



**Sunday 20th December 2020**

**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:** 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

**WORSHIP & PRAYER**

*The celebration of Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes.*

**Tuesday-Friday 9.15am St Mary's**

**Tuesday/Thursday 9.15am St Thomas**

**Wednesday/Friday 9.15am Sacred Heart**

**Saturday: 6.00pm St Thomas 6.30pm St Mary's**

**Sunday: 8.00am/10.00am /5.00pm St Mary's**

**Sunday: 9.00am Sacred Heart**

**Sunday: 1030am St Thomas**

**Bookings are essential for Weekend Mass via Trybooking:**

The collection plate will not be passed around could you please leave your contributions in the baskets provided.

**You can search Trybooking without the link: Sacred Heart Diamond Creek or St Thomas Greensborough Mass.**

**Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our websites.**

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

**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, Shirley Bourke, Annette Hyland, Catherine Leonard, Haylie Adams-Vivanxay, Giovanna Ng, Petronilla De Leo, Elaine Chapman, Jim Goodge, Tony Ledda, Fr Owen Doyle, Sarah Drummond

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

Adam Hilbert, Des Vincent, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Gwen Dalwood, Kevin Hewitt, Frank Orders, Emilia Micomonaco, Adrian DeGier, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Julian Federico, Nancy Marzella, Giovanni Marzella, Leo Glennon

## TIME TO BREAK OUT THE BEST CHINA.

*Join us for Morning Tea with Fr Steven & Jacinta Bright & parishioners & friends, over Zoom\* every Friday from 10.00am -11.00am*

We will make sure the conversation flows well and if we have a big enough number we can break up into small groups to allow you to have quieter conversations.

If you are interested, please contact Jacinta via the Greensborough parish office on 9435 1543 or Email

[jacinta.bright@cam.org.au](mailto:jacinta.bright@cam.org.au)



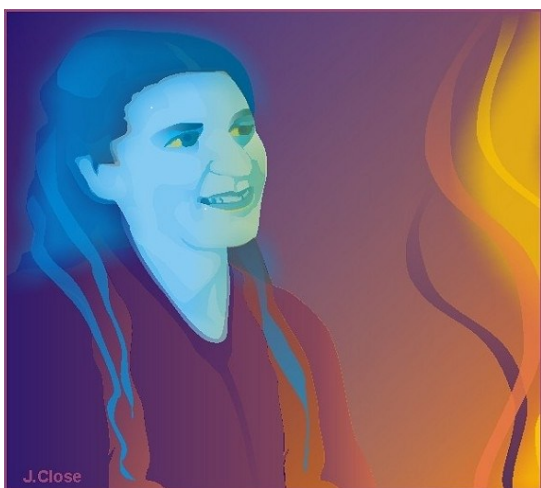
### LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION by Jenny Close 4th Sunday of Advent Year B

In last week's gospel, John used 'light' as a divine attribute; but in Luke's Annunciation 'the power of the Most High' covered Mary 'with its shadow'. It seems ironic that both light and shadow can be aspects of God. These seemingly conflicting motifs are examples of the human urge to devise metaphors which evoke the divine, even though we know that God can never be fully expressed in words or images.

In Luke's Annunciation, Mary is somewhere between the light and the shadow. Here the shadow has a protective, nurturing quality. Here too opposites are reconciled in God (flesh and spirit, light and shadow) 'for nothing is impossible to God'.

*Dr Jennifer Close has qualifications in Fine Arts and education. She gained here PhD in Theology from Griffith University. She has extensive experience creating liturgical art, and teaching theology. Her particular interests are in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology.*

### JESUS IS CHRISTMAS Sunday 20th December 7.00pm



J.Close

To celebrate the Season of Advent and Christmas, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting a TV carols special entitled "Jesus is Christmas" on Sunday 20th December at 7pm. It will be aired on local community channel C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed online via the Archdiocesan YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/archmelb)).

The one-hour program features a stellar line including singer and performer Silvie Paladino, Gary Pinto, opera singer Michael Petruccelli, and a host of other local artists and parish choirs.

'Gathering with family and friends for carols in our local parishes and schools is normally one of the highlights of the Christmas season,' he said.

'This TV special is a chance for us to gather, from the comfort of our homes, and listen to the familiar and joyous sounds of Christmas. It's a reminder that despite the challenges we've all faced this year, we are a people of hope. And that hope has a name: Jesus.

*'Jesus is Christmas—then, now, always.'*

### 2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

The 2021 Columban Art Calendar is now available for purchase.

As our Churches are still closed if you would like to purchase a Calendar you can contact Lisa **9434 7373** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or Pat **9401 6361** [diamondcreek@cam.org.au](mailto:diamondcreek@cam.org.au) to reserve your Calendar.

**We only have limited stock at \$10.00 each.**



### 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 Dixon 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.

*Personal information is collected, stored, used and disclosed by all Partner Parishes in conformity with Commonwealth & Victorian Legislation of 2001.*

*A copy of all Parishes Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner at the Parish Office and on our Websites.*

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

Our Priests & liturgy teams are preparing for the Christmas Masses.

The timetable is as follows:



### Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

*	5.00pm	St Thomas (Additional Mass)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK</a>
*	6.00pm	Sacred Heart	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRZ">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRZ</a>
*	6.30pm	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSQ">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSQ</a>
*	7.30pm	St Thomas	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRK</a>
*	9.00pm	Sacred Heart	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSC">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNSC</a>
*	10.30pm	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTH">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTH</a>

### Christmas Day 25th December

*	8.00am	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTM">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTM</a>
*	9.00am	Sacred Heart	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRU">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRU</a>
*	10.00am	St Mary's	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTM">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNTM</a>
*	10.30am	St Thomas	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRM">https://www.trybooking.com/BNNRM</a>
*	<b>No 5.00pm Mass at St Mary's</b>		

**Bookings open St Thomas 11th December, Sacred Heart & St Mary's 15th December.**

### INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION FOR ADVENT

Individual Reconciliation for Advent will take place at Sacred Heart, St Thomas and St Mary's Churches on Thursday 17th December from 7.00pm-9.00pm.

Bookings are not required.

Reconciliations will take place on the sanctuary in each Parish.

### UPDATE GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

- *Face coverings throughout the celebration of Mass and the reception of Holy Communion are no mandatory.*
- *Record keeping is still required for all attendees at Mass.*
- *People must carry a face covering at all times. If a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained, either indoor or outdoors, then face coverings must be worn (unless they are people that live with each other, or have a lawful reason or are children under 12 years of age).*

#### Distribution of Communion

- Required 1.5 metres distancing between Communicants is maintained in the queue.
- Hands must be sanitized before receiving Communion.
- Sanitiser will be placed in the Church.
- The host is placed in outstretched and flat hands.
- Please return to your seat via a different pathway trying to maintain distancing



# Partnered Parish Plenary Facilitator Group Update

December 2020

The Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group has continued to meet and discuss its plans and actions in advancing the cause of implementing the local actions raised during Stages one and two of the plenary meetings held in the parishes.

Below are some outcomes worked on during the year:

## **1. Outreach to Secondary School Students**

Work is currently being done in relation to Secondary Schools and the students, in order to facilitate ways in which parishes and schools can work more closely together in the areas of faith, liturgy and social justice. The hope is that students may be encouraged to continue this work into life after school. There is a School Leaders Liturgy event being planned for term 2 in 2021.

## **2. Gospel Reflections**

Our group is engaged in an initiative with the combined liturgy team of Sacred Heart and St Thomas leading, that is consistent with some of the sentiments coming out of the Plenary discernment: greater involvement of the laity in liturgy. There is a pilot of gospel reflections using a simple and user friendly system called Faith Circles We gather via a conferencing method (Zoom) and discuss the next Sunday's Gospel, its meaning to us and how it applies to our daily lives. In 2021 this will be offered to all members of the three partnered parishes via a notice in the parish bulletin.

## **3. Governance**

We have completed a document about Governance, Statement of Intent and Model of the way the Plenary Facilitators Group works, recognizing that it is absolutely essential to how the church operates at all levels, including the parishes. This document will be available on each Parish's website.

A submission on the subject of Church Governance has been sent to the Plenary Council for inclusion in submissions at the Assembly from this group.

## **4. Other Matters**

Consistent with some responses from parishioners, parishes are looking at developing pastoral councils across St Thomas and Sacred Heart and this is supported by the Plenary Facilitators Group.

This group will continue working next year responding to recommendations coming from the Listening and Discernment Process and to follow the Plenary Process on a National Level.

*We wish you a Blessed Christmas and may God bless us all*

*The Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group*

*Sacred Heart, St Thomas, St Mary's*



**First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2**

**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

**Second Reading Rom 16:25-27**

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lk 1:26-38**

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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