



Sunday 4th December 2022

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

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: 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: 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 & 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

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

Parish School Principal

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

94th Festival of Family Carols Will take place at St Mary's on Sunday, 4th December at 7:30 pm

Communal Penitential Service Will take place at St Thomas' on Wednesday, 14th December at 7:30 pm with supper to follow.



We are entreated to repent and change our ways if we are serious about meeting Jesus this Christmas. Second Sunday of Advent Year A, 4th December 2022.
<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection---prepare-a-way-for-the-lord>

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



www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

The focus for the second week of Advent is: Trust in the coming of the Kingdom.

John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus, gave his life to God, to “prepare the way of the Lord”. He believed, through faith and trust in God, that Jesus was the Messiah. He lived a simple life, not distracted from his mission by comforts and possessions.

He called out hypocrisy and blindness to personal failings. He warned others that the Kingdom of God was at hand and that the One to come would know those whose faith would save them.

This Advent, as we wait for Christ’s birth, let us reflect on our lives and determine what we may need to change in order to welcome the Kingdom.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2022

Blessing of the Christmas Crib

The blessing of the Christmas crib will take place at **St Mary’s** will take place at all Masses on **10th/11th December**.

All parishioners, and particularly families with children, are invited to bring an item from their own cribs or Christmas tree to be blessed at the same time.



94th Festival of Family Carols

Will take place at **St Mary’s** on **Sunday, 4th December** at 7:30 pm

Communal Penitential Service

Will take place at **St Thomas’** on **Wednesday, 14th December** at 7:30 pm with supper to follow.

Individual Reconciliation

Sacred Heart	Friday	2/9/16/23 December	9:45-10:15 am
St Mary’s	Saturday	3/10/17 December	5:45-6:15 pm
St Thomas	Saturday	3/10/17/24 December	9:30-10:00 am



Masses for Christmas

Sacred Heart	Christmas Eve	6:00 pm, 9:00 pm
	Christmas Day	9:00 am
St Mary’s	Christmas Eve	6:30 pm and 9:30 pm (Please note change of Time)
	Christmas Day	8:00 am and 10:00 am (no 5:00 pm Mass)
St Thomas	Christmas Eve	6:00 pm
	Christmas Day	10:30 am



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS continued

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE 2022 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year's Christmas Appeal will be officially launched at St. Mary's and St. Thomas' Parishes on the weekend of **3rd/4th December**. With the current cost-of-living crisis, the assistance we provide for people in Greensborough and Watsonia experiencing hardship this Christmas will be needed more than ever. If possible we ask Parishioners to please consider donating whatever is affordable to help continue our local Conference's work of helping those who really struggle to pay for the basics of normal living. In the next few months, we also know there will be requests for assistance from families as they prepare for school in 2023. To donate please see below -

1. Appeal envelopes will be provided at the end of the pews and in the Gathering Spaces of both Churches - they can then be placed in the 2nd Collection or in the `after Mass` Collection bag.
2. Credit card donations can be arranged by calling 13 18 12 and stating you are donating to the **Greensborough** Conference **Christmas Appeal**
3. Donations can be made online via 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



ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS.

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to.

Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information.

A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023.

Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Tel: 9326 1895

PALMS AUSTRALIA: You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts. In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home: Palms' **Neighbours Without Borders** program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas: Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the **many requests Palms has from communities** in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: : ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. That Catholic Shop - Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store – That Catholic Shop – can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at www.thatcatholicshop.com



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



Baptisms: We pray for Sullivan, Edie, Xavier, Harper, Bond and Ethan who will be welcomed into the 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 this weekend. Donations in envelopes can be placed in collection bags for next 2 weeks or left at Parish Office. **THANK YOU**

Advent Reflections booklets are available for private reflection, or you are welcome to join the group who meet after 9.15am Mass Wednesday mornings throughout Advent. Please contact Moya Roadley.

Healing/Anointing Mass: Friday 9th December 9.15am Mass followed by morning tea in the Church.

Senior Moments: Wish everyone a Holy and Happy Christmas. 2023 Planning Meeting Wednesday 1st February 12pm in Parish Office. New members welcome.

Thank you to everyone for your patience while I participate in Online Training Courses for the new Archdiocese computer program. Pat

Parish Pastoral Council: Suggestion box in church. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

Rosters

Sunday 11th December 9am Sacred Heart

Reader: M. Walsh **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Bell, P. Leonard

Saturday 17th December 7.15pm St Peter's

Reader: M. Frisby **Commentator:** B. Greaves **Eucharistic Ministers:** Volunteers

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

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

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, Kevin Hewitt, Frank Orders, Julian Federico, Brian Bell, Bridgette Tancredi-Roberts, John Elliott, Clara Mercieca, Paul Clements, Bernice Burke.

POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS ON THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Commencing next week, an opportunity is offered to all parishioners to read and ponder Pope Francis' catechesis on the Mass. These talks will be offered during the early weeks of Advent and focus on the Liturgy of the Word. Earlier, the catechesis was delivered to pilgrims in Peter's Square and is an easy read. At Fr Steven's suggestion a few questions have been prepared which may be useful as a reflection guide.

Week 1: Readings & Responsorial Psalm

Week 2: Gospel

Week 3: Homily and Prayers of Intercession

If you would like to enrich your understanding of the Mass and celebrate Christmas meaningfully,

please email :Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au or sign up with your email address on the sheets in the Gathering Space.

Alternatively, printed copies will be available too. Once again please let us know if you would like a printed copy by leaving your name.

Those who are engaged in the ministry of Reader will have the documents emailed weekly commencing early next week. Further, a meeting for all readers from St Peter's and Sacred Heart will be held on Thursday, 15 December at 7.30 pm in Sacred Heart Church where the implications of Pope Francis' talks will be shared and skills practised. New members of the Readers ministry are welcome at this meeting. If you prefer, contact me.

Margaret Sapsford rsc

Pastoral Associate

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Square Tap Machine: Now that our property has been connected to the NBN we are now able to process donations on the Square Tap Machine more efficiently.

Parish Pastoral Council: Email: stthomasppc@gmail.com Next meeting Wednesday 15th February 2023

The new sets of thanksgiving envelopes commencing 6th November are now ready for collection. Could parishioners please have a look and see if there is anyone that lives close to you and you could assist by dropping them in their letterbox.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR: The calendar's are now available at St Thomas, \$10.00 each, cash or by the Square tap machine. Pay to Church.

The St Thomas Parish would like to acknowledge the school children and their families who attended Masses last weekend and brought items from their Christmas Cribbs and Mangers at home for a Blessing from Fr Steve or Fr Martin. School children and families are such an important part of our Parish Community, and it was most heartening to see so many families taking part in our weekend services.

We also have a Jesse tree in the church, which represents the family tree of Jesus, the line of David. Each week of Advent, after Communion, we invite children and parishioners in general to place an ornament on our Jesse tree, which symbolises a story from Jesus' family tree. You and your family are most welcome to participate in this activity as we lead up to Christmas Day.

The Advent Season and the story of Jesus birth is a wonderful part of our Catholic tradition. Thank you again for your participation and we look forward to seeing you throughout the Advent/Christmas season.

Rosters for Weekend 10th & 11th December

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: J. Bohan **Commentator:** K. McMahon **Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Bedford, L. Carty, D. Haesler

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: F. Landy **Commentator:** M. Kenny **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, R. Piccolo, F. Landy

Set Up: C. & B. Riordan

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, John Iacobucci, Andelko Korculanin,

We pray for those who have died recently Robert Kasic and Brian Long 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, Rose Hegarty Stjpan Kernjak

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS—Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to greensborough@cam.org.au by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

Due to continuing CAM training of the office staff, the office will be unattended some weekdays during November and possibly early December from 10.00am to 1pm. We shall do our best to let you know in advance if we know the dates and times. A note shall also be placed on the office doors to let you know. In the meantime we thank you for your patience. Please call and leave a message or email on those days and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you.

SILENCE IN LITURGY God addresses us through the scriptures. But silence is what helps us discover the meaning and power of these words, letting them 'sink in' and be absorbed into our minds and hearts. In addition to the short periods of silence observed by the Reader after the first and second readings, we will again have a period of silent reflection following the Homily. **The first collection** will be taken up after this period of reflection.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2023: Only a few copies available for purchase in the Sacristy for \$10.00.

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. Enquires: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS: As we are unable to have a Parish Fete this year we are planning a number of stalls in the Gathering space after weekend Masses.

10th/11th December: Plant sale. For details or questions call Judy 9435 4506.

Thank you to everyone who supported our variety stalls & raffles, all raffles will be drawn on Sunday 4th. December. Winners will be notified.



BLESSING OF OUR CHRISTMAS CRIB



At all Masses on the weekend of 10/11 December, our Christmas crib will be blessed.

Parishioners are invited to bring along an item from their own cribs at home or a special decoration from their Christmas tree to any Mass that weekend and they will be blessed at the same time.

SACRISTANS, PROJECTIONISTS AND READERS Christmas Masses Invitation. If you are available to exercise your ministry at our Christmas celebrations, you are invited to add your name to the roster on the table nearest the kitchen in the Gathering Space. Two Readers are required – one to introduce the Mass and read the Prayers, and another to read Scripture. Thank you.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Wednesday 14th Dec, Come join us for our last gathering for 2022 from 12.00 - 2.30pm In the Gathering Space: Wear something Christmas.

Light lunch provided and Bingo (\$5 for 10 games) All welcome. For catering purposes:

PLEASE Contact **Geraldine** 0438 148 896 or **Angela** 0421 273 476.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

"What's gambling really costing you?"

In Australia, ads for betting products are not usually permitted on TV between 4pm and 7pm, but it seems that betting is being heavily promoted on TV, and is now so very easily accessible through digital media.

Gamblers and their families can suffer great emotional and financial stress, but family and friends can help the gambler to seek help.

The Gambling Helpline is open 24/7 – phone 1800 858 858



"What are you really gambling with?"

St Mary's Social Justice Group

PLEASE PRAY FOR

December Baptisms: Lexi Kelly, Ari Remedio, Annika Sayers, Heather Suen, Harvey Amendola

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time: Peter Mejak, Michael McAleer, Helen Sinnott, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Noah Thorley, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, John Mullins, Margaret Bramley, Mark Madio, Sr Estelita Manabo, Dan Quigley

Recently Deceased: Ken Durant, Sonia Crockford

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Mary Anne Kennison, Claire Moyle, Josefina Barot, David Latorre, Patrick Bergin, Maria Antons, Michele Cifone, Rebecca McGauchlin, Lucy Forssman, Evelyn Hall, Dick Hanan, Eva Hoare, Harold Loughnane, John Faigh, Girlie Simons, Lindsay Buckingham, John Trenerly, Peter Carr, John Farrell, Eileen Waller, Vsasos Georgiou, Herbert Barker, Herbert Veitch, Ellen Darcy, Peter Rowe, Ng Pak, Livinia Fernandez, Angela Alfon, Catherine Dowling, Mary Batchelor, Connor Deedman, Carmen Grech, Katherine McElroy, Margaret Rowse, Leslie Pereira, Irene Maher, Eileen Dunn, Eliodora Pons, Nairade O Neill, Thelma Parmenter, Kathleen Rutter, Keith Backman, Edith Maynes, Myra Kissane, Peter Willcocks, Serge Teycheney, Reynolds Fernandez, Stephen Thomas, Guerina Zoch, Patricia Tunny, John Fowler, Mabel Smith, Frederick Devlin, Mary Hussey, Herbert Strommer, Leo Van Oosterick, John Kilmartin, Rosina Casamento, Margaret Barry, Mauro DiFuntorum, Brita Daly, Gerald Hill, Tom Murphy, Herwald Hipfel, Fr Leo Fitzpatrick, Mike D'Souza, Amelia Aspe, Eugenio Sergio, Benny Rebeiro

ALIVE AGAIN

"Are you a young adult aged 18-35 years old? Join other Catholic young adults and become **Alive Again** at Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne, a week-long retreat led by prayer, fellowship, praise & worship, catechesis and sacraments. There's no better way to start the year than on a retreat spent with the Lord. Jan 15-22, 2023. Early bird rates now available. Register @ ssemelbourne.org.au or follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ssemelbourne for more info and updates"

melbourne.sse@gmail.com

<https://ssemelbourne.org.au>





Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Like John the Baptist, we await the coming of the kingdom in the person of the Messiah. John says that the Messiah will baptise 'with the Holy Spirit and fire'.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

4 December 2022

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loin-cloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone!' But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

mtate@bigpond.com