



Sunday 26th September 2021

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Dixon George

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

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

<b><u>St. Mary's</u></b>	<b><u>Sacred Heart</u></b>	<b><u>St. Thomas the Apostle</u></b>
204 Grimshaw St., Greensborough, 3088 <b>Parish:</b> 9435 1543 <b>Presbytery:</b> 7036 9329 <b>Email:</b> Greensborough@cam.org.au <b>Website:</b> www.cam.org.au/greensborough <b>Secretaries:</b> Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser <b>Communications Officer:</b> Denise Chang-Faux	25 Gipson Street, Diamond Creek 3089 <b>Parish:</b> 9401 6361 <b>Email:</b> DiamondCreek@cam.org.au <b>Website:</b> www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek <b>Secretary:</b> Pat Guatta	251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough Nth 3088 <b>Parish:</b> 9434 7373 <b>Email:</b> greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au <b>Website:</b> www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth <b>Secretary:</b> Lisa Leahy
<b><u>Mass Times</u></b> <b>Monday:</b> Liturgy of the word 9.15am <b>Tuesday to Friday:</b> Mass 9.15am <b>Saturday:</b> Mass 8.30am & Vigil Mass 6.30pm <b>Sunday:</b> Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm	<b><u>Mass Times</u></b> <b>Wednesday &amp; Friday:</b> Mass 9.15am  <b>Sunday:</b> Mass 9.00am	<b><u>Mass Times</u></b> <b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday:</b> Mass 9.15am <b>Saturday:</b> Vigil Mass 6.00pm <b>Sunday:</b> Mass 10.30am
<b><u>Reconciliation Times</u></b> <b>Saturday:</b> 9.00am & 5.45pm	<b><u>Reconciliation Times</u></b> <b>Friday:</b> 9.45am to 10.15am	<b><u>Reconciliation Times</u></b> <b>Saturday:</b> 9.30am to 10.00am
<b><u>Parish School Principal</u></b> Mrs. Marisa Matthys <b>Ph:</b> 9433 4000 <b>or Email</b> principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au	<b><u>Parish School Principal</u></b> Mr. Jim O'Sullivan <b>Ph:</b> 9438 1590 <b>or Email</b> principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au	<b><u>Parish School Principal</u></b> Mr David Delaney <b>Ph:</b> 9434 4565 <b>or Email</b> principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

**SACRED HEART 9.00am**

**Special Minister:**

**Reader:**

**MASS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**ST THOMAS VIGIL 6.00pm & 10.30am**

**Special Minister 6.00pm:**

**Special Minister 10.30am:**

**6.00pm: Reader: Commentator: Set Up:**

**10.30am: Reader: Commentator: Set Up:**

**Counters: Cleaners:**

***Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our Websites***

**\*\*\*\*\*NO MASSES AT ST PETER'S UNTIL DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS ARE REMOVED\*\*\*\*\***

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherine Leonard,  
Tony Ledda, Sarah Drummond, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis

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

Terry Moran, Michael Holland, Ann Cusack, Andrew O'Dea, George Ind, Peter Thomas, Bernie Fitzgerald and Margaret Fitzgerald,  
Alexander Libertino, Jean Watson, Maria Scordo, Gennaro Mascia, Bernadette Richardson, Norah Moylan, Jane Tremayne,  
Tess Natoli, Barry Williamson, Mollie Kerr, Rocco Crea, Bernadette Linehan, Vincent Mascia, Jim Hardwick Snr, Kevin Power, Antonio  
Lunardello, Ines Lunardello, Vincenzina Varalla John Ryan, Fr Jim Feenan, John Muscat, Francis Godge,

## WORSHIP & PRAYER

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK WITHIN OUR PARISHES:** If you wish to have someone added or removed from the sick or Anniversaries list for our newsletter could you please notify **Pat 9401 6361** or **Lisa 9434 7373**.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** During lockdown The Way Prayer Group continues to meet on Thursday evenings via zoom with Rosary from 7.30pm-8.00pm. If you wish you would be most welcome to stay on for the evening's activity.

Zoom link is as follows: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85621062547> Passcode 258371

For any further enquiries, please email Rose: [roserendina@gmail.com](mailto:roserendina@gmail.com)

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** The Way Prayer Group is hosting an 8-part video series 'Metanoia' on Zoom over 8 Thursday evenings, commencing Thursday, 7th October from 8-9.30pm. "Jesus invites each of us to an ever deeper and more profound conversion. This continual need for conversion - 'metanoia' - should be for us a source of hope and encouragement that keeps us seeking the transformative grace of God's Holy Spirit."

For further details and Zoom link, please email Rose [roserendina@gmail.com](mailto:roserendina@gmail.com) or Emilia [emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com](mailto:emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com)



## BAPTISMS WITHIN OUR PARISHES

Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia and Solomon who are awaiting Baptism at St Thomas. We look forward to the restrictions easing and welcoming these families into the St Thomas Parish community.

Zoe, Joseph, and Lola have been presented to the Sacred Heart Community and will be celebrating their Baptisms in the coming months.

## RECORDED MASSES—HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Every week since March last year, St Mary's parishioners Troy and Trevor have shared the recording and uploading of the Saturday evening Mass from one of our partnered parishes and Masses during lockdowns. We thank them for their faithful commitment to our communities. However, to continue to offer recorded Masses on a regular basis, help is urgently needed. Troy was married recently and will soon be moving from the parish, and Trevor has an ongoing commitment as projectionist at a Sunday Mass. An invitation is extended to St Mary's, St Thomas' and Sacred Heart parishioners to assist with this valued ministry.

We are hoping to get enough volunteers so we can make up a roster.

Training will be provided. For more information, please contact **Marian 0409 591 527**.



## PLENARY COUNCIL

*Together we continue to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for the Australian church. 'Listen to What the Spirit is Saying .....*

*Fan the Flame*

*Plenary One Assembly 3rd-10th October 2021*

*'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'*

*Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48*



*The healing hands and support offered by a humble and merciful community are at the heart of a response to trauma and woundedness. Many need and yearn for full integration into the life of a loving community, where one is known and belongs.*

*(Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper p. 12)*

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/)



## LOCKDOWN LIGHT WEEK 4

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

**Podcasts for Christian living: Parents of the Saints—How Did They Do It?**

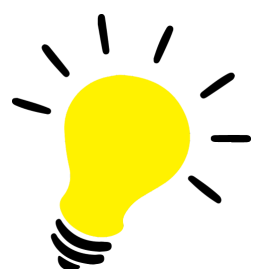
In this podcast, Jason Evert speaks with Patrick O'Hearn about his new book 'Parents of the Saints: The Hidden Heroes Behind Our Favourite Saints', offering key insights into the families of popular saints. Listen at:

[www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving4](http://www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving4)

**Getting to know your Bible: Praying with Scripture**

Getting Started: In this short video, Fr James Martin SJ introduces us Lectio Divina—a way of praying with the Bible that helps us listen to God. Watch at: [www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted4](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted4)

Going Deeper: Pray as You Go is an online prayer tool that provides a guided contemplation of each day's Gospel passage. Set aside 10-15 minutes, find a comfy space and visit: [www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper4](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper4)



## FORMATION OF SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The following people have generously accepted their nomination to be a member of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council.

Alison Pieper, Ann Marie O'Hare, Clare Zabrowarny, Brian Flynn, Frank Ledda, Judy Hoyne, Margaret Farrell, Maureen Walsh, Ted Jenkins, Tonina Sirianni.

Thank you for agreeing to make a commitment to our Parish by joining the PPC.

## SHIRLEY Mc CARTHY HAS MOVED

Just to let you all know Shirley has moved to Estia Health 45 Silvan Rd Wattle Glen 3096. Phone: 97182267.

As nursing homes as still in lockdown if you would like to send Shirley a letter from time to time she would very much appreciate hearing from parishioners.



## LAMP FORMATION (Love and Mental Peace).

### Have you ever wondered what is the Whole Story of Mental Ill Health?



This is an invitation to explore the hidden dimension of mental ill health, in particular, the spiritual dimension of mental ill health and the nature of spiritual care. Rather than splitting off the lived experience of the person with mental ill health, from the lived experience of the one who is well, our starting point is that life and longing for purpose and meaning is an experience shared by all.

Given our concern for the spirit of the person and how that will infuse the whole of life experience, we will consider the inherent dignity of the individual living with mental ill health and how they find meaning and purpose within this context.

Rather than move directly to solutions, we will consider our shared humanity. Should you take up this invitation, you will experience an exploration of a pastoral view, which we might all embrace, that is consistent with spiritual care and healthcare practice, and complementary to the current medical paradigm.

The foundation of pastoral/spiritual care is listening. In this initial session we will explore how particular listening skills enable reflection and action which has the potential to change us all.

Who is this for? Everyone! We are quite sure that everyone reading this will know of someone now or in the future, who has been touched by the lived experience of mental ill-health, particularly given the last 18 months of COVID.

When? 7.30pm until 9.00pm Thursday, 14 October 2021

Where? The Gathering Space of St Mary's Church, Greensborough

Or Zoom, if need be. Interested people will be emailed a Zoom link.

RSVP & Enquiries Email our parish office [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) or phone 9435 1543 by Monday, 11th October 2021

### **SR ROSALIND CAIRNS, MSC -Ros is a member of St Mary's Parish**



Ros worked in mental health for 27 years initially as pastoral care worker and coordinator with experience in hospital and community settings and then in management. As Manager of Mental Health within the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria, Inc. Ros's responsibilities involved leadership, consultation, and education in the strategic development of spirituality, chaplaincy, and pastoral care in Victorian Mental Healthcare Services.

Ros is semi-retired and maintains a particular interest in the relationship between spirituality and mental wellbeing and offers education and training in this area, in communities and at the University of Divinity.

Her background is varied having worked in the areas of education, liturgy, counselling, and community development work in PNG.

### **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.**

## NATIONAL DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

**“Towards an ever wider ‘we’” is the theme of the 107th Migrant and Refugee Sunday,  
celebrated on the 26th of September, 2021.**

Pope Francis has released his message for Migrant & Refugee Sunday with an emphasis on creating a diverse and beautiful world which celebrates our differences while remaining as one:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco\\_20210503\\_world-migrants-day-2021.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20210503_world-migrants-day-2021.html)

Catholics across the country are being urged to consider how they can pray for and offer practical support to neighbours around the world as the Church marks the World Day of Migrants and Refugees this month.

In his message for the 107th commemoration of the day, Pope Francis writes on the theme “Towards an Ever Wider ‘We’”.

He encourages people to reject the temptation to create literal or metaphorical barriers with other people, and to instead recognise the barriers that exist due to individualism or nationalism.

“The truth however is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single ‘we’, encompassing all of humanity,” Pope Francis writes.

“In our day, the Church is called to go out into the streets of every existential periphery in order to heal wounds and to seek out the straying, without prejudice or fear, without proselytising, but ready to widen her tent to embrace everyone. Among those dwelling in those existential peripheries, we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation preached.

“The current influx of migrants can be seen as a new “frontier” for mission, a privileged opportunity to proclaim Jesus Christ and the Gospel message at home, and to bear concrete witness to the Christian faith in a spirit of charity and profound esteem for other Religious communities. The encounter with migrants and refugees of other denominations and religions represents a fertile ground for the growth of open and enriching ecumenical and interreligious dialogue” [Address to the National Directors of Pastoral Care for Migrants](#) 22 September 2017).”

### **Prayer**

**(From Pope Francis)**

***Holy, beloved Father,  
your Son Jesus taught us that there is great rejoicing in  
heaven whenever someone lost is found,  
whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded  
is gathered into our “we”,  
which thus becomes ever wider.***

***We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus,  
and all people of good will,  
the grace to do your will on earth.***

***Bless each act of welcome and outreach that draws  
those in exile into the “we” of community and of the Church,  
so that our earth may truly become what you yourself created it to be:  
the common home of all our brothers and sisters.***

**Amen.**

***Our Parishes’ Yearly Collection of goods for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has not been able to happen again this year because of COVID19 lockdown restrictions. However the ASRC is still operating helping Asylum Seekers in these difficult times; if you wish to make a small contribution to help please visit their website for ideas:***

**<https://www.asrc.org.au/get-involved/donate-food-and-goods/>**



## FRANCIS SPEAKS WITH SLOVAKIAN JESUITS *from Crux*

ROME – In his conversation with Slovakian Jesuits while visiting the country last week, Pope Francis took a swipe at his media critics, saying he sometimes loses patience with people who insult without knowing the facts.

He also criticized members of the Church who he said are too nostalgic for the past, ***such as priests who are more attached to the Old Latin Rite of the Mass than they are to their parish communities, which he said is a sign that the Church is going backwards.***

Asked how he was doing at the opening of the Sept. 12 encounter, which took place as part of a broader apostolic visit to Hungary and Slovakia, Francis said he was, “Still alive, even though some people wanted me to die.”

His visit to Hungary and Slovakia was the first international trip he has made since he had colon surgery July 4, in which a large portion of his lower intestine was removed due to a stenotic diverticulitis, or a hardening of the tissue in his colon.

“I know there were even meetings between prelates who thought the pope’s condition was more serious than the official version. They were preparing for the conclave,” he told the Slovakian Jesuits, adding, “Patience! Thank God, I’m all right.”

During the conversation, one Jesuit noted that people are divided about Pope Francis, with some believing his is heterodox and others idealizing him.

In response to a question from this Jesuit about how he handles people who look at him with suspicion, Francis pointed to “a large Catholic television channel that has no hesitation in continually speaking ill of the pope.”

Although he did not specifically mention which Catholic television network he was referring too, many have interpreted the remark as a jab at American conservative broadcaster EWTN, or the Eternal Word Television Network, which has consistently aired commentary critical of Pope Francis and his decisions.

The largest Catholic media outlet in the world, EWTN boasts of an international audience of more than 380 million television households in 150 countries and territories throughout the world.

In his remarks, Pope Francis said that “I personally deserve attacks and insults because I am a sinner, but the Church does not deserve them. They are the work of the devil. I have also said this to some of them.”

He noted that there are also many priests “who make nasty comments about me,” saying he sometimes loses patience with these people, “especially when they make judgments without entering into a real dialogue.”

“I can’t do anything there. However, I go on without entering their world of ideas and fantasies. I don’t want to enter it and that’s why I prefer to preach,” he said, noting that some people admonish him for not speaking more about topics such as holiness.

“They say I always talk about social issues and that I’m a communist. Yet I wrote an entire apostolic exhortation on holiness, Gaudete et Exsultate,” he said.

Referring to his decision earlier this year to tighten restrictions on the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, Francis voiced hope that this decision will help the Church “return to the true intentions of Benedict XVI and John Paul II.”

Noting that his decision was made after a consultation with bishops from around the world, “there are young people who after a month of ordination go to the bishop to ask for it. This is a phenomenon that indicates that we are going backward.”

To this end, the pope recalled how during a conversation with a cardinal, the cardinal told him that some newly ordained priests had come to him requesting permission to study Latin for the celebration of Mass.

The cardinal’s response, Francis said, was that “there are many Hispanics in the diocese! Study Spanish to be able to preach. ***Then, when you have studied Spanish, come back to me and I’ll tell you how many Vietnamese there are in the diocese, and I’ll ask you to study Vietnamese. Then, when you have learned Vietnamese, I will give you permission to study Latin.***”

This cardinal, Pope Francis said, made these priests “return to earth.”

Francis said he makes the decisions he does “not because I want to start a revolution. I do what I feel I must do. It takes a lot of patience, prayer and a lot of charity.”

One Jesuit present at the meeting, who is close to Pope Francis’s age, commented that there appear to be a lot of people in the Church who wish to return to the past, or who seek security in the way things were done previously.

## FRANCIS SPEAKS WITH SLOVAKIAN JESUITS *from Crux continued*

Pope Francis agreed with the remark, saying the Church today is suffering from “the ideology of going backward. ***It is an ideology that colonizes minds.*** It is a form of ideological colonization.”

This is not so much a universal problem but is rather “specific to the churches of certain countries,” the pope said, though he did not mention which countries he was referring to.

Looking to the past is a means of trying to find security, he said, saying, ***“It frightens us to celebrate before the people of God who look us in the face and tell us the truth. It frightens us to go forward in pastoral experiences.”***

Francis then recalled the discussions during the 2014-2015 Synods of Bishops on the Family, saying it took a lot of work “to make it understood that couples in second unions are not already condemned to hell.”

Referring to the LGBT community, the pope said it also “frightens us to accompany people with sexual diversity.”

“We are afraid of the crossroads and paths that Paul VI spoke of. This is the evil of this moment, namely, to seek the path in rigidity and clericalism, which are two perversions.”

Pope Francis spoke of a wide range of other topics throughout his conversation with Slovakian Jesuits, including Jewish-Christian dialogue, fear of migrants and refugees, and the push toward what he has termed “ideological colonization,” specifically when it comes to gender.

The reference to gender ideologies is especially relevant given Italy’s current debate on whether to pass a bill called the “ddl Zan,” which seeks to broaden protections for discrimination based on sexual orientation in Italy’s constitution and to incorporate gender theory in school curricula.

The ddl Zan made global headlines over the summer when it drew unprecedented pushback from the Vatican, which for the first time invoked its sovereign status in a nota verbale, or formal diplomatic communication, to oppose the bill on grounds that it violated Italy’s constitutional guarantee of religious freedom.

Discussion over the bill and the more than 1,000 amendments that have been proposed has been postponed and is expected to be taken back up the Italian Senate this fall.

In his remarks, Pope Francis said, “Ideology always has a diabolical appeal, as you say, because it is not embodied.”

“Right now, we live in a civilization of ideologies...We need to expose them at their roots,” he said, describing gender ideology specifically as “dangerous.”

“It is abstract with respect to the concrete life of a person, as if a person could decide abstractly at will if and when to be a man or a woman,” the pope said, adding, “Abstraction is always a problem for me.”

However, ***Pope Francis distinguished gender ideology from the topic of homosexuality and those in same-sex unions***, saying “If there is a homosexual couple, we can do pastoral work with them, move forward in our encounter with Christ.”

“When I talk about ideology, I’m talking about the idea, the abstraction in which everything is possible, not about the concrete life of people and their real situation,” he said.



**First Reading Nm 11:25-29**

*Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?*

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9**

**(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
3. So in them your servant finds instructions;  
great reward is in their keeping.  
But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)
4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.  
Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin. (R.)

**Second Reading Jas 5:1-6**

*Your wealth is rotting.*

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure

for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

**Gospel Acclamation See Jn 17:17**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your word, O Lord, is truth:**

**make us holy in the truth.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48**

*Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'



**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

An easy way to deal with this Gospel: 'anyone who is not against us is for us,' would be to emphasise the transformation of the relationship of Catholics with Protestants. Too easy.

But what about our relationship with the Muslims? There is a huge gulf between Muslims and us about Jesus Christ. Muslims do not even believe that he was killed on the cross, let alone raised to life. We hold to the testimony and the faith of the Apostles.

But Catholics also believe that the Divine Wind blows where it pleases amongst all people of all religious traditions (and of none). In the early Church this was expressed by saying that the Seeds of the Word were sown by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all human beings.

We need to recognise the Seed of the Word in Islam – our shared belief in the one God, Creator of the cosmos, Lord of history, merciful and just. The task of the Church is to bring that Seed closer to the illumination of Divine Light so that it may eventually grow in belief that God is indeed One in the loving relationship of Triune life.

The world is holding its breath over the encounter of the Catholic Church and Islam. There is a history of mutual violence and contemporary barbarities which are inhumane and blasphemous. But, in the face of indifference and hostility to religion, at least in the West, it is good to acknowledge what we share in common.

We may take a moment to pray for the grace to relate to those Muslims whom we know in our own society in light of our faith that the Divine Wind has sown and is nurturing the Seed of the Word amongst them.

mtate@bigpond.com

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