



Sunday 29th May 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**

**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](http://www.massforyou.com.au)



The Ascension is the feast that celebrates the hope that Jesus' triumph will ultimately be ours as well

Feast of the Ascension Year C

29 May 2022.

**Fr Brendan Byrne SJ**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/homily-notes--the-ascension-of-the-lord-year-c>

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

*Diamond Valley Deanery*

[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.*

### **UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES 22nd APRIL**

***IT IS NOT MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IT IS ONLY RECOMMENDED.***

Close contacts of positive cases are to wear face coverings indoors, and to avoid "sensitive" or group settings. It is still recommended to wear a Face Covering when social distancing cannot be maintained over a period of time.

It is recommended that those who distribute Holy Communion continue to wear a Face Covering and sanitise their hands before doing so.

In accordance with the guidelines from the Archdiocese, Hand Sanitiser is still available in our Churches.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop.

### **ALIGHT YOUTH GROUP**

This invitation is open to all young people within our Parishes aged between 15 to 30. Our youth group meets on the 1st Friday of every month at 7.30pm. We come together in friendship, fun and to become "Alight" in our faith.



**Our next gathering is scheduled for Friday 3rd June in the Gathering Space at St Mary's Parish.**

If you would like to find out more or register your attendance to come along to our next gathering, please contact Nicole Ridler, 0403 714 045.

### **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022 - 27th May TO 3rd June – BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE**

#### **WHAT IS RECONCILIATION WEEK?**

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation. 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).

**27 May 1967** On this day, Australia's most successful **referendum** saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognise them in the Census.

**3 June 1992** On this day, the Australian High Court delivered the Mabo decision, the culmination of Eddie Koiki Mabo's challenge to the legal fiction of 'terra nullius' (land belonging to no one) and leading to the legal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of lands. This decision paved the way for Native Title.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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

**A Brief History** - National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

In 2001, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation.

In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of National Reconciliation Week-and subsequently across bridges in cities and towns-to show their support for reconciliation.

(Reconciliation Australia Website) <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/about-nrw/>



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



**RCIA Sacred Heart and St Thomas:** If any one is interested in becoming a Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith please contact either of our Parish offices. A new group will begin soon.

**Thank you:** to everyone who supported the Sacred Heart School Election Day BBQ and those who donated and purchased cakes. The Parents Association pass on their appreciation to parishioners.

**Caritas Project Compassion Receipts:** are available at the back of the church. Thank you.

**Working Bees:** St Peter's Hurstbridge 9am this Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Sacred Heart school and church 9am Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**Senior Moments:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 12pm Lunch Diamond Saigon. Contact Margaret for bookings.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 12pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Next meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Suggestion Box at back of Church.

Email address: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

### Rosters for Weekend 4th & 5th June

**St Peter's 7.15pm:** Reader: M. Frisby Commentator: E. Gittins Eucharistic Ministers: P. Leonard

**Sacred Heart 9.00am:** Reader: J. Hoyne Commentator: C. Fernando Eucharistic Ministers: A. Pieper, T. Sirianni

***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, Bernadette Hobbs, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, John Downey, Bernadette Hobbs*

***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:***

*Dorothy Pittle, Alan Bentley, Glenn Hurley, Michael Berriman, Helen McCrohan, Peter Beaumont, Frank Perversi, Noela Atkinson, Henry Van Oosterom, Kevin Rogers, Eddie Schellens*

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE/ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to academically support Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese and also adult centre. 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.

The training day is in July. Email: [somml@bigpond.com](mailto:somml@bigpond.com) (preferred for contact)

Website: [www.mercyworks.org.au](http://www.mercyworks.org.au) Tel: 9326 1895



**Heart of Life** is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and has been offering the Siloam Program to individuals from Australia and around the world for over 40 years. Almost 50 religious Orders from Australia and overseas are represented in our Siloam graduates, together with Lay women and men. The Program guides trainees along the path of contemplative discernment, following the way of the heart.

the Centre is now accepting applications for the 2023 Program and we would be pleased if you could include the following text in your parish bulletin. More information about the programs is available here.

"Taster Session', **Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7.30pm-9pm (AEST), via Zoom.** Are you called to be a spiritual director?

A pastoral supervisor? A spiritual leader? Would you like to participate in spiritual formation that develops a compassionate, contemplative, listening heart? We invite you to join our Taster Session for a facilitated reflection and more information about Heart of Life's courses. Led by the formation team at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Bookings via:

[www.trybooking.com/BZAWV](http://www.trybooking.com/BZAWV) via or email [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne) for more details.





## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

**WEEKDAY MASS AT ST THOMAS THURSDAY 26th MAY WILL COMMENCE AT 9.00am**

**A school Mass for the Ascension of the Lord. All welcome.**

**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.

**RCIA:** If any one is interested in becoming a Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith please contact either of our Parish offices. A new group will begin soon.

### **Parish Pastoral Council: Parish Council Meeting – 18th May, 2022**

John Bohan attended the meeting to present the finances of the parish. This gave the group some context of where the parish is at financially and will assist in shape the groups direction going forward.

The group continue to discuss ideas about how we can grow the parish. Ideas included looking at the viability of offering the Alpha parenting course, making mass more welcoming and gathering data for future projects.

The Council will continue working towards their goals of building a strong relationship with the school community, work with other Parish Councils to share ideas and build on existing programs at St. Thomas parish.

**Next meeting:** 15th June, 7.00pm      **Email address:** [stthomasppc@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasppc@gmail.com)

### **St Thomas Funeral Ministry Team – WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

St Thomas' Funeral Ministry Team is a very small group of parishioners who assist the priests with any funerals held at St Thomas'.

We do a variety of things to help such as:

- join with the presiding priest when meeting with families to assist with planning
- assist with setting up and tidying up the church before and after funerals
- assisting with the Audio Visual
- assist with Communion
- welcome families on the day of the funeral

Not everyone on the Team does all those things, as each one of us has a variety of skills which we use to assist where appropriate. We really need a few more to join our team because we are not all always available and it is best to have a couple of us there on the day. If you decide to join us, we will give you lots of training to build up your skills and confidence.

Fr Steve and Jacinta Bright are going to run a Workshop for our Team on the **13th July which will run from 10am till 3pm.**

At this Workshop you will meet the other Team members and it will help to develop your understanding of what is involved when celebrating a funeral in the Catholic church.

To be able to assist families at such a sad time is actually very rewarding, so please consider joining us.

Please contact Lisa at the Parish Office if you wish to join us or if you have any queries.

### **Rosters for Weekend 4th & 5th June**

#### **Saturday 6.00pm**

**Reader:** K. Salm

**Commentator:** T. Holland

**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Bishop, K. Salm, C. Leahy

**Set Up:** K. Salm

#### **Sunday 10.30am**

**Reader:** M. Kenny

**Commentator:** J. Kerr

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, R. Piccolo, E. Sutherland

**Set Up:** M. Bates

***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 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*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



## PLEASE NOTE NEW 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.

**PLANT SALE** after masses on the **weekend of 28/29 May**. Enquiries Judy Newell 9435 4506.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** - Commencing on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9.15am Mass until 3pm. This will take place on the first Friday of each month. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

**Alight Youth Group:** This invitation is open to all young people within our Parishes aged between 15 to 30. Our youth group meets on the 1st Friday of every month at 7.30pm. We come together in friendship, fun and to become "Alight" in our faith. Our next gathering is schedule for Friday 3rd June in the Gathering Space at St Mary's Parish.



We apologize that the library is not staffed at every Mass as we lack enough volunteers. However when it is open you are welcome to come in and self-borrow following the instructions on the desk.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can contact the Library at [smp1g04@gmail.com](mailto:smp1g04@gmail.com). No literary or computer expertise is necessary.



**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 on 9435 1543 or email [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au)

Thank you

**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 .

**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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

**May Baptisms:** Anne Forte, Annabelle Alesich,

***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, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas

**Recently Deceased:**

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

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, Patrick Boran, John Redmond, Jan Guzowski, Paul Forster, Pope John XXIII, Mary Monagle, May Gallagher, Flora O'Connor, Mary Pettigrove, Joan Tilbrook, Mary Code, Maria Hunyadi, Nancy Hardstaff, Paul Benson, Pauline Venville, Innocence Gomes, Louis Kirley, John Mash, James Kilkenny, Mary Hoey, John Joyce, Selva Markandu

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** Free online conference via zoom. "How do we know Christ now?"

Celebrating 50 years of CTC. Friday 17th June. 9.30am-12.30pm For further information visit our

website: [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au) Contact Dr Christopher Morris: [christopher.morris@ctc.edu.au](mailto:christopher.morris@ctc.edu.au)

**TEACHING MEDITATION AND PRAYER:** Online unit via zoom.

Four Saturdays: 18th/25th June and 8th, 15th October.

To enroll and for further information: Undergraduate: [dean@ctc.edu.au](mailto:dean@ctc.edu.au) Postgraduate: [postgrad@ctc.edu.au](mailto:postgrad@ctc.edu.au)

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY:** An Australian pilgrimage led by a Sister of Saint Joseph & the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre, for 10 days, from 18th October & concludes on the 29th October. For more information visit our website:

[www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au) or email [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or phone 02 8912 4818.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** ACN has launched its "Helping form the Priests of Tomorrow " global campaign. For 75 years, the benefactors of Aid to the Church in Need have generously supported the formation of seminarians. In fact, some of these men now serve as priests in Australia today! At the current time, ACN is supporting some 15,000 seminarians on the path to the priesthood.

Please read and reflect on their stories and discern to help us, spiritually and financially, to form the priests of tomorrow. These young men never cease to pray for the benefactors who assisted them on their journey. Thank you in advance for whatever you can do.

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



A vertical poster for a Pentecost celebration. The background is a warm, golden-orange gradient with a white dove in flight on the left. At the top, a quote reads: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place" ~ Acts 2:1 ~. To the right of the quote is a white cross with a sunburst design. Below the quote, the text reads: "CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL FAMILY INVITES YOU TO A CELEBRATION OF Pentecost". The word "Pentecost" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, the date and location are given: "SUNDAY, 5 JUNE 2022 OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH 49 NICHOLSON ST., EAST BRUNSWICK". At the bottom left is a portrait of Archbishop Peter Comensoli. At the bottom right is a photo of three people singing into microphones. Below the photo, the text reads: "PRAISE &amp; WORSHIP RISEN LORD COMMUNITY MUSIC MINISTRY". At the very bottom, the schedule is listed: "2 45 PM ROSARY | 3 10 PM PRAISE &amp; WORSHIP | 4 00 PM HOLY MASS REFRESHMENT AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER MASS IN THE HALL UNDER THE CHURCH". The website "WWW.CCR.ORG.AU" is at the bottom.

**LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE.** The story of the Ascension reminds me of that part of Einstein's work on relativity which has evolved into theories of black holes. The most fascinating thing about a black hole is that within it the laws of physics cease to apply. As a planet, for example, crosses over into a black hole it passes through a *photon sphere* which is like a cloud of light surrounding the hole. Then it goes into the dark part of the hole beyond the *event horizon* and disappears *forever* entering a realm of *infinite gravity*. It eventually crashes into the dense body at the core of the hole which is called the *singularity*. Understand – no? Neither do I! The images that the words evoke are so tantalising that I find myself wanting to draw them. The language that Astronomers use when describing black holes is akin to poetry. What else can they do when the laws of their discipline no longer apply?

## The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

29 May 2022

### First Reading Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6**

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

or:

**(R.) Alleluia.**

- All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
- God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
- God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

### Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell

from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

or **Heb 9:24-28. 10:19-23**

*Christ has entered heaven.*

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he has opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

### Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Go and teach all people my gospel.**

**I am with you always, until the end of the world.**

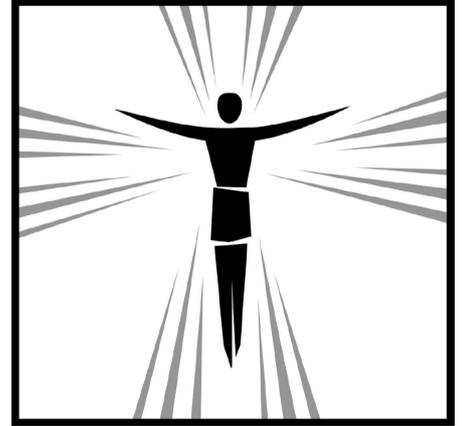
**Alleluia!**

### Gospel Lk 24:46-53

*While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Risen Lord knew that we are naturally, collectively human-centric. He withdrew His risen mode of appearance (what we call 'the Ascension') to make it clear that the whole Universe, including planet Earth, is filled with the presence and power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

As St Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans: 'Creation still retains the hope of being freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.' How is the Risen Lord beginning to fulfil this hope?

At Mass, fractions of creation – the Bread and Wine consecrated for Holy Communion – are transformed into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III begins with: 'You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise...' How can all creation give God praise? As the ancient church used to teach: Each of you is a microcosm of the macrocosm, called to be a priest for the Cosmos. Through your enlightened mind and inflamed heart, the Cosmos knows that it exists and that it is loved by its Creator. It is beginning to share the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We could pause for a moment, stop staring into Heaven, and ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit so as to be what St Paul calls 'the Church which is His Body in whom the fullness of creation dwells'.

mtate@bigpond.com

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