

Sunday 10th December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & 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.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Tanya O'Meara & Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & **5.00pm**

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

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

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

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

St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday 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

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

Saints of the Week: St Andrew, Thursday 30th November.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B.

10th December 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-2-advent-year-b>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/



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.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

THEME FOR ADVENT

The theme for Advent this year is Messengers of Hope. In today's world, it can often be hard to see signs of hope, for our planet, in our communities, for our families. Once again war, tragedy, violence and natural disasters have challenged and upset our sense of peace and safety. Fear, uncertainty and self-interest have flourished at times when love, generosity and reconciliation were needed. In the history of our Church, we have always had messengers of hope to remind us of the love of God: the prophets, the angels, the saints, John the Baptist, to name a few. This Advent, let us look around for messengers of hope and as a start we need to look no further than our children. These young ones, full of life and promise, are the children of God, loved by Jesus and our hope for the future.

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14)

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

In the Gospel this week written by Mark, he begins by identifying his purpose for writing: he proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah – He has arrived as prophesied. What follows is the word of the Lord, the life and the teachings of Christ. Already the reader is filled with anticipation. John the Baptist is our next messenger of hope. He has been sent to prepare the way for Jesus. John has a strong following among the Jews for his honest and humble witness to God but he directs them to the One to come. Their hope will be fulfilled by Jesus and through baptism with the Holy Spirit. And this remains true for us today.

"Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 31:24)

ADVENT CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2023

Blessing of the Christmas Crib

This weekend at St Mary's our Christmas crib will be blessed.

All parishioners and particularly families with children are invited to bring an item from their own cribs or Christmas tree to be blessed at the same time.

Communal Penitential Service

Will take place at **St Thomas'** on **Friday, 15th December** at 7:00 pm (supper to follow)

Individual Reconciliation

Sacred Heart	Friday 1/8/15/22 December	9:45-10:15 am) each Parish
St Mary's	Saturday 2/9/16 December	5:45-6:15 pm) or by
St Thomas	Saturday 2/9/16/23 December	9:30-10:00 am) appointment at

Masses for Christmas

Sacred Heart	Christmas Eve	5:00 pm
	Christmas Day	9:00 am
St Mary's	Christmas Eve	<u>no 5:00 pm Mass</u> Carols 5:30 pm, Mass 6:00 pm Carols 9:00 pm, Mass 9:30 pm
	Christmas Day	8:00 am and 10:00 am <u>no 5:00 pm Mass</u>
	St Thomas	Christmas Eve
	Christmas Day	10:30 am



NEWSLETTER: -All parishioners are encouraged to contact your parish office to add your name to the email distribution list for our partnered parishes newsletter. This will allow you to always have access to the newsletter on your phone or computer and will help reduce our carbon footprint by saving paper. Copies will continue to be available at our churches and on our parish websites.

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Isabelle & Jaden who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in December.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: 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** or **cash** it would be very much appreciated. There will be a leaving collection this weekend. Donations in envelopes can also be placed in collection bags next week or left at Parish Office. THANK YOU



THANK YOU: Special thank you to Mary Jahne for making the beautiful banner for our recent Liturgy of Lament Service. The banner is now displayed on the Reconciliation room in Sacred Heart church.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: THE Columban Art Calendar is now available in the Church. \$10.00 each, limited stock.

DIAMOND CREEK COMBINED CHURCHES QUIET CHRISTMAS SERVICE: for those who have been bereaved or experienced loss, ill health or difficulties throughout the year. St John's Church Diamond Creek 7.30pm Wednesday 13th December.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wishing everyone a Holy, Safe and Happy Christmas.

2024 Planning Meeting Wednesday 7th February 12pm in Parish Centre. New members welcome.

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 12th December F. Geoghegan, P. Leonard

Saturday 16th December St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: P. Leonard **Commentator:** M. Frisby **Eucharistic Ministers:** Amindha

Sunday 17th December Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: C. Fernando **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Bell, C. Ledda

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

Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard

We pray for those who have died including Jillian Holzer (nee Sharkey) and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Adam Hibbert, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Frank Orders, Julian Federico, Brian Bell, John Elliott, Clara Mercieca, Paul Clements, Bernice Burke, Rose Hegarty.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 10am-4pm.

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au or greensborough@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am (School Mass) and 7.00pm on Friday the 8th of December for our Parish Feast Day.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Due to a funeral on Wednesday 13th December our final meeting will be rescheduled.

Please call Geraldine. 0438 148 896.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING RAFFLE: Last chance to buy tickets in our Christmas stocking raffle which will be drawn after 10am Mass this weekend. We also have a bargain table of goods for sale. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990

SACRISTANS, PROJECTIONISTS, READERS AND COMMUNION MINISTERS Christmas Masses Invitation. If you are available to exercise your ministry at our Christmas celebrations, please add your name to the roster in the gathering space on the table near the kitchen. Thank you.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: THE Columban Art Calendar is now available in the Church. \$10.00 each, limited stock.

DOM LA FERLITA will be selling 2024 calendars after Saturday evening mass. All photos have been taken by him around our beautiful state of Victoria. Calendars are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. They are perfectly local and make for great gifts!

CHURCH SECURITY : Group members and parishioners are reminded to check that ALL doors of the church and gathering space are securely locked and all lights are off when you leave after evening Masses and meetings. Thank you.

HOLY ROSARY is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays.

Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE 2023 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year's Christmas Appeal will be officially launched at St. Mary's Parish on the weekend of **2nd/3rd December**. The local 'Companions' we visit in Greensborough and Watsonia are often hungry, anxious and desperate. Christmas will look different this year for struggling families.

If possible we ask Parishioners to please consider donating whatever is affordable to enable us to continue our Conference's work of providing help to those who seek it. To donate please see below-

1. *Appeal envelopes will be provided at the end of the pews and in the Gathering Space of the Church - they can then be placed in the 2nd Collection or in the 'after Mass' Collection bag. Donations can also be placed in the Collection bags on the following weekends.*
2. *Credit card donations can be arranged by calling **13 18 12** and stating you are donating to the **Greensborough** Conference **Christmas Appeal***
3. *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 and incredible generosity!

Maureen Lonsdale, Greensborough Conference President

St. Vincent De Paul Society



BLESSING OF OUR CHRISTMAS STABLE



At all Masses on the weekend of 9 and 10 December our Christmas stable will be blessed.

Parishioners are invited to bring along an item from their stable at home, or a special decoration from their Christmas tree, and they will also be blessed.

Children are invited to draw or colour in a picture of a Christmas stable and leave it in the box on the table in the gathering space during December. They will be displayed around the walls of the church during Advent and the Christmas season.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

Be informed, inspired and entertained



Books of the Week

This week we are promoting the dozen books in our collection by Father Gerard Dowling who died last week at the age of 91. The books include those on bereavement and grief, prayers and devotions and general counselling. Father Dowling was known as Melbourne's "Radio Priest" through his long running counselling program on 3UZ. May he rest in peace.

Online access to the catalogue is available at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms:

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Lois Jones, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Mick O'Meara.

Recently Deceased:

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

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 McGauchlin, Lucy Forssman, Evelyn Hall, Dick Hanan, Eva Hoare, Harold Loughnane, John Faigh, Girlie Simons, Lindsay Buckingham, John Trener, Peter Carr, John Farrell, Eileen Waller, Vsasos Georgiou, Herbert Barker, Herbert Veitch, Ellen Darcy, Peter Rowe, Ng Pak, Livinia Fernandez, Angela Alfon, Catherine Dowling, Mary Batchelor, Connor Deedman, Carmen Grech, Katherine McElroy, Margaret Rowse, Leslie Pereira, Irene Maher, Eileen Dunn, Eliodora Pons, Nairade O'Neill, Thelma Parmenter, Kathleen Rutter, Keith Backman, Edith Maynes, Myra Kissane, Peter Willcocks, Serge Teycheney, Reynolds Fernandez, Stephen Thomas, Guerina Zoch, Patricia Tunny, John Fowler, Mabel Smith, Frederick Devlin, Mary Hussey, Herbert Strommer, Leo Van Oosterick, John Kilmartin, Rosina Casamento, Margaret Barry, Mauro DiFuntorum, Brita Daly

2023 CCPR RAFFLE - LIST OF WINNERS DRAWN SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER AT 7:30PM

AT RESURRECTION PARISH 402 CORRIGAN ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH Permit No – 10175/23

Prize	Winning Ticket Number	Name of Winner	Organisation Selling Ticket
Kia Picanto Auto	25450	Marian Flynn	St Thomas Parish Drysdale
\$5,000 Coles/Myer Voucher	26548	Ann McGeary	Lifeboat Geelong
\$3,000 Coles/Myer Voucher	16925	Liam Gill	Holy Trinity Parish East Bentleigh
\$1,000 Coles/Myer Voucher	09756	David Swlleksz	Holy Family Parish Mt Waverley
\$1,000 Coles/Myer Voucher	07033	Mirco Kovac	Resurrection Parish Keysborough
\$500 Coles/Myer Voucher	09505	Peter Agardy	Holy Family Parish Mt Waverley
\$500 Coles/Myer Voucher	55483	Losefo	Holy Child Parish Dallas

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm
Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)
Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS:



All 6 sessions over 3 Thursday afternoons
2.00 to 3.15pm
23 & 30 Nov, 7 Dec.
St Thomas the Apostle Church
Enquiries: Emilia 0418 120 902

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE 2023 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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With our continued gratitude for your ongoing support and incredible generosity!

Maureen Lonsdale, Greensborough Conference President

St. Vincent De Paul Society

Roster for Weekend 16th & 17th December

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: K. Salm **Commentator:** T. Holland **Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Holland, L. Carty, M. Mc Kenzie

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny **Commentator:** Volunteer **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Kerr, C. O'Brien, R. Piccolo

Set Up: C. O'Brien

Dear Friends of St Thomas

Advent begins this coming Sunday so we have come to that time when I am appealing for assistance from

Readers / Commentators and Eucharist Ministers for our Christmas Masses.

If you are available to help could you please contact me.

May God bless you all for your important contribution to the life of our parish.

Many thanks

Sue



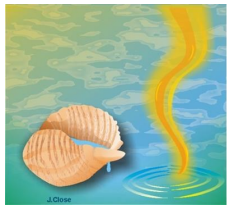
St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:

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

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager

We pray for those who have died recently including Fr. Gerry Dowling and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Emilia Micomonaco, Adrian DeGier, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Nancy Marzella, Giovanni Marzella, Leo Glennon, Stjepan Kernjak



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Mark's Gospel begins with a narrative about baptism with water and the Holy Spirit. The earthly water washes away the detritus of sin and the Holy Spirit regenerates: the water is ours to use, but the Holy Spirit is pure gift. The focus on repentance and grace is part of our Advent task – to prepare ourselves by reflecting on our lives and seeking forgiveness while we watch and wait.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10 December 2023

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'
 A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
 Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
 Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
 then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
 Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
 Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
 Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'
 Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

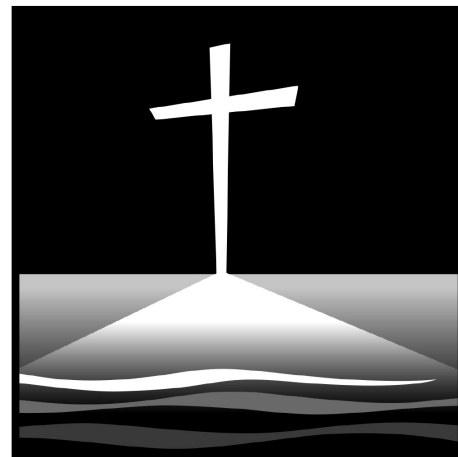
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

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.
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