



Sunday 27th February 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

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: By Appointment only please call the Parish Office

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

Weekday Masses have resumed in our 3 Parishes.

Sacred Heart: 9.15am Wednesday & Friday. **St Mary's:** 9.15am Tuesday-Friday. **St Thomas:** 9.15am Tuesday & Thursday.

Mass is recorded each weekend and uploaded onto our Websites for you to view.

St Mary's: www.cam.1.org.au/greensborough Sacred Heart: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

St Thomas: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Mass at Home: St Patrick's Cathedral: On Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass at 11.00am

Mass for You at Home - Diocese of Wollongong: Sundays on Channel 10 at 6am, Foxtel Channel 173 at 10am, and online at

www.massforyou.com.au



Get the heart - the fundamental attitude - right,
Jesus seems to be saying, and all else will follow.
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

27th February 2022
Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

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

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

ASH WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH MASS TIMETABLE

<u>Sacred Heart:</u>	9.15am	7.30pm	(School children at 9.15am Service)
<u>St Mary's:</u>	9.15am	7.30pm	
<u>St Thomas:</u>	9.15am	12.30pm	(School children at both Services)

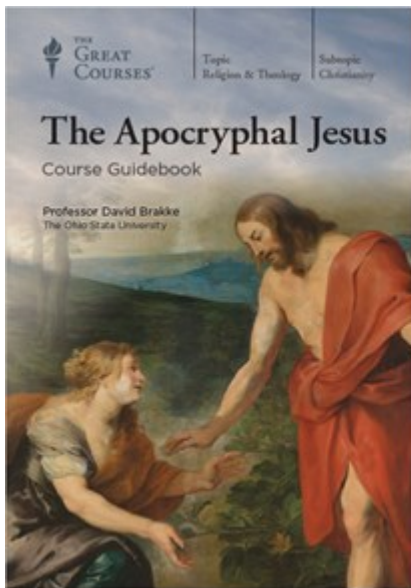


Pope Francis says his heart aches over the situation in Ukraine and announces a “Day of Fasting for Peace” on Ash Wednesday....
Read all: <https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vaticannews.va%2Fen%2Fpope%2Fnews%2F2022-02%2Fpope-announces-2-march-as-day-of-prayer-and-fasting-for-ukraine.html&data=04%7C01%7Cgreensboroughnorth%40cam.org.au%7C86cd7fb25dba4842a5fd08d9f71ae7a4%7C48ee20c7c8ea423c8b28f19801e34193%7C0%7C0%7C637812517203888141%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=SsIT8w8FPp0qFmuzCc2tnRRSL%2FYW0ngzMbc2A9eZdc8%3D&reserved=0>

SECURITY/SCAM ALERT IF YOU RECEIVE EMAILS FROM FR. STEVEN OR JACINTA BRIGHT WHICH ARE NOT FROM THEIR CAM EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE DELETE THEM.

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR PRESBYTERIES.

The St Thomas and St Mary's Parish houses are looking for a reliable house cleaner.
St Thomas requires a cleaner on a weekly basis for 3-4 hours. St Mary's requires a cleaner fortnightly for approximately 2-3 hours.
Duties include vacuuming, dusting mopping, cleaning of bathrooms washing sheets and towels, possibly ironing.
You will need a current Working with Children Check and also a Police check.
For further information please contact Lisa at St Thomas on 9434 7373.



Monday night Bible study group will commence a video course:

“The Apocryphal Jesus”
Monday 28th Feb, 7.30-9.30
via Zoom

If you are interested, please contact:
Sandra Bishop to receive:

Zoom link & course guide book
sandraebishop@optusnet.com.au

PROJECT COMPASSION 2022



Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS CONTINUED

The Eucharist, the source and summit of Christian Spirituality.

- ◆ What is the meaning of the words and actions of the Eucharist?
- ◆ What are the links between the Eucharist and everyday life?

The St Mary's Scripture Study Group invites you to an engaging and informative presentation on

Why the Mass is Still Relevant in the 21ST Century.

Our guest speaker, the renowned Rev. Dr Elio Capra will explore these questions and much more.

Tuesday 1st March 2022 commencing 7.30pm at St Mary's church, Greensborough.

To register or for further information, please contact Michelle D'Souza on 0432 316 777 or Jo Giudice on 0411 045 572. There is no fee, but you can make a small voluntary contribution on the night itself, to help cover costs.

Rev. Dr Elio Capra is a member of the Department of Systematic Theology and Department of Pastoral and General Studies at Catholic Theological College and lectures in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology at CTC

For Catering purposes, please respond by Saturday 26th February.



LAMP; LOVE & MENTAL PEACE

A second session on spirituality and mental health will be conducted at St Mary's Parish, in the Gathering Space on Thursday March, 3rd, from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. You don't have to have attended the first session to join in this next one. The focus on mental ill health, taken up by St Mary's Parish, is being led by the St Mary's Parish Group Love, Acceptance and Mental Peace (LAMP). At this session Sr Ros Cairns MSC, will present the session and include a conversation with Rachel Garofolo, who will share her lived experience.

Ros is a member of St Mary's Parish and has worked in mental health for 27 years initially as pastoral care worker and coordinator with experience in hospital and community settings and then in management. As Manager of Mental Health within the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria, Inc. Ros's responsibilities involved leadership, consultation, and education in the strategic development of spirituality, chaplaincy, and pastoral care in Victorian Mental Healthcare Services. Ros is semi-retired and maintains a particular interest in the relationship between spirituality and mental wellbeing and offers education and training in this area, in communities and at the University of Divinity. Her background is varied having worked in the areas of education, liturgy, counselling, and community development work in PNG. RSVP (by March 1st, indicating your preference to attend via Zoom or in person) and enquiries: Jacinta Bright Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au or 9435 1543.

The Retreat in Daily Life – can be a life changing experience. What is your image of God? Does this image engage you in an intimate and loving relationship with God, or does God seem distant or even irrelevant to your life? Do you feel grounded in your life, or confused and wonder if your faith and spirituality can make a difference? Do you desire to deepen your relationship with God? Or, are you perhaps just curious? The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are a life changing retreat and offer rich prayer material, different methods of discernment and the opportunity to discover the ways in which God is calling you at this particular time of your life.

The retreat will run from the **8th of March until early October**, with retreatants having material with which to pray, at home, each day and time to gather as a group for sharing each week and regular one to one time with a spiritual director. The venue for the information and enquiry afternoon which is on March 8th at 1.00pm, as well as the future group sessions, is the Gathering Space of the church. The Ignatian spiritual directors leading this retreat are Terry Fanning and Jacinta Bright. Cost – by donation.

For enquiries prior to the introduction and enquiry afternoon, please contact Jacinta at the parish office, 9435 1543 or

Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au

COMPUTER DONATION SOUGHT?

Sacred Heart community is seeking a desktop computer for use in its Children's Ministry. Perhaps you know of someone who is replacing a desktop with a newer model or you may have a functioning desktop waiting to be recycled.

Please contact Sr Margaret Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au or the Sacred Heart Parish Office (Ph. 9401 6361) if a donation is available for the children.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW CHANGES TO CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION SIGNING

In December last year, the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration was updated. Volunteers within a Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) parish/entity are now required to re-sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration every three (3) years. The Code of Conduct and the Declaration have been merged into one document. Please note: the regularity in signing the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration for clergy and employees remains the same, requiring both cohorts to re-sign the declaration annually.

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



Sacred Heart Safeguarding Team update: some members met on Tuesday morning and discussed the **DC Emergency Procedure Plan**, which is now on the Church Notice Board. St Peter's plan is to be addressed.

Code of Conduct Declaration Forms: have been circulated and are also available from the Parish Office.

All volunteers in Ministries are required to read and sign. Sr Margaret and Ray will have copies at the back of the church after 9am Mass on Sunday, and are happy to help with any concerns.

Parental Supervision: A number of families with children are attending our Masses. We are aware the toilets are out of sight at both Sacred Heart and St Peter's churches, so parental supervision of your children is required while they use the facilities.

Regular Safeguarding information and updates will be provided.

Thank you to the eight parishioners who represented our Parish Groups at the Partnered Parishes Safeguarding Team meeting on Tuesday night.

Senior Moments: Wednesday 2nd March (Ash Wednesday) Fish and Chips 12pm in the Parish Centre.
March 16th Lunch and Games in Parish Centre.

Lenten Program: Booklets available from Parish Office, or contact Moya Roadley.

World Day of Prayer: Join other Sacred Heart parishioners at 2022 World Day of Prayer on Friday 4th March at 10.30am at Diamond Creek Uniting Church, 32 Wensley Street, Diamond Creek. All welcome.

Corks: Parish Pastoral Council member Ann-Marie is saving corks for an event in the Marymede School Swimming Carnival. Please leave in the back of the Church or the Parish Office by Monday 1st March.

Volunteer work: Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email ray.belli57@gmail.com

An Invitation: A last Synod of Bishops consultation will be held at Sacred Heart Parish on Saturday at 10.00 am. The Synod dimension of Participation will be explored. All are welcome.

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

Mario Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan

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

Nese Roberts, Leanne Lynch, Ursula Morrissey, Judy Vincent, Mary Crothers

Roster for Weekend 5th & 6th March

Saturday St Peter's	7.15pm	Reader: M. Frisby	Eucharistic Minister: Aminda, Dharshanie
Sunday Sacred Heart	9.00am	Reader: B. Flynn	Eucharistic Minister: T. Sirianni, R. Padget

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LOCAL (MELBOURNE) CHURCH?

www.melbournecatholic.org.au/news Subscribe or visit www.cathnews.com for Australian and International news.

www.vaticannews.va offers a weekly newsletter to its subscribers.

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR: Are offering young women who desire to deepen Spiritual Life and draw closer to God six online Lenten Conferences entitled: "**Merciful Father**" Commencing on Saturday 5th March for 6 weeks. 6.30pm-7.15pm.

HEART OF LIFE CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL FORMATION : Are you a Spiritual Leader? – The Spiritual Leaders Online Program is a one-year, part-time program held outside of business hours for those engaged in outreach ministries and various positions of leadership within their faith community, eg teachers, principals, pastoral care practitioners, priests, ministers, lay ecclesial ministers, members of religious Orders, community and spiritual leaders. The program begins on 26/3/22 via Zoom, and focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Previous participants have commented that this Program has been transformational in terms of their personal spirituality and their leadership skills. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Fee-Help is available to qualifying participants. Brochure and application form at www.heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 9890 1101.

To register or for more information, please contact Sr Mary Lourdes. Phone: 9489 844 or email: voc.mel@lsp.org.au

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 **Mondays 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 by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

St Mary's Prayer Shawl Group Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enq: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming—0409 234 326 .

Communion to the Sick at St. Mary's— If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to illness and would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office on 9435 1543.

SECURITY/SCAM ALERT IF YOU RECEIVE EMAILS FROM FR. STEVEN OR JACINTA BRIGHT WHICH ARE NOT FROM THEIR CAM EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE DELETE THEM.

HELP WITH TRANSPORT TO MASS: A parishioner who is unable to get to Mass would greatly appreciate if anyone would be available to take them to 10.00am Mass on Sundays. If you are able to help could you please contact the Parish Office 94351543.

ST MARY'S FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM is urgently seeking new members capable of preparing and/or running the audio-visual presentations at funerals. Please contact the parish office for more information 9435 1543 or greensborough@cam.org.au

Thank you

LADIES AUXILIARY: We are holding a Book and Toy Sale this weekend of 26th/27th February in the Gathering Space after Masses. Enquiries to: Maureen 9435 5906 or Judy 9435 4506

FREE FLOOR RUG: A large floor rug, measuring approximately 8 feet x 10 feet is being offered by a parishioner for anybody who may be interested.

It is a beige/fawn colour with oriental designs. It is a thick, good quality rug purchased from Hong Kong. Great for a holiday home or bungalow. If interested, please contact the Parish Office on 94351543.

SYNOD 2023: You may know that Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to participate in a global consultation. He is seeking feedback for what dream we have for the Church. Many of you participated in the Plenary discussions in 2018 and that was an Australian initiative which is still ongoing. Will you come and join in an afternoon of reflection so that we can respond to the Pope's call? The focus is **Community, Participation, Mission** and we really need to raise our voices here. At present there have only been just over 250 responses Australia-wide, and the project was launched in November. Unfortunately for us in the Southern Hemisphere, everything stops from mid-December when we are focussed on preparing for Christmas and then January is a very quiet month as people go on holidays. Sr Joan Chittester, a Benedictine sister says this of the need for all of us to speak up: *"Don't be afraid to speak. Be afraid of what will happen to the whole truth if you don't."* Please come along to the Gathering Space on either **Tuesday, 1st March** from 2:00-4:00 pm or **Wednesday, 2nd March** from 2:00-4:00 pm.

Please RSVP to Jacinta.Bright@cam.org.au. If you are not able to join us, you might like to send your response directly to Rome.

The process is clearly outlined: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synodality>. **The deadline has been extended and all submissions can now be received until Sunday, 13 March 2022**

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS

PROJECT COMPASSION. Project Compassion boxes can be found in the Gathering Space. For newcomers to our parish: The boxes give us the opportunity to make a donation each week during Lent. They are to be returned at Easter.

You may want to support these initiatives:

World Day of Prayer – Friday March 4 2022 - Countries featured this year are England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Local churches may have a prayerful event.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday March 6 2022 – perhaps put on your gloves and pick up rubbish in local parks, streets or at the beach.



SUNDAY CATECHIST CLASSES for primary school children attending Government Schools are now commencing at 9.00am in St Mary's School. Classes are for children from Grades 3 to 6, cover the Sacraments and are held during each term. We would like to have a class for Grades 1 and 2 but need a teacher. Would there be a Senior or University student who would like to help with the younger children - lesson plans and all support will be given. All enquiries, contact Geraldine after 6.00pm - 0438 148 896.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST MARY'S CONTINUED

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Special Prayers are asked for Bridget and Glenn's baby during the pregnancy.

February Baptisms: Chase Orbien, Henry Shaw, Riley Tobayiwa, Louise Guzzi, Marcus Lazatin, Daithi Loughlin, Marli Dusting, Dakota IIsley

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

Peter Mejak, Pat Garrard, Michael Mc Aleer, Helen Sinnott,

Recently Deceased: Roswitta Múhler, Stephen Exton (Snr)

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: William Monagle, Francis Davine, Elena Gillingham, Gabriel Delaney, Michael McHugh, Fr J Phelan, Eric Hegarty, Luruthu, Horacio "Boy" Morales, Jr, Catherine Ganter, Robert Torrens, Elizabeth Head, George Dabovich, Jack De Highden, Michael Powell, Paul Tunny, Anne Pelly, Fr Frank Crilley, Desmond Mackie, Jack McCarthy, Marie Gartland, Clara Penry, Aurea T. Diaz, Giacono Epiphano, Constance McDonald, Rosebud Mathias, Aileen Feehy, George Cummins, Mary Oxenford, Jim Evans, Kevin Maskell, Concetta Dinoto, Bob Jones, Catherine Smith, Ronald Sinclair, Carmel Phillips, John Patmore, Stella Linard, Lesley Lilburn, Aileen McMahon, Pauline Toner, Terrence Joyce, Kathleen Cugley, Joseph Brown, Tony Patena, Amalraj Fernando, John Caruana, Stephen Bennie, Rev Bro Thomas Horgan.FMS, Patricia Hollowood, Clare Cashin

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Sacrament Preparation for Children in Non Catholic Schools: St Thomas' Parish will be offering Sacrament preparation classes again this year, for children wishing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and First Eucharist (First Communion).

Children preparing for Reconciliation need to be Year 2 or older and children preparing for First Eucharist need to be Year 3 or older. Classes will be held at 4pm on Thursday afternoons in St Thomas' church and may include Zoom classes if required. Proof of Baptism is required for enrolment in the classes.

Please direct any enquiries to the Parish Secretary, Lisa Leahy on 9434 7373 or email greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Children: All volunteers in all of our Ministries are required to fill out a new Code of Conduct Declaration.

Copies of the Combined Parishes Code of Conduct and the declaration form will be available in the foyer at Mass this weekend.

Could you please read the Code of Conduct and return the signed declaration to the Parish Office or drop it in the tray provided.

Parental Supervision: 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.

Cleaner required: A parishioner is looking for recommendations for a cleaner to do 2-3 hours house cleaning once a fortnight. If you can recommend anyone please contact Edith on 0439 3522945

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,

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

Fr Peter Fulton, Mary Crothers, Francesca Serrao, Reginald Chircop,, Sanico de Carlo, Brian Kenny, Nick Buttifant, Giuseppe Piccolo, Eddie Scully, Leslie Lowe, Kevin Phin, Rosemary Schneider, Alfonso Nguyen, Maria Nguyen, Vito Zuccola

Rosters for Weekend 5th & 6th March

Saturday 6.00pm:

Reader: S. McMahon

Commentator: E. Sacchetta

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Bedford, L. Carty, D. Haesler

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am:

Reader: L. Hobson

Commentator: S. Millar

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Riordan, A. Kerr, B. Riordan

Set Up: C. & B. Riordan

Counters: T. Williamson, M. Bates

First Reading Sir 27:4-7

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

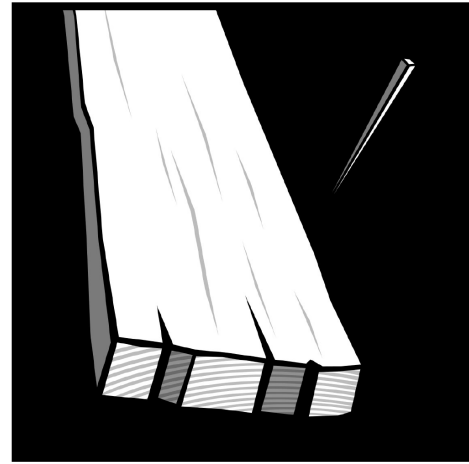
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

In our post-modern world, the lesson of the hypocrite seeking to remove the speck from their neighbour's eye before removing the log from their own has at times been taken too far and too literally. We are often confronted with a minimalist notion that nobody can be corrected or criticised because one person's opinion is just as good as the next person's. In this view, there is no room for universal truths; no room for authority; no room for an over-arching view of the world or a meta-narrative – an underlying 'big picture' story for life.

On the surface, the idea that one person's opinion is as valid as any other's seems very democratic and sociable. However, it is fundamentally not true. Someone who has spent a lifetime studying and practising in a particular field of endeavour cannot be lightly dismissed as 'that's just your opinion'. Yet, all too often, such learned knowledge and experience is given the same weight as ill-informed and sometimes mischievous opinion – frequently in the name of 'balanced' discussion.

For some people immersed in the post-modern culture this wash of opinion dressed up as fact is not only confusing but sometimes dangerous. Social norms and even laws can be seen as just another opinion that differs from my own. The opinions of friends and complete strangers on the internet or social networks are held with the same level of legitimacy as established sources of social, moral, legal and religious authority. Whilst it is proper to question established authority and require accountability and justification, the absence of universal truths and meta-narratives lead us back to the proverb that begins today's gospel: the blind leading the blind.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

