



**Sunday 31st October 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:** Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

**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

**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

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

Weekday Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes.

Sacred Heart: 9.15am Monday & Friday. St Mary's: 9.15am Tuesday-Friday. St Thomas: 9.15am Tuesday & Thursday.

**The normal schedule of Sunday Masses will resume on the weekend of the 6/7th of November.**

**5.00 pm Mass on Sundays at St Mary's 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](http://www.cam.1.org.au/greensborough) Sacred Heart: [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

St Thomas: [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://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



*Scripture reflection: The Father has lavished love upon us!*

*We ask the Lord's help to be generous in responding to the plight of those in our world.  
Feast of All Saints Year B, 1st November 2021*

© Australian Catholics

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

[www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

[www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)



**Our Partner 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



**Thank you to parishioners for your Thanksgiving contributions either by Credit Card, Direct Debit or Envelopes. New sets of envelopes and acknowledgements of donations (in Street order) will be available from the Parish Office the week starting 25th October.**

**Please contact the Parish if you are able to help with deliveries to your neighbours.**



**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 including Wade Robinson and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of October that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

Felicia Ongarello, Salvatore Caputo, Fr Leo Pascoe, Colin Elliott, Emma Goodge, Ken Nettleton, Patrick Finlayson, Maurie Roadley, Dianne Galea, Doris Toohey.

### Senior Moments

- \* Wednesday 17th November 12pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre. BYO lunch. Restrictions permitting.
- \* Wednesday 1st December 12pm Christmas Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

**New sets of thanksgiving envelopes are ready for collection from the school foyer.**

**The new envelopes start on the weekend the 7th of November.**

**If you are able to assist and drop off envelopes to your neighbours please give me a call in the Office. Thank you everyone for your continued support for our Priests and Parish.**

**If you have any news about events milestone celebrations, events, happening with Parish please send it in to keep other Parishioners informed.**



Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia, Solomon and Cora 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:**

Sarah Drummond, Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo

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

Guido Pariocco, Mary Moran, Helen Paul, Shirley Fraser, Katherine Biskup, Marianna Sacchetta, Reg Carr, Francis Bohan, Bill Watson, Pat Pelly, Frank Green, Grace Money, Betty Hannah

**Who is missing our beautiful Rose Garden?**



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



### CHANGES IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Unfortunately due to current financial situation the hours of employment for each of our staff members has been cut.

We regret not being able to offer you any further clarity regarding the future however, Francesca and Sharon will provide for our secretarial needs on **Monday 1.00pm-3.00pm** and **Thursday and Friday 10.00am-2.00pm**

And Jacinta's days will be **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.**

All messages and emails will be attended to as soon as we can.

Please continue to send and bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au)

To ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

We will keep you updated with any further changes. **Thank You**

### COLLECTION OF THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

**The St Mary's Parish Office will be open from 10.00am until 4.00pm on Friday 29th of October, for people wishing to collect new sets of envelopes.**

**If you would be willing to collect and deliver envelopes for other parishioners in your area, we would be very grateful.**



### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**November Baptisms:** Evie O'Meara, Isabelle James-Wotherspoon, Audrey Thwaites, Hunter Ludvik, Jamie Cartelli, Jessica Sutherland, Olivia Bonadio, Sylvie Bonadio, Charlotte Winther, Violet Winther, Lincoln Saavedra, Joshua Johnstone, Harry Lowther.

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

Adele Wilkinson, Eileen Dunn, Cynthia da Roza, Peter and Elsa, Larubina, Eileen Martin, Cecilia Chang, Anna Mouchacca, Isla Magann, Thomas Hyde, Miran Kasalo, Pat Garrard, Jose Gomez, Michael McAleer, Matt Lorkin, Julie Daynds

**Recently Deceased:** Peter Folvig, Benilda Maala

**We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:** Gertrude Evans, Vera Hardy, Mavis Wittingslow, Edith Griffin, Edgar Simmons, Gregorio Nobelas, Ramon Pena Snr., Margaret McGahan, Alicia C Malicse, Martin Carilo, Orbita Acta, Dolores Montenegro, Luisa Golla, Graeme Jenkins, Edna Mary Jenkins, Edward Chorazyzewski, Terry Esguerra, Pedring Aquino, Margaret McNamara, Marinella DeGuzman, John Martin Smith, Shaun David O'Connor, Eilen Waller, Glenn David, Louisa Turner, Derek Charles James, Purificacion Ferrer, William Bennett, Jane Flecknoe, Asuncion Del Prado, Maria Lourdes Carnoang, Derek Chambers, Marina Mamangun, Conchita Casenas, Dominga Abenir, Santos Abenir, Manuel Picardal, Gerald Rivera, Phyllis Brasington, Peter Chapman, Azucena Albaniel, Peter Watson, Mary Bird, Doug Pilkington, Enrique Velez Jr, Jose Carilo, Jose & Aurea Borjal, Armando Borjal, Norma Borjal, Vera Russell, Ed & Rose Schreenan, Jozef Gorski, Patrick & Kathleen Skehan, Rosalie Exton, Ferdinando Galai, Saunday Fernando, Mgr. Skehan, Joe Pereira, Elmo Jayasekora, Peter Hart, George Ranasinghe, Ferdindo Galati, J Bielasz, T Mroz, F.O.S.S.S. Manning, Patricia Krohn, Unborn children denied life, John Mc Connell, Rodelo Landrito, Daniel Dickson, Keith Barnett, Bernadette Russo, Bob Santamaria, Rudolf Jakubik, Veronica Ryan, Elsie & James Lynch, Vera, Joseph & Patrick Ashford, Frances Eventes, Irene Green, Claire Parritt, Danielle Howard, John Gerard Ryan, Dorothy Kilmartin, Ronald Brodie, Nicole Banks, Josie Russo, Doris Bull, William & Lilian Jepson, Andrew March, Melville Caevallo, Henry Bonner, Vivian Heaton, Noreen Watson, Olga Church, Georgina Sciberras, Stella Spriggs, Nina Cauchi, Sister Anita MSC, Leo Dowling, Caridad Valencia, Georgina Sciberras, Caterina & Frank Ravesi; Samuel, Charles, Bernard, Vincent & Catherine Allsopp, John Goode, Grace Muscat, Peter Tilbrook, Sr John Durran, Laurence Tilbrook, Paul Mason, Margaret Ronan, Caterina & Angelo Russo, Janet McDade, Archbishop Mannix, Dick Ellis, Carmeno Tricarico, Jessie Rodger, Daniel McManus, Bernie Tenni, Rob Spencer, Win Brosnan, Danny Carr, Maura Coyle, Isabel Perez, Gayle Little, Joe Russo, Ivy Neil, Rochelle Tennant, Laurance Desmond, Barry Donahue, Doreen Bowman Ursula Waldron, Giuseppe Giusti, Margaret Kelly.

## 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**

**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)

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)

## CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR VILLA MARIA-BUNDOORA

Volunteering at VMCH Bundoora Aged Care is a truly rewarding way to make a difference to people living in aged care in your community. Every moment spent volunteering at VMCH Bundoora has a positive impact on the person you spend time with.

- ◆ Resident activities - assisting residents to attend and take part in leisure and lifestyle activities
- ◆ Companionship - regularly visiting residents and developing friendships
- ◆ Pastoral Care activities, including assisting residents to attend Chapel or Mass and assisting with Communion
- ◆ Playing board games or cards with residents
- ◆ Gardening activities – assisting residents to continue their love of gardening
- ◆ Pet and animal therapy sessions
- ◆ Music therapy - concerts at facilities by visiting performers, music and memory sessions, dance sessions
- ◆ Art therapy and classes



To start your volunteer experience at VMCH please complete the online volunteer registration at:

<https://vmch.com.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/> or contact Anita at volunteer services on 0476 675271.

Advent begins Year C & the Gospel of Luke, to prepare come and

## **Meet Luke, his Gospel & his Jesus**

**3 Wednesday evenings 3, 10 & 17 Nov**

**7.30 - 9.30 pm via ZOOM**

**Book before 1 Nov at:**

**<https://www.trybooking.com/BTZES>**

**Overseas participant code: OVASEA**

Further information: Sandra Bishop 9434 7553.

This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.



## PRAYER, WORSHIP & WELLBEING

### MORNING TEA VIA ZOOM

Our Combined Parishes Morning Tea via Zoom will once again take place on Friday, 29th October from 10:30 am-12Noon. All welcome! We meet on the last Friday of each month. Please join us for laughter, catching up and giving a warm welcome to new members.

If you are a first-timer please contact [Jacinta.Bright@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.Bright@cam.org.au) who will add you to the contact list and send out a Zoom notification.







### ALL THINGS NEW 2022 IGNATIAN GATHERING FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-30years)

The Society of Jesus (Australian Jesuits) invites you to its Ignatian Gathering for Young Adults (18-30 years), to take place in Melbourne on 17th – 21st 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](mailto:magisaustralia@sjasl.org)



 <p>CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE</p>  <p>UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY</p>	<h3><u>Catholic Theological College</u></h3> <h3>2021 Knox Public Lecture</h3> <p>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm – 8.30pm</p> <p><b>Professor Eleanor Bourke</b> <i>Truth Telling &amp; the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission</i></p> <p>Bookings and Info: <a href="https://ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture">ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture</a></p> <p>Enq: <a href="mailto:sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au">sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au</a> or Phone 9412 3333</p> <p>Venue: online</p>
---	---

 <p>CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE</p>  <p>UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY</p>	<h3>Catholic Theological College</h3> <p>free online Open Day Information Sessions “Getting Started in Theology” &amp; “Pastoral &amp; Spiritual Practice”</p> <p><b>4, 17, 22 and 23 November</b></p> <p>These sessions will outline how to get started. Book via our website: <a href="https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/open-days/">https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/open-days/</a></p>
---	---

### AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Would you consider becoming an ACN parish representative and volunteering to help ACN tell more Australians about the suffering Church? If you are interested in representing ACN in your local parish, please call 1800 101 201 or email [cecilia@aidtochurch.org](mailto:cecilia@aidtochurch.org)



 <p>Light Red. Wear Red. Pray Red 24.11.2021</p>		 <p>1 Million Children praying the Rosary 18.10.2021</p>
---	---	--

### 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.



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

1Cor1.23

17 October 2021

*To all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.*

### **The XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops**

**For a synodal Church: *communion, participation, and mission***

My dear friends,

It would seem during this time of 'lockdown' and physical isolation, that the impulse to seek ways of hearing each other's voices, of listening deeply and of finding life-giving pathways together, have resonated deeply within each of us. Here in Melbourne, we have begun the journey towards personal and parish renewal; Australia-wide we have only just finished the first Session of the National Plenary Council; and this week we launch, in its local context, the Diocesan Phase of the Synod of Bishops. (The ACBC website has some helpful timelines to note: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>).

Whilst this might seem to be a case of challenging diary management, particularly during this time of uncertainty, there is no 'chance' occurrence of the interweaving between our Take the Way of the Gospel, the Council, and the Synod. At the local, national, and universal levels – the Holy Spirit's compelling call to all the people of God, the Body of Christ in the world, towards paths of profound renewal are reverberating loudly through every facet of our lives.

With this letter I launch and invite you as faithful of Melbourne into the synodal journey for the universal Church that was commenced with the official opening of the XVI Ordinary General Synod of Bishops on 10 October. It is now our opportunity to begin engagement in this important two-year convocation that seeks to hear and consider how we are walking together as a synodal Church in our announcing of the Gospel? And what steps the Spirit invites us to take in order to grow in our "walking together"?

To do this, the Church is seeking to draw in the participation of the greatest number of people in order to listen deeply and attentively to the living voice of the entire People of God. The purpose of this first phase is consultation at our local level, and the Proclaim Team will be co-ordinating how we can capture the richness and wealth of our experiences of lived synodality across our Church here in Melbourne. You will be hearing more in the coming weeks, please take some time to read more in preparation:

<https://www.synod.va/en.html>

I strongly encourage your participation, and there will be varying mechanisms for individual and group submissions. Beautifully, the preparatory document has also encouraged us not to merely think of producing mere documentation of activity – but offer a dialogue, as the Holy Father reminds us, **"to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, yearn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands."** (Pope Francis 2018)

In the opening ceremony last week, Bro Alois, the Superior of the Taizé community, was invited to share some thoughts:

*"This synodal process comes at a crucial moment when we can see two contradictory developments. On the one hand, humanity is becoming more clearly aware that we are all linked to each other and to the whole of creation. On the other hand, polarisation is growing in the social, political, and ethical domains, causing new divisions in societies, between countries, and even within families. Unfortunately, between our churches and also within them, there is a trend for differences to become polarisations that separate people, at a time when our witness to peace is vital...How can we move Christian unity forward?"*

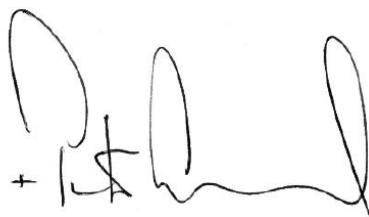
This certainly is what we have been asking of ourselves locally, nationally, and now globally. It is not a 'dragging of feet' against the tide – but a joyful embracing of the Holy Spirit's call as to what is possible. Again, there is no 'chance,' we only need to open our ears and hearts.

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," This same prayer was invoked during the first Session of the Plenary Council, and I share it with you now...

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

With every grace and blessing

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

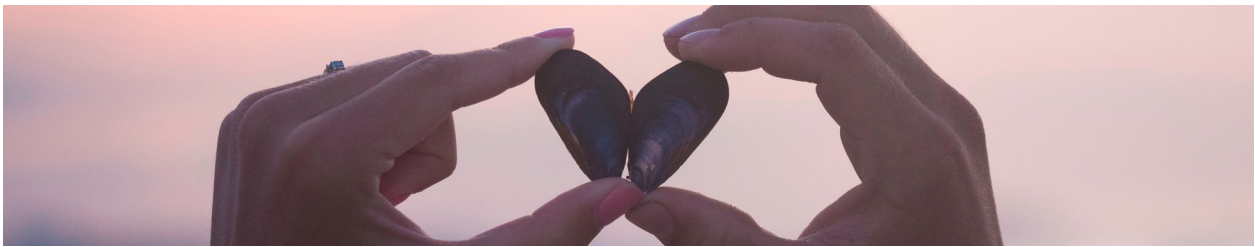
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A. Comensoli', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**

Archbishop of Melbourne

St Patrick's Centre, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia

Tel: +61 3 9926 5612 Email: [archbishop@cam.org.au](mailto:archbishop@cam.org.au)



## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

24 October 2021

### First Reading Jer 31:7-9

*I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.*

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob!  
Hail the chief of nations!  
Proclaim! Praise! Shout:  
The Lord has saved his people,  
the remnant of Israel!  
See, I will bring them back  
from the land of the North  
and gather them from the far ends  
of earth;  
all of them: the blind and the lame,  
women with child, women in labour:  
a great company returning here.  
They had left in tears,  
I will comfort them as I lead them back;  
I will guide them to streams of water,  
by a smooth path where they will  
not stumble.  
For I am a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 125. R. v.3**

*(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.*

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from  
bondage,  
It seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. *(R.)*
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. *(R.)*
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. *(R.)*
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full  
of song,  
carrying their sheaves. *(R.)*

### Second Reading Heb 5:1-6

*You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.*

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation See 2 Tim 1:10

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away  
with death,  
and brought us life through his gospel.  
Alleluia!*

### Gospel Mk 10:46-52

*Master, grant that I may see.*

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.



### Reflection by Greg Sunter

This passage from the Gospel of Mark draws to a close a significant section of the gospel. It stretches from 8:22 to this passage, 10:52. Like other examples in the Gospel of Mark, the stories at the beginning and end of the section are related and shed light on what they surround. Like this passage, the event at the beginning of the section is an account of the healing of a blind man. Contained within the two healings of blindness, as we have seen over the last six weeks, is an extended lesson on discipleship. Within this section, Jesus speaks about his upcoming death on three occasions and each time the disciples display their own form of blindness when they fail to understand what Jesus is trying to tell them quite explicitly. In this section, we have heard that discipleship involves suffering and hardship; it means placing one's own needs last and the needs of others first; and that discipleship is all about faith.

In this healing of blind Bartimaeus, we see all the hallmarks of what Jesus has been trying to teach the disciples in the preceding episodes. As a blind man, Bartimaeus would be regarded as 'imperfect' – incomplete – and consequently in a permanent state of uncleanness. He would not be allowed to live within the bounds of normal society, nor have contact with people. So it is that Jesus encounters Bartimaeus on the side of the road, outside the city walls as he is leaving Jericho. Learning that it is Jesus passing by, Bartimaeus calls on Jesus to help him and the crowd tries to shut him up and remind him of his status. But Jesus calls Bartimaeus to him and, placing the needs of the other first, asks 'What do you want me to do for you?' When Bartimaeus makes his request, Jesus announces that it is his faith that has saved him and his sight is restored. Bartimaeus, like a good disciple, then follows Jesus on the road.

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.