



**Sunday 31st May 2020**

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

**Pastoral Associate:** Jacinta Bright

**Pastoral Associate:** Sr. Margaret Sapsford

**Pastoral Worker:** Christina O'Connor

**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>

**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, Mark Quipp, Giovanna Ng, Petronilla De Leo

**We pray for those who have died including Mary Pace (Doris Buhagiar Mother) and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of June that they may enter**

**Joyfully into God's Kingdom**

Carmel & Albert Mowlam, Nicola Nesci, Pauline Georgiades, Ken Parker, Maureen Parker, Michael Cusack, Saviour Camilleri, Joanne Tubb, Antonio Napoleone, Eric Rosario, Leo Campbell, Des Price, Bert Smoker.

## DIAMOND VALLEY COVID-19 HOME STORIES

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

Good stories capture our imaginations, inspire us to be better, teach us, define us and help us bear witness to our own humanity and those of our neighbours. We weave our stories with other people's stories on a common loom. Let's weave together and see our tapestry.

Jesus was not only a healer, a teacher and prophet—he was a storyteller. He used his stories to illuminate the minds and souls of those who heard his voice. His voice can still be heard in the written form through the scripture, through the Mass, through the art and music that artists across the world are inspired to create and our very own voices (if we allow it to be).

Pope Francis' 2020 Message for World Day of Social Communication is an inspirational piece about the value and need for our stories to be told. The text of his Message follows and is an inspiration for us to be story-tellers, especially at this crucial time in history. 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 story about staying home to stay safe. Some inspiration questions may include:

- What has changed in your outside world?
- What has changed in you?
- What new skills have you been required to learn?
- What have you grown to appreciate?
- What has died in you during this time ?
- What time has been given life at this time?
- What has been your biggest challenge?
- What has been your biggest success?
- What do you want to remember from this?
- What lessons will you let live or let die?
- What made you see the humorous side of life
- What made you shed a tear or re-evaluate your heart's desire?
- With all that you have learnt and gained and lost—Where do you want to go from here?

We would LOVE to hear your stories and anecdotes to collate into a book. Over the next few weeks, 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, get planning & write! Your piece does not need to be long, a paragraph or two or three, would suffice. If you would like to contribute your story please email it to us at [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) including your name & age (if you are game enough) with a note giving us permission to publish your work.

Submissions close on 31st July 2020. The collection of stories will be published in an e-book on the feast of the Birth of Mary. Mother of Jesus - 8th September 2020.

## PLENARY COUNCIL

In response to the dramatic changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the bishops of Australia have made the "difficult, but necessary" decision to postpone the first assembly of the Plenary Council. The decision was made to postpone the assembly scheduled for October this year. The first session is planned for October 2021 in Adelaide and with a further meeting in Sydney in 2022.

Archbishop Costelloe said the Church's focus at the moment, and for the foreseeable future, is ensuring people continue to be cared for pastorally, spiritually and emotionally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 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.**

Dear Parishioners,

You may have read that further easing of restrictions has made it possible for churches to open for a maximum of 20 to attend services. At this stage I have decided to not make Mass available for public attendance as I await further easing of restrictions. I am still concerned that in inviting some necessarily excludes others. I am also very conscious that many who would come to Mass are vulnerable to infection and I don't want to be responsible for an outbreak of the virus that would set back further easing of the restrictions on numbers gathering in a public place. This is the most serious contagious infection that we have experienced in our lifetime and though it will not 'go away', we are reliant on government decisions, based on a capacity to contain the disease, to determine an appropriate time to gather for worship. I, like you, feel the pain of not being able to gather as community to celebrate the Eucharist together, but this Eucharistic "fasting" can give us an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God in solitude as our yearning for communal worship and reception of communion deepens. In the next several days the members of our partnered parishes leadership team will meet with parishioners from each parish to determine when we will again 'open the doors' to parishioners for worship, as well as how we adopt procedures to ensure the required sanitation of the churches after each celebration of Mass. I will inform you of our discussions and decisions.

In the meantime you are able to access reflections on the Sunday readings by Fr. Lenin, homily notes by Fr. Tao and myself on our parish websites and the uploaded Sunday Masses celebrated by me at our churches on our parish Facebook pages or directly on YouTube (St. Mary's Parish Greensborough Masses).

In the meantime, know that I hold you in my thoughts and prayers as I miss your physical presence and keenly await our gathering in prayer.

Take care of each other and keep safe.

Fr. Steven Rigo

### **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK.**

National Reconciliation Week and the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation are held each year between 27th May and 3rd June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey, the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

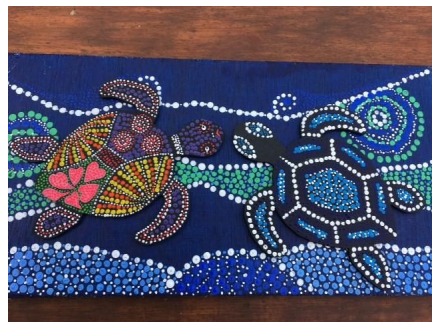
Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians. On this journey, let's connect with one another to build unity and mutual respect as we strive towards a more just and equitable nation.

This year's theme for National Reconciliation Week: In this together, is now resonating in ways that could not have been foreseen when it was announced last year, but it reminds us whether in a crisis or in reconciliation we are all #InThisTogether.

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia..

Banyule City Council invite you to engage across a range of Reconciliation Week activities. Please join us online, wherever you may be. Events can be viewed on Facebook and on these webpages:

[www.banyule.vic.gov.au/RecWeek](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/RecWeek)



#### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

In the midst of conflict and division,  
We know it is you  
Who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Your spirit changes our hearts:  
Enemies begin to speak to one another,  
Those who were estranged join hands in friendship.  
Let your spirit be at work in us.  
Give us understanding and put an end to strife,  
Fill us with mercy and overcome our denial,  
Grant us wisdom and teach us to learn  
From the people of the land,  
Call us to justice. Amen



*(adapted from the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses of Reconciliation 11)*

**The boxes of books at Sacred Heart Parish Centre have all been claimed. Happy reading. Thanks to Peter for donating. There is an ongoing issue regarding sending Parish emails with attachments. The Archdiocese is working to resolve the problem, which is causing emails to arrive hours after they were sent, or without the attachments. Thanks to our parishioners for their pa-**

# The Message Board

## Fr Tao's Message 31st May.

Dear Parishioners of, Sacred Heart, St. Peter's and St Thomas and St Mary's Parishes,  
As you would aware, Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. The Pope encourages faithful to pray the Rosary at home every day in May. I believe that, in response to this invitation from Pope Francis, you have prayed the rosary daily at home.

May will end soon and make room for June, the month our Catholic Church venerates the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As you know, in 1914 Diamond Creek was declared a parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. This parish was the "heart" of Diamond Creek Valley. Father John Carney, the first parish priest, and the parishioners chose Sacred Heart of Jesus as the Patron and the name of this parish. Sacred Heart parish was the mother parish and it covered a vast area including Watsonia, Greensborough, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Montmorency, Warrandyte, Arthur's Creek, Panton Hill, Queenstown and Kinglake.

I would like to mention a little about the history of this parish to tell you something very important we need to do this June. The Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost. In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises are connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of all devotions, devotion to the Sacred Heart was, and remains, one of the most widespread and popular in the Church. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began during the 12th century. It wasn't until 1673, when Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque (canonized in 1920) began to receive visions of Jesus' Sacred Heart. These visions would occur to St. Margaret periodically over the course of two years. During the visions, St. Margaret spoke with Jesus. Of the many things he told her, Jesus said he wanted the image of his heart to be made known so that people were reminded of his love and mercy.

Today, the First Friday Mass is celebrated in many parishes on the first Friday of every month. It is common for a parish to celebrate this day by having Eucharistic adoration, benediction, confession, and perhaps special prayers. As you would be aware that further easing of restrictions has made it possible for churches to open for a maximum of 20 people to attend services. With this stage of easing restrictions, it is very difficult for our Parish Priest, Fr Steven Rigo, to make a decision how and when our churches will be able to open for celebrating public Mass. He will organize a Zoom Meeting with the representatives from St. Mary's, Sacred Heart and St Thomas the Apostle Parishes soon and then make a decision for the three parishes how and when we can open our churches and celebrate Mass publicly.

Dear Parishioners, Sacred Heart is not a mother parish anymore. It is a Partnered Parish with St Thomas the Apostle and St Mary's parishes now. However, the name and the patron of this parish is still Sacred Heart. There are still many parishioners in this parish. Therefore, this June, the month devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus, I would like to invite all of the Parishioners together with me pray every day with the following prayer to ask Jesus stop the pandemic soon for the world and all of us go back to our normal lives.

**Let us pray,**

*"Holy Heart of Jesus, Sweet Sanctuary of rest,  
bring peace to my soul and settle my spirit,  
especially in the matter of Coronavirus Pandemic crisis  
I vow to place all of my worries and fears  
into the wound of your Sacred Heart,  
there to be tended to in accordance with your perfect will,  
which desires only the best and highest good.  
Your love alone is enough, and I surrender to it;  
clinging to the hope of a swift resolution  
and trusting with confidence in all of your promises.  
Amen."*

*I wish all of you have a great week ahead.*

*Happy Pentecost, the Birthday of our Church!*



**Fr Tao Pham**

# The Message Board



## "CONGRATULATIONS

Father Kevin McIntosh, our founding Parish Priest on his GOLDEN JUBILEE - 50 years in the Priesthood.

We send our blessings and thanks for his service and together with us, planting the seeds of God's Kingdom in our Parish of St Thomas the Apostle. May the years ahead continue to bring health, peace and fulfilment."

Kind regards  
David & Wil



## Mary, Help of Christians - 24th May

It was in the first St Mary's Church in Sydney Town in 1844 that Australia was entrusted to Our Lady with the title of Mary, Help of Christians. Last Sunday or Monday, this entrustment was renewed by our Bishops using the prayer below.

Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart

of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it reigned and triumphed in you!

Source: Australian Bishops Conference



## Dear Friends

*Suddenly there does seem to be a tiny light at the end of the tunnel as we cautiously venture out just a bit more.*

*Throughout isolation I have taken advantage of the freedom to exercise and I have really enjoyed the random meetings as we 'bump' into fellow parishioners doing the same.*

*Being able to reconnect and chat at these unplanned times has been wonderful and I look forward to being able to all gather together again as a parish family.*

*God bless you all.*

*Sue McMahan*



I was listening to Vera Lynn on my Spotify music this week. Young people wouldn't know her but she sang some really beautiful, patriotic songs during the war years, and her voice was similar to Judith Durham from the Seekers. This week many of the restrictions were lifted in Victoria. ( I can't believe this. Just as I'm writing this article the very song I was going to mention is being sung by her.) Its title is "I'll be seeing you." The lyrics from the chorus really mean so much at this particular time. "I'll be seeing you in all the old familiar places that my heart and mind embraces all day through. In that small cafe, the park across the way, the children's carousel the chestnut tree, the wishing well....." I hope all those who can enjoy this freedom appreciate it and keep safe. Pat F.

***A Big Thank You to everyone who has contributed to our Message Board so far.***

***If you would like to post a message next week or even share some news or a joke, please feel free to email [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) before 12.00pm each Wednesday.***

**First Reading Acts 2:1-11**

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30**

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.**

or

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they  
came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are  
created;  
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13**

*In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.*

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your  
faithful**

**and kindle in them the fire of your love.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Jn 20:19-23**

*As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you.  
'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

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**Reflection by Greg Sunter**

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and energising them to set about their mission of continuing the ministry of Jesus. The gospel reading is one of the post-resurrection appearances by Jesus when he breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. The actual events of that first Pentecost are recorded in the book of Acts and are recalled in this week's first reading. The use of this post-resurrection gospel account is a reminder that Jesus had already imbued the disciples with the Spirit but, as so often throughout his ministry, they were a bit slow to catch on to the significance of what he had done. It seems that they needed a more tangible experience to jolt them into action and Acts records the very physical experience of the Spirit entering their midst as a roaring wind before settling upon them as tongues of flame. Jesus had breathed the Spirit upon them but it took the roaring wind to make a real impression on the disciples. There are frequent references in the gospels to Jesus being 'filled with the Spirit'. It is this Spirit with which he was filled that he breathed upon his disciples; it is that same Spirit that we receive sacramentally in Confirmation.

For the weeks following the death of Jesus the disciples had lived in fear and confusion, not fully understanding what had happened and not really knowing what to do. When they realised that the Spirit Jesus had breathed upon them was really present and urging them to action they finally had the courage to begin the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them: to spread the Good News of Jesus and continue to realise his message in the world.