



Sunday 28th November 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:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & **5.00pm**
(Unknown Vaccination Status)

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: By Appointment only please call the Parish Office

Parish School Principal

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

Sacred Heart

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

Saturday: **6.00pm (Unknown Vaccination Status)**

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

Wednesday: **9.15am (Unknown Vaccination Status)**

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Parish School Principal

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

Weekday Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes.

Sacred Heart: 9.15am Wednesday & Friday. St Mary's: 9.15am Tuesday-Friday. St Thomas: 9.15am Tuesday & Thursday.
6.00pm Mass on Saturday at Sacred Heart & 5.00 pm Mass on Sundays at St Mary's & 9.15am on Wednesday at St Thomas has been set aside for people of unknown vaccination status.

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

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

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

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

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Keep Alert

WITNESSING TO NEW BEGINNINGS

*Be alert at all times,
praying that you may have the strength ...
to stand before the Son of Man."*
LUKE 21:36

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



www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au



Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

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



Senior Moments

Wednesday 1st December 12pm Christmas Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

Thank you to parishioners for their patience while Diamond Creek is experiencing ongoing Internet issues which also affect the Parish Office phone.

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Commissioning Mass 9am Sunday 5th December will be followed by morning tea provided by members. PPC suggestion box is at the back of the Church.

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherine Leonard,

Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Thomas Keenan, Maureen Roberts

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

Jack Ridley, Ros Thomas, Geraldine Nihill, Bev Camilleri, Kevin Doherty, Rebekah Weston, Vincent Atkinson, James Burke,

Kathleen Hudson, Derek Lyons, Lena Finlayson, Grace Jones, Lena Anderson, Haydn Chapman, John Prendergast

Roster for Weekend 5th December

Reader: J. Hoyne

Eucharist Minister: A. Schellens, R. Belli

Diamond Creek Christmas Mass times: 24th December Christmas Eve: 6.00pm & 9.00pm

25th December Christmas Day: 9.00am.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: DIAMOND CREEK CONFERENCE



Diamond Creek St Vincent de Paul is hoping to bring some Christmas joy to the families that we help out through the year.

If you can donate in any way by giving gift cards, cash or vouchers for older children and teenagers for the hampers, it would be very much appreciated.

There will be a leaving collection on the weekend of 4th & 5th December.

Thank you

ALL THINGS NEW 2022 - IGNATIAN GATHERING FOR YOUNG ADULT (18-30YRS)

The Society of Jesus (Australian Jesuits) invites you to its Ignatian Gathering for Young Adults (18-30 years), to take place in Melbourne on 17 – 21 January 2022, at Newman College. This gathering is a chance for young people to 'reset, reconnect and re-engage' through building friendships, sharing values, celebrating gratitude, offering service.

To register go to : <https://www.trybooking.com/BUNRC>

Cost: \$320 + Trybooking fee (\$8.50) - (includes all meals, individual rooms and all program activities).

For any questions, please contact us at: magisaustralia@sjasl.org



A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA



ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence. This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens. To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal

PRAYER, WORSHIP & WELLBEING

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 **Sacred Heart Pat: 9401 6361 St Mary's Sharon /Francesca:9435 1543 St Thomas Lisa 9434 7373**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Establishment Team



In recent weeks you have been given information about the intention to establish a Parish Pastoral Council at St Thomas. At this time of great change and opportunities for growth our parish needs a new leadership team that is able to speak of a vision for our future and respond to the needs and aspirations of our community.

Angela McCarthy (Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Theology at Notre Dame Uni, WA) said regarding the Plenary Council, whose first session concluded last month, ***"I feel very strongly that there is this call for us to imagine change.***

How can we imagine our parishes to be differently centred and differently motivated so that we really do become Christ centred. We must become missionary to each other, to restore all those relationships. Restore the sense of being equitable members of this wonderful church group."

Your opportunity to enable change to occur in our parish and to build on the strengths of the past is firstly to attend the Information Evening in the church next Tuesday at 7:00 pm, and subsequent to that to be involved in the establishment of a new Parish Pastoral Council. ***Everybody is welcome. Please RSVP to the Parish Office.***

Sacrament Celebrations

Please pray for the children from St. Mary's school who will celebrate First Eucharist this weekend and next weekend.

Please pray for the children from St Thomas' School who will celebrate Confirmation on Thursday 2nd

And Friday the 3rd of December.

May God bless them and their families on their special day and continue to bless them as they continue on their faith journey.

Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia, Solomon and who are awaiting Baptism at St Thomas.

We look forward to the restrictions easing and welcoming these families into the St Thomas Parish community.

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be

healed & comforted during this time:

Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo, Trevor Corcoran

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of November that they may

enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Nick Piccolo, Maura Coyle, Lena Brullo, Ray Tipping, Lawrence Meilak, Theresa Meilak, Marcel Bishara, Frank Mercieca, Thomas Iacobucci, Fr Kelvin Kenny, Christopher Kenny, Joan Campbell, Serge Teychency, Joan Chadzynska, Rocco Di Pierro, Haydn Chapman, Francis Mc Mennemin, Kevin Hartley

Rosters for Weekend 4th & 5th December

Saturday 6.00pm Mass

Reader: S. McMahon **Commentator:** P. Carty

Special Ministers: T. Holland, C. Leahy, S. Bishop

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am Mass

Reader: T. Williamson **Commentator:** L. Hobson

Special Minister: F. Landy, M. Tipping, C. O'Brien

Set Up: M. Bates

Counters: Not available **Cleaners:**

Last year a group of us got together to give the Church a clean before Christmas.

If anyone is available on either Tuesday 21st December or Wednesday 22nd December for approximately 1-2 hours could you please let me know.

Thank you Lisa



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



MASSES AT ST MARY'S DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS –

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR STEVEN RIGO AND JACINTA BRIGHT

These are very difficult times for all of us as we keep continue to find ways to be Church; a Eucharistic community who embraces all, given the challenges with COVID. There are differing beliefs and opinions about what the Government should be doing and what the Church should be doing and what we as individuals should be doing. Sadly, differences can fracture families and communities. Here is our challenge – how do we live with the differences, respecting the dignity of each person by trying to understand and reach out to one another. Misinformation can exacerbate division – yet we are called to be reconciled and reconcilers. It is important that we have conversations that lead to understanding.

Just to clarify any confusion, St Mary's is not paddling its own boat in relation to the current restrictions. We are following State Government requirements, which are handed down to us from the Archdiocese – and these requirements are very specific. Other parishes have at times not adhered to the requirements, which has made it difficult for us. We have been accused of being too strict, or of not caring about our people, or of being discriminatory.

Quite apart from our following the regulations because we are asked to do so, it is our Christian mandate to protect the vulnerable. If that's not enough - places of worship can incur significant fines if found to be not complying with regulations, as you can see on this link: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-religion-and-ceremonies-guidance>

Victoria Police and Department of Health Authorised Officers regularly check places of worship for compliance with current restrictions.

We are doing all we can to hold our community as one, despite the tensions around us. Our Liturgy Team, together with a small band of volunteers, have made themselves available in order to carry out the task of sanitisers and Check In Marshals, roles that are required by the State Government. Two members in particular, have come to several Masses each weekend since COVID began, so that we can continue to comply, otherwise we wouldn't be able to have Mass. We don't have enough volunteers so they step up selflessly.

Please understand that although there may be dissatisfaction with some measures taken, there is a bigger picture here for parishes and organisations and we are doing our very best to comply – not only because we are required to do so, but because we are always to support the most vulnerable, including the many elderly and the immuno-compromised amongst us, and also those who choose to remain unvaccinated for whatever reason that is important to them. Let's be aware of how we might be people of reconciliation in a world in which surely needs that grace.

Fr Steven Rigo, Parish Priest & Jacinta Bright, Pastoral Associate

Reminder - please bring Proof of Vaccination each time you come to Mass, as we are required to sight it at every gathering.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COVID VOLUNTEERS. We have a number of people in the parish who have contributed throughout the time of COVID restrictions. On Saturday the 11th of December at 2.30 we will have an afternoon tea at which to thank all those who have helped out, whether ongoing or for a short period of time. Please come together so that we can thank you, on behalf of the parish. RSVP to the parish office on 9435 1543 or greensborough@cam.org.au

MANY THANKS I am so very grateful to Father Steve and our beautiful Parish family for all the prayers that have been said for me when I was unwell. I am feeling much better and stronger and 'me' again and I truly believe that all the wonderful prayers said for me is the reason. With all my heart I thank you all. God bless and love from Maureen Roberts.

FIRST EUCHARIST AT ST MARY'S We congratulate the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend and pray that they will always be guided by the Lord throughout their lives.

FIRST EUCHARISTS will be celebrated on the weekends of **27/28 November and 4/5 December. In relation to 5.00pm Mass.** If you are doubly vaccinated and usually go to 5.00pm Mass, please consider coming to a different Mass on these two weekends. The reason is that, if the restrictions for people of unknown vaccination status still apply, we will have some families (to a maximum of three families) with immediate family members only, coming to those 5.00pm Masses for their child's First Eucharist - and therefore may only have 15 places for others of unknown vaccination status at that Mass, on both weekends. As this is the only Mass where people of unknown vaccination status can attend, please be considerate of them.

ST MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS—ASYLUM SEEKERS. We are now able to again collect food & toiletries for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Any help is gratefully appreciated and some suggested goods are milk, tuna in oil, dried fruits, small packets of spices, peanut butter, biscuits, razors, detergent.

MASSES Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am, Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am and 10am for fully vaccinated people.

No booking required 5pm Sunday for people of unknown vaccination status. Bookings are essential. See link below.

Sunday 28 Nov 5pm Church 25 <https://www.trybooking.com/BVIAI>

Please note children over 12 months must have a ticket booked and will be included in the total count for masses.

PLEASE NOTE: It is essential that if you are booking via TryBooking, for more than one member in your family or for a friend for a mass, that each name **MUST** be booked for and entered separately.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

STAY TUNED - Thank you to all who participated in last month's session – *The Whole Story of Mental Health*. The feedback indicated that what Ros presented was very helpful and provided much fruit for reflection. A second session will be held in late February. Based on the feedback received, we have decided that this next session will delve deeper into this whole area of spirituality and mental ill health, perhaps with some exploration around listening skills. We will keep you posted. Also, keep an eye on our website www.cam1.org.au/greensborough. We are updating our resources page with a number of helpful resources, to support people in every aspect of life, including mental ill health. We will also be uploading a great video of a talk hosted by the Uniting Church Vic/Tas, Mental health: *Does Religion/Spirituality support or hinder?* with John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology, University of Aberdeen. This video is highly recommended. John Swinton is very easy to listen to and engaging.



Support Group for people experiencing anxiety during this COVID transition time Whilst, as a society, we navigate coming out of lockdown, anxiety seems heightened, for various reasons. Whether we are vaccinated or not, and for whatever reasons we make our choices, we are all human and we are all made in the dignity and likeness of God. At a time when there is a danger of judging, let us be a community of compassion. This is an invitation for anyone feeling anxious at the moment, to come along to a small support group in the parish. It isn't a therapy group. It's a support group. There will be some ground-rules, such as confidentiality and listening, but also no discussion about politics or conspiracy theories. Whilst some who are anxious hold certain beliefs about the vaccine, that others don't, this needs to be a space where we find compassion and care and support and respect – and perhaps a sense that we are not alone, and that all will be well. If you are interested, even just to find out more, please contact Jacinta at Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au or call the parish office on 9435 1543. I am thinking that we might gather as a group of a Wednesday morning at 9.15.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

November Baptisms: Stella Bowen, Grace Rehlicki, Isla Tedesco Milani Dowling, Hollie Hull, Lucas Kent, Dakota Ilsley,

Theodore Tink, Heath Kinkade, Archer Kinkade, Evelyn Drummond, Leon Castropil, Francesca Stelfox, Hannah Menichelli

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

Adele Wilkinson, Peter and Elsa, Larubina, Eileen Martin, Cecilia Chang, Isla Magann, Thomas Hyde, Miran Kasalo, Pat Garrard,

Michael McAleer, Matt Lorkin, Julie Daynds, Trevor Corcoran

Recently Deceased: Christine McAllister, Cynthia Da Roza, Jose Gomez

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

Eileen Sadlier, Kevin Murphy, Valerie Hedger, Lilian Jepsen, France Battour, Chris Naylor, Melissa Young, Avelino Abalos, Eileen Buchan, Eileen Sadlier, Alice Taylor, Peter McCrae, Pat Case, St Agnes Murtagh, Martiniano Zertuche, Don Rowe, Susan Marquez-David, Beth O'Shea, Emily O'Shea, Agnes Poole, Harry Laing, Lina & Tom Peluso, Ric Blackburn, Colin McWaters, Gabriel St. Martin, Bridget Johnston, Theresa Kelly, Sr Aquinas Naphthine RSM, Nards Maceda, Byron Reid, Maria Mellino, Laurie de Graaff, Percy De Zilwa, Leslie Richardson, Maria Antonia Nicolaci, Anthony Arnott, Margaret Hoyne, John Luckman, Michael Doyle, Anthony Ling, Mark Pereira, Kathleen Murphy, Tomasz Mroz, Celia Barot Kessler, Yvonne Kelly, Noelene McNamara, John Costigan, Maureen Stojanovic, Jolly D'Souza, Maria Antons, Stefan Schichmann, John Trenery, Vito Cannizzo, Marie Clark, Maria Rudati, William Marshall, Joy Riddell, Mary Anne Ng, Teresa D'Souza, Mary Anne Kennison, Claire Moyle, Josefina Barot, David Latorre, Patrick Bergin, Maria Antons, Michele Cifone, Rebecca McGaughlin

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

As you may be aware there is an Archdiocesan project that is proposed for the implementation of restructuring parishes in the Archdiocese. This project is called Take the Way of the Gospel.

A group has formed with representatives from each of our three parishes to plan the way forward including ways of consulting and discerning with our communities. The group has met this week.

A video presentation will be prepared and available during Advent and further information will follow in the new year.

For further information: <https://melbournecatholic.org/about/take-the-way-of-the-gospel>

ADVENT

The season of Advent begins today. It is the season of new beginnings: the start of the new liturgical year, the birth of Jesus, the beginning of summer. It is also a time for reflection about the coming of Jesus into our lives through grace and the sacraments, and a time to keep in mind that He will come again.

The theme for Advent this year is Witnessing to New Beginnings. This is such an appropriate theme for this year as we begin to emerge from lockdown and the damaging effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Our lives have changed: how we interact with family, friends, neighbours, the general community; how we work, learn, play and socialise; how we worship and experience our faith community; how we feel safe in our world and how we find ways to rebuild confidence, trust and hope in living a full life. During this time of Advent we move forward in the knowledge that God is with us as we rebuild our relationships and connections to others and open up to the new opportunities that are waiting.

Rebirth, renewal and the awakening of possibilities are themes also as the Plenary Council continues to deliberate what the Church in Australia is called to be in the future, and at a local level we are considering how we want our parishes to be structured to enable vibrant, faithful and committed communities to care for their own and to reach out to others. Many new beginnings to enliven our hearts and spirits.

Each week we light a candle, symbolising that Jesus is coming, and place it in the Advent Wreath. In the first week we bless the wreath and light the first candle, a purple candle representing Hope. We remember the prophets in the Old Testament who foretold the birth of Christ.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE FOR OUR PARISHES

Communal Penitential Service (For those fully vaccinated)

Will take place at St Thomas Church on Wednesday, 15th December at 7.30pm.

Bookings not required. The service will conclude with a light supper.

Reconciliation (For those fully vaccinated)

Individual Reconciliation will take place at **Sacred Heart & St Mary's** on Thursday 16th December from 7.00pm-8.30pm and at **St Thomas** on Friday 17th December from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

Bookings not required. Reconciliation will be heard on the Sanctuary at the Church.

Reconciliation (for those of unknown vaccination status)

Will be available at St Mary's, Sacred Heart & St Thomas by booking an appointment by emailing the individual Priest:

Fr Steven Rigo: Steven.Rigo@cam.org.au Fr Dixon George Dixon.George@cam.org.au

Fr Tao Pham: Tao.Pham@cam.org.au

Christmas Masses

Sacred Heart

Christmas Eve: Friday 24th December 6.00pm & 9.00pm

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th December 9.00am

Holy Family: Sunday 26th December 9.00am

St Mary's

Christmas Eve: Friday 24th December 6.30pm & 10.30pm

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th December 8.00am & 10.00am (No 5.00pm or 6.30pm Vigil Mass)

Holy Family: 26th December 8.00am & 10.00am (No 5.00pm Mass or 6.30pm Vigil Mass)

St Thomas

Christmas Eve: Friday 24th December 5.00pm & 7.30pm

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th December 10.30am (For those of unknown vaccination status)

Holy Family: Sunday 26th December 10.30am



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE 2021 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year's Appeal will be officially launched at St. Thomas on the weekend of 11th/12th December and the theme this year is- ***No child should be born without hope for the future.*** We see education as being a big part of that future and aim to especially support families who have children commencing in Year 7, 2022 with the associated costs that starting secondary school brings. We also continue to make sure that families receive a Christmas Meal Hamper. Our Parish schools are providing us with a large number of hampers, for which we are most grateful. We are also hoping that the parishioners of St. Thomas will once again be in a position to donate in whatever capacity they can afford -

- ◆ Appeal envelopes will be provided in the Gathering Space - they can then be placed in the Collection Baskets before/after Mass
- ◆ Credit card donations can be arranged by calling 13 18 12 and stating you are donating to the Greensborough Conference
- ◆ Donations can be made online via vinnies.org.au – please make sure you include Greensborough in the 'Comments/Conference Name' section

With our continued gratitude for your ongoing support!

Maureen Lonsdale, Greensborough Conference President

St. Vincent De Paul Society



HOPE, PEACE, LOVE & JOY

AN IGNATIAN ADVENT RETREAT



[Add a caption for your photo here.]

The light from each candle is an important symbol of the Advent season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others.

During this four-week retreat, you will be invited to pray and contemplate on the four graces of Advent, *Hope, Peace, Love & Joy*, using the First Spiritual Exercises. This retreat will be led by Nicole Ridler and Fr Dixon.

When:

First Session (HOPE)	Tuesday 30th November	7pm
Second Session (PEACE)	Tuesday 7th December	7pm
Third Session (LOVE)	Tuesday 14th December	7pm
Fourth Session (JOY)	Tuesday 21st December	7pm

Where: St Mary's Parish, Greensborough

RSVP by Monday 29th November

Please contact your Parish Office to register your details

St Mary's Greensborough – greensborough@cam.org.au

St Thomas', Greensborough North – greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek – diamondcreek@cam.org.au



LECTIONARY ART AND REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE

This Advent, our season of waiting begins with a dramatic foretelling of Christ's second coming. The signs that herald this event are on a cosmic scale and in line with the multi-layered imagery of Luke's infancy narrative. The signs are frightening and many will panic when the celestial bodies and the waters of the earth behave erratically – when the natural laws no longer apply. We must 'stay awake' and renew our lives through prayer and moral living in readiness for the end times.

First Sunday of Advent, Year C

28 November 2021

First Reading Jer 33:14-16

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow
for David,
who shall practise honesty and
integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be
called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and
teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who
stray,
he guides the humble in the right
path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant
and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those
who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now.

In some instances we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory.

This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert.

In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ *has* come, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again.

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