are asked to donate non-perishable items and toiletries for men & women.

Some of the urgent items are: Tuna in oil, 400g; Tinned tomatoes, 400g; Honey small bottles; Raw unsalted nuts, almonds, walnuts, cashews; Spices, small packs cumin, turmeric, chilli; Coconut cream; Sweet and savoury biscuits; Dried fruit, apricots, dates; Peanut butter; Jam; Full cream UHT milk, 1 litre.

Deodorant; Disposable razors; Shampoo & conditioner; Laundry powder, max 1kg; Dishwashing liquid, 1 litre.

At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive these items; there will also be a basket available at Sacred Heart.

There will also be list of items needed available to take home.

**ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people, including children, every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. Every donation makes a difference. <https://asrc.org.au>**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

### Rosters for Weekend 10th & 11th September

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** K. Salm    **Commentator:** T. Holland    **Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Holland, C. Leahy, S. Bishop

**Set Up:** C. Leahy

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** R. Rendina    **Commentator:** F. Landy    **Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Piccolo

**Set Up:** C. O'Brien

### UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TABERNACLE

Dear Parishioners,

A number of St. Thomas parishioners have requested that we consider having a tabernacle in a place of prominence in the church. However, we already have the Adoration chapel that has been built in such a way that it is accessible for people to come to pray at any time or collect the Blessed Sacrament to take to the sick without actually going into the body of the church. Since there may not be two tabernacles used for the reservation of the Eucharist in the church, a few options have been considered:

1. That a wall be built to separate the current Adoration chapel with the current tabernacle from the body of the church, and have another tabernacle in what is currently the Seasonal chapel.
2. That we have 2 tabernacles, but the Blessed Sacrament is only in one of them at any particular time – so the Blessed sacrament would be reserved in the Adoration chapel and would only be brought into the church's tabernacle before Masses and be returned after Mass. This would mean that a wall would not be erected between the church and the Adoration chapel.
3. That we do nothing because any other option would impact on the integrity of the original design of the church that intended to separate the place of reservation of the Blessed Sacrament from the body of the church.

No other options have been considered at this stage. An initial meeting was held a few weeks ago and it was decided that we would "test the waters" by placing a screen between the church and the Adoration chapel and place another tabernacle in the church for the reservation of the Eucharist during Mass. Please note: THESE ARE ONLY TEMPORARY. I am pleased to say that the response to the request for feedback has been wonderful and passionate. They are indicative of the importance that is placed on the reservation of the Eucharist in our church and the love of the church building itself. Please continue to submit feedback if you wish, but to do so within the next week. I would like to bring the originally proposed meeting to an earlier date than October 5th. May I suggest we meet on **Wednesday 14th of September at 7 pm** in the church.

***I would like to use that meeting as an opportunity to genuinely listen to one another and arrive at a consensus together for the sake of our parish community, both now and into the future.***

***In the meantime you can continue to submit any feedback to Fr. Martin prior to Tuesday 13th September.***

[martin.tanti@cam.org.au](mailto:martin.tanti@cam.org.au)

With gratitude for your interest.

**Fr. Steven Rigo**

### SACRED HEART & ST THOMAS SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

**St Thomas the Apostle & Sacred Heart Parishes Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre** will once again (after a 2 year break due to COVID) be held from the weekend of **27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of August until 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> of October**.

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At St Thomas the large basket will be available to receive these items; there will also be a basket available at Sacred Heart.

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**ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people, including children, every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. Every donation makes a difference.** <https://asrc.org.au>

**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:***

*Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo, John Iacobucci*

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

*Jean Watson, Maria Scordo, Gennaro Mascia, Bernadette Richardson, Norah Moylan, Jane Tremayne, Tess Natoli,*

*Barry Williamson, Mollie Kerr, Rocco Crea, Bernadette Linehan, Vincent Mascia, Jim Hardwick Snr, Kevin Power,*

*Antonio Lunardello, Ines Lunardello, Vincenzina Varalla John Ryan, Fr Jim Feenan, John Muscat, Dawn Morgan, Varisa Zilic,*

*Stjpan Kernjak*



God our Father,

we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers,

newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage

and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering;  
may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers

but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers,

who are no longer with us

but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen.



**Happy Father's Day!**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Francesca and Sharon will provide for our secretarial needs on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm and Jacinta's days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm.

Please continue to send any bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

Thank you

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

"I feel that I am evolving into a new, improved version of myself which is a great feeling." This comment was made by someone undertaking RCIA to come into the Catholic faith. Are you thinking to yourself that there must be more to life?

Becoming a Catholic (or re-discovering your Catholic faith) is experiencing God's love. If you would like to find out about the Catholic faith, please join us on **Sunday 11th September at 7.30pm** in the parish house (the door across the carpark from the tennis courts). Just turn up on the night or contact Tim on 0412 070 511. We'd love to see you.

*We also invite people who are already Catholic to join our meetings, to learn more about their faith and to lend support and friendship.*



**FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** Wednesday 14th September at 12.00pm, in the Gathering Space, BYO Lunch. Tea/coffee provided Cost \$5 for 10 games. Please call Angela on 94446298 or Geraldine 94354306 / 0438148896 to book.

**HIRING OF PARISH FACILITIES:** Unfortunately due to a number of various circumstances, the James Kierce Centre and the Parish Hall are no longer available to hiring for social functions.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT :** First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

**St MARY'S PRAYER SHAWL GROUP:** Meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enq: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

**ST MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP:** Social Justice Sunday was on August 28th 2022, and the new Statement for 2022-2023 was launched then. We draw your attention to action to help oppose violence and abuse - listening and speaking out. For information, counselling and support if you are impacted by violence and abuse: - 1800 RESPECT or 1800 737 732

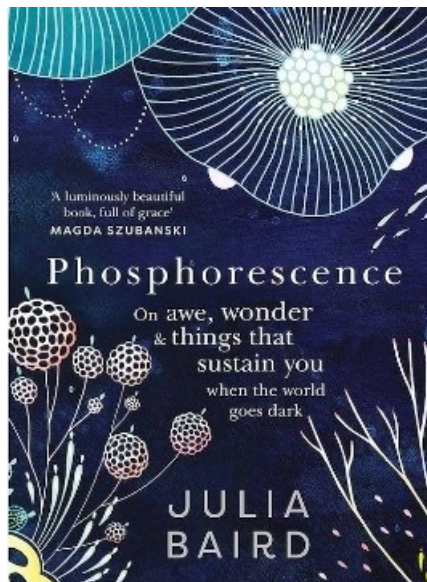
**St Mary's Social Justice Group**



• **Listen to, support, and believe** those who are experiencing violence and abuse.



• **Speak out** about the sinfulness of family and domestic violence and the responsibility of perpetrators to change.



## ST MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY

**Book from St Mary's Parish Library reviewed:**

*Phosphorescence: on awe, wonder & things that sustain you when the world goes dark* – by Julia Baird (2020)

From well-known journalist and TV host of 'The Drum', Julia Baird, this lovely book traces her triumph over ill health issues and depression.

Julia's chapters include one on the value of friendship, sharing joy, appreciating nature, her faith and doubt, and letters to her children. The book contains constructive ideas to savour and gems of wisdom.

Another read to stimulate reflection and beliefs.

If there is no-one in attendance in the Library, it can be opened and you can record which books you take on the sheet. The Library catalogue can be accessed at home

on: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**September Baptisms:** Otis Lazatin, Levi Heffernan, Henley Piggott, Oscar Abrahams, Adeline Abrahams, Lily Eddington, Aston Ferronato, Braishen Dwyer, Patrick Thom, Remi Walsh, Scarlett Wellington, Everly Wellington

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

Peter Mejak, Michael Mc Aleer, Helen Sinnott, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Judy Malamaci, Noah Thorley, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan

**Recently Deceased:** Mary Simpson, Peg Money

***We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:*** Kathleen Murphy, Don Tobin, Wilma Gonzaga, Margaret Neeson, Stefan Gogola, Max Jean Francois, Antonio Papas, Gisele Olivia Caliste. Jack Whybrow, Mother Theresa, Mary Butcher, Joyce Reid, Laurie Boyle, Laurie Sarjeant, Peter Cashen, Daisy Walters, Philip Cummins, Pat Thomas, Mick Higgins, Valda Duffy, Richard Cheong, Maria Geric, Mary O'Connell, Augustine Cheong, Margaret Kelly, Harry Saldeurle, Christopher Newman, Bill Crow, George Jones, Bradbury Family, Myrtle Devitt, Marie & Brian Herrick, Annie Young, Rose Carr, Louis Cunden, Gabriel Mitchell, Kathleen Harty, Barry Woolcock, Benita Drummond, Peggy Dugan, Thomas Tippet, Eileen Ryan, Brendan Gallagher, Martin Quinn, Millie Pisani, Clarice Stewart, Fredrick (Ted) Toomey, Joan Quix, Samantha Dragwidge, George Colvin, Nell Toohey, Ella Meagher, Monica Leake, Moyra Doyle, Maureen Daly, Merna Mills, Fr Jim De Laurier. O.carm, Neville Davis, Mieczyslaw Puka, Joseph Borg, Laura Mallia, Annie Loubey, Joseph Borg, David Hyland, Philip Hedger, John Gallagher, Dason Fernando, Marie Graham, Jim Danaher

### ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** Please consider leaving an eternal legacy by remembering *Aid to the Church in Need* in your will. This gift will ensure that the light of faith continues to shine brightly throughout the world and that persecuted, and suffering Christians will be cared for and given a voice. When you leave a gift in your will to ACN you can also rest assured that ACN will arrange Masses for the eternal repose of your soul.



Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/legacies](http://www.aidtochurch.org/legacies)

**PALMS AUSTRALIA:** American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: **0422 742 567** and [Register](#) for a Webinar on **Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am** where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our [13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>](#)

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** Is holding a free online Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation Information Session on Monday 12th September at 7.00pm. For more information contact [jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au](mailto:jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au)  
Register via our website: [ctc.edu.au/open-days](http://ctc.edu.au/open-days)

**INNER HEALING RETREAT:** A retreat on the Meditation on Jesus will be held on the 16th & 17th September, at 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, 3155. The retreat begins at 5.30pm on Friday 16th September and concludes at 4.30pm on Saturday 17th of September. (Prayer & Meditation through gentle postures and breathing in the Holy Spirit, heals body, mind and soul.)

Guided by Fr. Gilbert Carlo SVD RSVP Tel: 0424202191 or Email: [gilbertcarlo@gmail.com](mailto:gilbertcarlo@gmail.com)

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY EVENING:** Celebrating Women's Strengths Guest Speaker - Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 290 Childs Rd, Mill Park Friday 16th September 6 pm - 9 pm \$25 per head includes two course meal RSVP 08/09/2022  
To book please go to the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBOSD> or call the parish office on 9407 6700

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY:** On **10 October 2022** (10-11:30am AEDT) the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host the Prof Julie Hanlon Rubio from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, Berkeley CA, USA, who will give an online public lecture (via Zoom) entitled ***"Does the Catholic Sacrament of marriage have a future?"*** Given consistently decreasing rates of Catholic marriage in Australia and other places around the world, it is more important than ever to consider the future of this beautiful and essential Christian vocation.

For more information and to register, please go to [www.acu.edu.au/News\\_CentreforLiturgy](http://www.acu.edu.au/News_CentreforLiturgy)



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

The nature of discipleship is the focus of this gospel reading. To be a true disciple, it is necessary to put commitment to Jesus before relationships, material possessions, comfort and safety.



### Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

4 September 2022

#### First Reading Wis 9:13-18

*Who can comprehend the will of God?*

What man can know the intentions of God?  
Who can divine the will of the Lord?  
The reasonings of mortals are unsure  
and our intentions unstable;  
for a perishable body presses down the  
soul,  
and this tent of clay weighs down the  
teeming mind.  
It is hard enough for us to work out what is  
on earth,  
laborious to know what lies within our  
reach;  
who, then, can discover what is in the  
heavens?  
As for your intention, who could have learnt  
it, had you not granted Wisdom  
and sent your holy spirit from above?  
Thus have the paths of those on earth  
been straightened  
and men been taught what pleases you,  
and saved, by Wisdom.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1**

*(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been  
our refuge.*

1. You turn men back into dust  
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
no more than a watch in the night. (R.)
2. You sweep men away like a dream,  
like grass which springs up in the  
morning.  
In the morning it springs up and flowers:  
by evening it withers and fades. (R.)
3. Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?  
Show pity to your servants. (R.)
4. In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

#### Second Reading Phlm 9-10, 12-17

*Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

#### Gospel Acclamation Ps 118:135

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Let your face shine on your servant,  
and teach me your laws.*

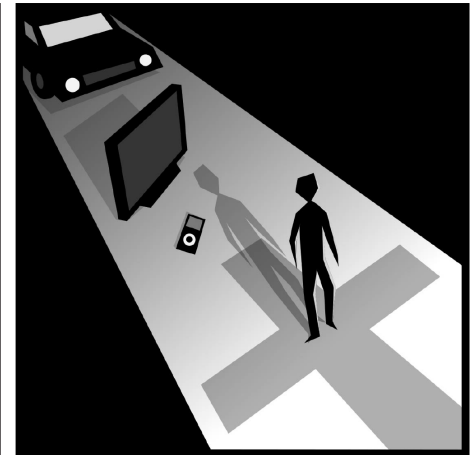
*Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Lk 14:25-33

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'



#### Reflection by Nick Brodie

A common thread that runs through this week's readings is the passing of time. We are told that God's intentions transcend and outlast ours, that our lives are short and our bodies dust. But none of this is cause for worry so much as a reality check, a reminder that we are all Created Beings living within a wider Creation. An elderly St Paul speaks of deprivation 'for a time' before turning his attention to human relationships and eternal hopes, reminding us that the Resurrection for which we hope is Creation renewed in Communion in Christ.

While we are celebrating the Season of Creation, such Scripture therefore also reminds us that Creation's 'season' is eternal. This helps us make sense of this week's seemingly troubling Gospel passage where Jesus speaks of 'hating' loved ones, even 'hating' our own lives, and His insistence that we give up all our possessions. Jesus' point is that our relationships with people and things should be part of a bigger, longer picture, and that our approach towards Creation should not be possessive. Your mother is God's Creation. Your life is God's. Your possessions really belong to God. Which then begs the question: Do you approach Creation unselfishly?