



**Sunday 16th August 2020**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Lenin Thenamirtham

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Jacinta Bright & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

**St. Mary's**

204 Grimshaw St.,  
Greensborough, 3088  
**Parish:** 9435 1543  
**Presbytery:** 9432 2515  
**Email:** Greensborough@cam.org.au  
**Website:** www.cam.org.au/greensborough  
**Secretaries:** Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser  
**Communications Officer:** Denise Chang-Faux

**Mass Times**

**Monday:** Liturgy of the word 9.15am  
**Tuesday to Friday:** Mass 9.15am  
**Saturday:** Mass 8.30am & Vigil Mass 6.30pm  
**Sunday:** Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.00am & 5.45pm

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**  
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

**Sacred Heart**

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  
**1st & 3rd Saturday of the month:** Vigil Mass at  
St. Peter's Hurstbridge 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

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

**MASSES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**WORSHIP & PRAYER**

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASS:** With the suspension of all Religious Services at this time there are a number of opportunities for you to Live Stream daily mass. These are:

- **St. Patrick's Cathedral:** Monday - Friday, 1:00pm, Saturday 8:00am & Sunday 11:00am, you can access these by the following [Link https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass](https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass) or on Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass
- **St. Mary's Greensborough:** Mass is uploaded to all of our Websites for viewing late Saturday or Sunday., access via following Link <http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth> or <http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek>
- **Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for August**  
The Maritime World: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fisherman and their families.
- **Please look for the link on the home page of our Websites for the weekly reflection from Fr Lenin Thenamirtham.**

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

Martin Leonard, Bridie Burke, Rose Hegarty, Nicole Bisticic, Bernice Burke, Linda Bisticic, Joan Moran, Marilyn Manison,  
Alan McCarthy, Shirley Bourke, Annette Hyland, Catherine Leonard, Ted Sheenan, Haylie Adams-Vivanxay,  
Giovanna Ng, Petronilla De Leo

**We pray for those who have died including Fr Michael Anthony Patrick Wheeler and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of August that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom**

Jim Beattie, Maurie Dalwood, Fr Gerard Loughnan, Kevin Nihill, Win Atkinson, Mary Burke, Arthur Walker, Jane de Carlo, Rachael Casale,  
Frank McMahan, Frank Ventura, Tony Chirico, Marie Lewis, Michael De Popolo, Maris Sacchetta, Guido Micheluzzi, Orazio Palazzoto,  
Giovanna Formosa, Robert Capocchi, Denis McCarthy, James McCarthy, Bill Ahern, Marina Micai, Anne Honeywell, Giusepa Minutolo, Paul  
Silverwood, Jim Lysaght, Salvatore Scala, Margaret Hardwick, Ted Tremayne, Giselle Caliste, Nadia Mefflin, Alan Corcoran, Margaret Howse

12th August 2020

Dear Friends,

I wish to convey the sad news that Father Michael Anthony Patrick Wheeler PE passed away early Tuesday morning, 11 August 2020 at Epworth Hospital. He was aged 82 years.

Fr Michael was ordained a Catholic priest at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne on 22 May 1971. He was appointed Assistant Priest at Belmont (December 1971 – March 1972), Collingwood (1972), Jordanville (1975), Manifold (1978) and Newport (1979). He was then appointed as Chaplain to the Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg in 1981 and then appointed Parish Priest of the newly established parish of Wheelers Hill in 1986. In 2016, Fr Michael retired and was appointed Pastor Emeritus.

The Archdiocese is most grateful for the untiring service to the Church of Melbourne of this kind and gentle man.

O God, listen favourably to our prayers offered on behalf of your servant and priest, and grant that Michael, who committed himself zealously to the service of your name, may rejoice forever in the company of your saints. We ask this through

Christ our Lord. Amen'.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

With best wishes and blessings,

**Father Joe Caddy AM**

**VICAR GENERAL**



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

### **CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL 8th & 9th AUGUST**

#### **Thank you from CatholicCare**

CatholicCare is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Sunday Appeal.

Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare can continue to ensure that vulnerable families and communities have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for making a difference.

For more information about CatholicCare visit: [www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au)



### **THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE**

WIN A NEW CAR VALUED AT \$20,682 Tickets still available for purchase at only \$2 each! Given the current climate with Covid 19, we understand that you may not feel comfortable coming to collect your tickets from the Parish office – if this is the case please let the Parish Office know & we will organize to deliver to your doorstep. All proceeds go to our Parish Community.

**Sale Closing Date:** 11th September 2020; **Draw Date:** 26th September 2020 at 7.15 pm;

**Publication of Winners Date:** 30th September 2020.

Please find the link below for the google form to request tickets from the Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle:

[Click on the link https://forms.gle/JZ8HCptxdS82db39](https://forms.gle/JZ8HCptxdS82db39)

***If you would like to purchase a book of tickets you can contact Lisa at St Thomas so we can get them delivered to your home.***

### **DIAMOND VALLEY COVID-19 HOME STORIES**

***Stories from the Partnered Parishes of Diamond Creek, Greensborough and Greensborough North about a time of pandemic.***

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we live in the short term and we are yet to see the changes that will occur in the future.

We would love to hear your stories and anecdotes about staying home to stay safe to col-late into a book. Think of what story you would like to pass on; perhaps something you want others to know, or perhaps your children, your grandchildren or even those who will walk the paths we walk now. Say a prayer, muster your courage, & write! Your piece does not need to be long, a paragraph or two or three. Email your story to [Diamondcreek@cam.org.au](mailto:Diamondcreek@cam.org.au) or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) or [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) with your name, your age (if you are game enough) and a note giving us permission to publish your work.

New Dates for Submissions close is 18 September 2020. The collection of stories will be published in an e-book at a later date.

### **THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES & SUPPORT FOR OUR PRIESTS**

If you would like to continue to support the Parishes financially, you can drop Thanksgiving envelopes or money to support the Priests (in an envelope clearly marked )to either Parish offices or alternatively placed in the letter box beside the front door of the Presbytery at St Thomas. **( Not the Front Gate)**  
**Diamond Valley Deanery Refugee envelopes may be also left in the Parish Offices.**

Alternatively if you would like to change to Direct Debit or Credit Card please contact Pat or Lisa to make these arrangements.

Thankyou to everyone who have already taken it upon themselves to continue to support our Parishes and Priests.

We thank you all for your continued support through these trying times.

**Fr Steven, Fr Tao & Fr Lenin Lisa & Pat.**

### **EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS**

**In every Parish, there are two collections and two separate accounts,**

**The Presbytery collection/account (1<sup>st</sup> coll.) provides the pastoral stipend and living costs of the Priest.**

**The Church collection/account (2<sup>nd</sup> coll.) provides for the maintenance, office and staff expenses of the Parish.**

## SACRED HEART & ST THOMAS PARISH OFFICE.

*With the introduction of Stage 4 restrictions Pat and I will be working from home.*

*We have diverted the phones to our mobiles or please send us an email.*

*If you wish to leave anything for us please drop it in the letterbox at Sacred Heart or the letterbox at the Presbytery at St Thomas.*

*We are still here for you all and the Message Board will continue so please send in your messages or Jokes. Missing seeing everyone.*

*Lisa & Pat*

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA/LEBANON DISASTER

Dear Caritas Australia staff and volunteers,

It is with great heartbreak that we learnt of the explosion in Beirut which killed over 100 people and wounded thousands. Lebanon has suffered multiple waves of conflict and disaster. A drawn-out civil war, followed by years of conflict with her neighbours, has been compounded by the strain on resources caused by the Syrian war and an influx of refugees. Tuesday's explosion came at a time when the country is already gripped by an economic crisis and reeling from the impacts of COVID-19. The situation is dire. Yet the Caritas network is on the ground, doing what it can to alleviate suffering by delivering emergency food and medical resources at a time of intense crisis.

Caritas Australia has committed to provide immediate response in the form of crucial financial support as part of its already established Middle East Regional Appeal. Additionally, through its in-country staff and partners in Lebanon, the wider Caritas network is working to deliver:

- Food and water.
- Hygiene kits including masks and soap.
- Material for shelter repairs and the clean-up of debris.
- Medication and other health services.

Currently Caritas Australia supports two programs in Lebanon, including a Protection program supporting shelters for women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence, and a Humanitarian program supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities. Caritas Australia will soon have a weblink for interested donors to support our current programs in Lebanon through our Middle East Regional Appeal. They can also call 1800 024 413.

At a time when prayer is so important, Sr Jo has written a beautiful prayer for the people of Lebanon, which is attached.

In solidarity,

**Caroline Preston**

**Head of International Programs**

## **PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON**

following the Beirut blast

### **God of Compassion,**

You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve.  
We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster.  
Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those who grieve for loved ones.

United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:  
For healing and strength for those injured and suffering  
That the international community will respond with generosity and compassion  
And that stability and peace will be restored in Lebanon.

**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

- Jo Brady RSJ Caritas Australia



## KNOWING MARY.

Here at FRG Ministry we have been busy creating resources for you to grow in faith during this time of pandemic. As we approach the feast of the Assumption, here is some exciting news...

We are so excited to launch our first online course!

Knowing Mary is a 6 week course that will guide you through the footsteps of our Blessed Mother Mary in the mysteries of the rosary. This course will deepen your love and understanding of Mary as she draws you closer to her Son, Jesus.

For more information follow the link:

<https://courses.frgministry.com/knowing-mary>

FRG Ministry is a Not for profit Catholic organisation bring the love of Jesus and his message of hope to people of all ages across the world.

The FRG Ministry team visits secondary schools around Australia and internationally. The



## TO ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER

I am saying a Rosary Novena to start on 15th August.

I have asked people in my parish to join with me in this. I am asking if you will please ask people in your parish to join me too. Even if they do not get the message in time to start on 15th August, please ask them to join me on whatever date they can and pray for nine days

I am asking parishioners to pick one decade of The Rosary and undertake to say that same decade every day for nine days for Peace in the World and an end to the Covid19 Pandemic.

For every 15 people who do this a whole Rosary is therefore offered every day.

The Rosary is our most powerful prayer weapon and a powerful intercessory prayer. The Rosary has stopped armies so lets get together, work together and pray this Rosary Novena together. See how many others are willing to join in and be part of a powerful Rosary Army.

There is so much violence in the world today, so many people who think that resorting to violence will solve problems. Lets be a small part of the solution. People will say "how can my one decade of The Rosary make a difference" but their little prayer will be part of a very large whole. When Our Lady asked us through her message at Fatima to pray for world peace, I feel that she wants us to pray to have:

- ◆ A world where people do not believe that violence is the way to get what they want.
- ◆ A world where there are no people are so hungry for power that they will go to any lengths to get it.
- ◆ A world where human life is respected and no people think that they are so right that their view of the world gives them the right to take another's life

God's blessings be with you

**Margaret Lee**

**St Marys Parish Grafton NSW**

## ROSARY NOVENA PRAYER

Most Loving Mother Mary

Be with your children now as we pray this novena of Your Holy Rosary

We ask that you please implore your Son Jesus to stretch out his healing hands over our world and put an end to the covid19 pandemic

Jesus said to His Apostles "My peace I give you", please ask Him to give that peace now into the hearts of world leaders that they may see their way to solve problems with wisdom, through negotiation, discussion, empathy, caring, sharing and love instead of violence and killing.

Ask him to let His Peace flow into the hearts of those:-

- ◆ Who think violence is the answer to all their wants!
- ◆ Who do not protect and cherish children!
- ◆ Who teach children to kill and that killing is lawful!
- ◆ Who are so concerned with getting worldly goods that they abuse their authority!
- ◆ Who are do concerned with making money that they forget integrity!
- ◆ Who out of their own hurt, seek to hurt others!
- ◆ Who seek escape from hurt and confusion in drugs and alcohol!
- ◆ Who think that being involved in the drug trade is acceptable!
- ◆ Who have no respect for human life!
- ◆ Who think their own ideas so right that they have the right to force that view on others by any means!
- ◆ Who think they have some right to take or destroy the possessions of others!
- ◆ Who think The Commandments are some old fashioned idea that no longer applies to them!
- ◆ Please ask The Holy Spirit to shower on the world
- ◆ Knowledge of God's Infinite Love
- ◆ Understanding of His Forgiveness
- ◆ Wisdom to find and do only what is right and justice
- ◆ Council to find solutions to problems rather than waste time just apportioning blame
- ◆ Fortitude to accept life's problems and pains and ask the help of Jesus and Mary instead of becoming angry and discouraged.

Let us have a world where

- ◆ Peace, Justice, Integrity, Love and Wisdom reign!
- ◆ People truly care about each other!
- ◆ God is truly King





### **What is #EndCOVIDForAll and how is Caritas Australia involved?**

The #EndCOVIDForAll campaign is an initiative that has brought together a broad collective of organisations including churches, aid agencies and other faith-based organisations across the country to mobilise public support for Australia to step up its assistance to vulnerable countries in responding to COVID-19.

Why do we need the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign?

The worst impacts of COVID-19 will be experienced by the communities who were already facing poor sanitation, overcrowding and limited access to healthcare. In many places, overcrowding makes social distancing almost impossible, and puts vulnerable communities even more at risk, while a lack of running water, soap and face masks means containing the spread of the virus is incredibly difficult.

During widespread lockdowns, many families also struggle to put food on the table. Countless households are losing income, which pushes those who are already living at the margins further into poverty and hunger.

How can people get involved?

For the campaign to be successful, we need as many parishes and people as possible to get involved by:

- Signing the #EndCOVIDForAll pledge
- Taking part in an #EndCOVIDForAll face-mask action on August 19

### **Read on for more details.**

The #EndCOVIDForAll pledge

Our first campaign action is to ask Australians from all walks of life to sign a pledge of support for our neighbours.

The pledge will be provided to our government, along with a letter signed by all participating CEOs, including Kirsty Robertson from Caritas Australia, to demonstrate the support that the Australian community has for Australia to do more to help our neighbours.

The pledge is simply: 'I believe Australia should provide vital support to vulnerable nations.'

### **Where can we sign the pledge?**

Sign the pledge at: [www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all](http://www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all)

Anyone can sign the pledge to show their support.

What are the policy asks behind this campaign?

When we present all the pledges to the Government, we'll be asking them to:

1. Protect the world's most vulnerable by contributing our fair share of funds to support crisis areas, and ensuring equitable access to a COVID vaccine
2. Strengthen health systems overseas by providing kits and provisions to help combat the virus, and continuing to support vital health programs
3. Kickstart economic recovery in our region by resuming safe economic ties with Pacific countries, and offer low-cost loans for health infrastructure

Of course, Caritas Australia continues to work with our partners during what could be their greatest challenge yet. Our borders may be closed but our hearts are not. With more vital support, Australia could expand on the incredible work already being done.

### **What your parish can do to get involved**

For the campaign to be successful, we need as many people as possible to sign the pledge in the coming weeks, especially by August 19, which is when people all around Australia will promote #EndCOVIDForAll (details below).

Caritas Australia has developed a range of actions and resources so that parishes can participate in this campaign at any level they choose. Please select any activities from the following pages that feel the most appropriate for your parish community.

In conclusion, we look forward to supporting your parish or diocese to be part of the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign, so that we can show our leaders that Australians support our vulnerable neighbours during this time of crisis.

For more information on #EndCOVIDForAll or to sign the pledge go to [www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all](http://www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all). You can also contact your Caritas Australia Diocesan Director with any questions, or send an email to [act@caritas.org.au](mailto:act@caritas.org.au)

**The COVID crisis isn't  
going to end for  
anyone, until it ends  
for everyone.**

**Pledge your support**



## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 DEVELOPMENT

Plenary2020 is the first Plenary Council since before Vatican II, and so is a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity for you to be involved in the process to make major changes for the better in the way our Church thinks and works. We are the Church.

### Phase 1

This process officially started when after an extensive time of deliberation, our Australian Bishops proposed a Plenary Council be held in Australia to engage the Australian people to focus on what the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church in Australia today, in light of social values evolving in our community and in the need to address a serious breakdown of trust, and the need for governance to be greatly improved.

Pope Francis gave his approval, and the first phase in 2018/2019 was a listening and dialogue process where Australians were asked to voice their stories and share their concerns. It was our job to listen to those concerns, write them up and pass them on to a national committee who collated the responses into six themes. There were 220,000, responses received by the National Plenary Facilitation Committee including submissions from the Plenary groups that met in our own Parish and we thank you deeply for that.

### Phase 2

Phase two in 2019/2020 was a process of Communal Discernment on each of the six themes and again groups in our own parish met to pray and consider each theme. The discernment process resulted in proposed actions both national and local being submitted to the National Facilitation Committee. Our parish's submissions are available for you to view on your request via this website.

A national writing group for each of the themes considered all the national and local actions and proposals for change, and delivered a Discernment Paper on each theme. These will form the agenda for the Plenary Council of Bishops and lay people. Their assembly has been delayed because of COVID19 to October 2021 and again in July 2022. The Discernment Papers are available for all to read online at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

### Phase 3

The next phase will include preparation towards the first Plenary Council Assembly. It is a time for the delegates selected to sit on the Assembly to prepare and an opportunity for Australians to further consider the Discernment Papers which reflect the original concerns expressed by the people of Australia. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

They are necessarily lengthy and for that reason we have prepared a summary of them, with a subject index for ease of access to any area which interests you in particular. This summary will be made available to you if you request via this website.

### ***What we are doing as partnered parishes:***

As the final meeting of the Plenary Council is now two years away due to the virus, the facilitators of the Plenary groups from our partnered parishes are meeting to think together about what the next steps might be for our three parishes. Presently, we are looking at local changes that we may be able to suggest initiating from the list of suggestions that have come from our own parishioners. We have had two meetings to set up those proceedings and will keep you posted regularly on each step we take and your input and involvement is critical to a successful outcome.

***May God bless you***

***The Facilitator Group***



# MESSAGE BOARD

## THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Dear Parishioners,

Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on August 15th each year. This Saturday, Catholics around the world mark the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, commemorating the end of her earthly life and assumption into Heaven. The Catholic Church teaches that at the end of her life, Mary, the mother of Christ, was taken body and soul (i.e. both physically and spiritually) into heaven to live with her son (Jesus Christ) forever. Human beings have to wait until the end of time for their bodily resurrection, but Mary's body was able to go straight to heaven because her soul hadn't been tainted by original sin.

The belief in the Assumption of Mary was a widely-held tradition, and a frequent meditation in the writings of saints throughout the centuries. However it was not defined officially until the past century. In 1950, Pope Pius XII made an infallible, ex-cathedra statement in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* officially defining the dogma of the Assumption.

"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory," the pope wrote.

The Feast of the Assumption is marked as a major feast day and a public holiday in many countries. In most countries, including Australia, it is a Holy Day of Obligation, and Catholics are required to attend Mass. On this important feast day, it's important to mark the significance of the feast as especially vital by emphasizing the necessity of celebrating the Eucharist that day.

Assumption Day is a chance for Christians to celebrate the heavenly birthday of the Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation - a day when Christian denominations are obliged to attend church service, so many people attend mass (church service) on this feast day.

Due to Coronavirus pandemic lockdown and the time of curfew in our state, we cannot gather to celebrate the Assumption of Mary this year, we can stay at home watching online Mass and receiving Communion in spiritually with the following Spiritually Communion prayer:

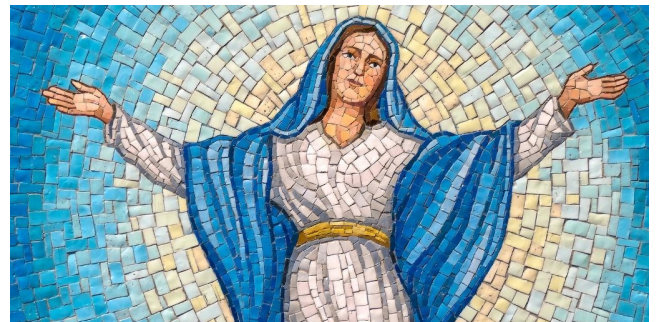
*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, please come in spiritually in my heart. I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

And on this Feast Day, please pray the Rosary and ask Our Lady to intercede for us all in our parishes. This Feast Day is a time to pray for our country, that the mother of the one who embraces all people without distinction, might help all of us.

*Happy Feast Day to everyone!*

*May almighty God, through the intercession of Our Lady, bless you and be with you always!*

*Fr Tao Pham*



*Hello everyone*

*Many thanks for sending the newsletter and any other news that is helpful and interesting to us.*

*We hope you are well and are looking forward to catching up with everyone in a direct way. We are well and find that time goes rather quickly. It is 5 months since the lockdown started and we have coped very well. We enjoy our daily walks.*

*Although we feel for anyone who is struggling with the present situation.*

*Stay well everyone*

*Love and best wishes*

*Brian & Ellen Smiddy*

*Best Wishes*



# MESSAGE BOARD

The state of disaster in Victoria prompts a response to the people of Bendigo and district from the Bendigo Interfaith Council. We present to you prayers drawn from the different faith communities represented on our Interfaith Council. We hope that these prayers assist you in coping in our present circumstances whilst our places of worship are closed.

## Baha'i

### PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

O my Lord! Thou knowest that the people are encircled with pain and calamities and are environed with hardships and trouble. Every trial doth attack man and every dire adversity doth assail him like unto the assault of a serpent. There is no shelter and asylum for him except under the wing of Thy protection, preservation, guard and custody.

O Thou the Merciful One! O my Lord! Make Thy protection my armour, Thy preservation my shield, humbleness before the door of Thy oneness my guard, and Thy custody and defence my fortress and my abode. Preserve me from the suggestions of self and desire, and guard me from every sickness, trial, difficulty and ordeal.

Verily, Thou art the Protector, the Guardian, the Preserver, the Sufficer, and verily, Thou art the Merciful of the Most Merciful.

Abdu'l-Baha

## Muslim

O Allah, we call upon You with Your most beautiful names.

You are the Perfect Peace and peace comes from You.

Bestow on us peace and erase this pandemic.

Show us Your mercy and give us good health and safety.

Blessed are You, owner of majesty and honour.

Amen.

## Catholic

May your comforting hand come upon Victoria as we fight the local outbreaks of our pandemic.

May we work together to swiftly end this current outbreak so that we may once again feast with our loved ones, return to your Eucharistic nourishment and to community life without fear of falling sick to the virus.

We know you are our constant companion as we battle the loneliness and isolation that COVID-19 brings.

Help us to be sensible in our decision making. Give us strength to be patient.

Comfort those who are weary of this fight. Protect the health of Bendigo and district communities.

Prevent the continued spread of disease, and help us appreciate all you have given us and make us aware of our responsibility to assist where possible those who have fewer resources.

## Jewish

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements-

We give thanks.

For human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression-

We give thanks.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared-

We give thanks.

For all who have laboured and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom-

We give thanks.

For human liberties and sacred rites, for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose-

We give thanks.

## Hindu

svasty astu visvasya khalah prasidatam dhyayantu bhutani sivaam mitho dhiya manasa ca bhadrām bhajatād adhoksaḥ aveśyatām no matir apy ahaitukī (Srimad Bhagavatam 5.18.9)

Translation :- May there be good fortune throughout the universe, and may all envious persons be pacified. May all living entities become calm by practicing bhakti-yoga, for by accepting devotional service they will think of each other's welfare. Therefore let us all engage in the service of the supreme transcendence, Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa, and always remain absorbed in thought of Him.

Auspicious of the auspicious! Parvathi! The fulfiller of the desires!

Protector of all - Three eyed! Parvathi Devi! Narayini! We salute your divinity!!

May everyone be prosperous and happy, may everyone be free from all illnesses and diseases!

May everyone see goodness and auspiciousness in everything, may no one suffer or be unhappy or distressed!

Om peace, peace, peace!!

## Buddhist

"Cultivating a close, warm-hearted feeling for others automatically puts the mind at ease. It helps remove whatever fears or insecurities we may have and gives us the strength to cope with any obstacles we encounter. It is the principal source of success in life. Since we are not solely material creatures, it is a mistake to place all our hopes for happiness on external development alone. The key is to develop inner peace."  
- His Holiness the Dalai Lama

## Quaker

Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?

## Uniting

God, we live in a vibrant, welcoming community, a supportive, encouraging community, in which we build relationships and love into being new possibilities for one another, calling out of each other the best we have to offer, sharing with each other the best we have to give.

In so doing we seek follow the way of Jesus who constantly accepted people as they were, while drawing them on to realise what they could be.

In this time of Covid 19 life with challenges and isolation, fear and uncertainty, masks, struggles and shutdown, encourage us to continue to find meaningful and creative ways to build and nurture a community, to support family, friends, neighbours and strangers, to foster a community of courage, hope, love, respect where, with compassion, new possibilities can take birth and grow.  
Amen.

## Christian - Anglican

Merciful God,

As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people who are tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life.

We give thanks for medical professionals and emergency service workers, members of defence forces, and all who are working to keep our community safe.

We hold before you our political, medical and community leaders as they make and implement difficult decisions.

We hold before you those who are struggling and vulnerable at this time; for residents in aged care facilities; for those in intensive care units and those who care for them.

We hold before you our community; residents in aged care facilities, pupils and teachers; for all children, carers, educators and all families. We pray for those who are finding life overwhelming; those unable to care for themselves; all who live with violent or abusive relationships; those fearful of the future.

May we all draw strength from your loving presence.



Dear Parish Friends

We continue on this journey apart, but together, and all with our own experiences and anxieties. No doubt we are all missing our children, grandchildren, elderly parents, extended family and friends and wonder what it will be like at the end of this tunnel. My 97 year old mother is in a nursing home where there was a reported staff case last week. Thankfully today I received news that all residents have been tested and are negative. Having visited Mum a week ago, I too have been tested and am negative. Phew! I am missing our children and grandchildren and know that life for them is very different. Our son, who lives in Brisbane, and family went to watch Geelong beat St. Kilda last night at the Gabba (Go Cats!), something we can only dream about. Our daughter and family live in Byron Bay where they can still go to school, play junior sport and go surfing, but our son-in-law is no longer allowed to cross the border into Queensland to run his business in Palm Beach. Our youngest grandson in Watsonia has just started to crawl but we can only witness that through video clips and our two grandchildren in West Brunswick are struggling with online learning and missing the social contact very important to 11 and 13 year olds. At least having some families interstate came in handy when making masks as they posted material and elastic down to me. But life goes on. Kevin continues to run Vinnies from home, we have finished re landscaping our front garden, we have a 'designer' collection of masks, the daffodils are just starting to bloom, the days are longer and most important, we are well. As my mother says often, "Everything passes but the love of God". Even her grandchildren quote her often. Since I cannot see my grandchildren, I have attached a photo of some substitutes in my garden.

May God bless you all and keep you well.  
Sue McMahan





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✂ \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ books, each containing 10 raffle tickets. I understand that **ALL SOLD and UNSOLD** tickets must be returned with monies collected to the office by Friday 11 September. Tickets may not be sold after this date.

- I will collect tickets from the office
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**First Reading Is 56:1.6-7**

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4**

**(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

**Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32**

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the

mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

**Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus preached the Good News  
of the kingdom**

**and healed all who were sick.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mt 15:21-28**

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to "the other" finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshiping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfillment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture, or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

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