



Sunday 3rd 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



Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

First Sunday of Advent, Year B.

3rd December 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-1-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.

ADVENT

The season of Advent begins today, a period of waiting for the birth of Christ. It is the season of new beginnings: the start of the new liturgical year, Year B, the year of the Gospel of Mark; 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 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)

ADVENT CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2023

Blessing of the Christmas Crib

At Masses at **St Thomas** and **Sacred Heart** next weekend **2nd/3rd December**, 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.

The blessing and same invitation for **St Mary's** will take place at all Masses on **9th/10th December**.

96th Festival of Family Carols

Will take place at **St Mary's** on **Sunday, 3rd December** at 7:30 pm

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 (Sun 24th/12)	<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 (Mon 25th/12)	8:00 am and 10:00 am <u>no 5:00 pm Mass</u>
	St Thomas	Christmas Eve
	Christmas Day	10:30 am



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

ARCHDIOCESE TRAINING MODULE

If any parishioner from our partnered parishes does not have a Working with Children Check, renewed their WWCC or have not completed the Safeguarding training module you will no longer be able to continue in the ministry that you volunteer in after the 11th of November. There will be no exception.

To apply for a WWCC go to:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

Alternatively you can complete the Safeguarding training now using your WWCC or VIT card to begin.

To access the training follow the link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>



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.

Thank you.

A FULL DAY ADVENT RETREAT: An invitation to all of you for a full-day Advent Retreat taking place on December 9, 2023, right here in our parish of St Damian's Church, Address: 5 Settlement Road, Bundoora, Vic 3083. The retreat will run from 10 am to 4 pm and promises to be a day of spiritual enrichment and reflection.

Our theme for this special day is "Mary's Yes to God's Call." Led by the Melbourne Archdiocesan Proclaim Office, the retreat will encompass various elements such as Praise & Worship, insightful Talks, moments for Reflection, enriching Discussion, and an opportunity for Sharing. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

For more information contact St Damian's parish: Bundoora@cam.org.au or 9467 2797.

ADVENT 2023 PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Join me and people all around the world for a free Daily Devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent. Starting 3rd December, you'll receive a short inspirational video each day filled with real life stories and practical ways to help you in your prayer and spiritual journey. I find, "You don't become what you hope to become. You only become what you do." What will you do this Advent?

Register here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Advent/>

For more information, email: info@brucedownes.org

*Greensborough Interchurch Council G.I.C.C Invites you to join in the
annual Festival of Carols*

*St Mary's Church
Sunday 3rd of December at 7.30pm*



A wonderful opportunity to bring along the whole family and lift up our voices to the Lord with in the lead up to Christmas, featuring special Musical entertainment for the children of our faith communities!



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.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS CRIBS: : 9am Mass this Sunday 3rd December the first Sunday of Advent.

Please remember to bring your Christmas crib from home and /or for the children to colour a Nativity scene. The family cribs and art work will be blessed along with the large Parish Crib. The children's art work will then remain on display for the Christmas season.



COMBINED WORKING BEE: Parishioners are invited to join with school families at a one hour working bee following 9am Mass **this Sunday 3rd December.** Please bring gloves and secateurs as the aim is to tidy up our street fence line garden area and trim some overhanging bushes. Much appreciated.

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: Wednesday 6th December Christmas Lunch 12pm in the Parish Centre.

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 5th December M. Dunn, A. Ridsdale

Sunday 10th December Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: D. Botica **Commentator:** F. Ledda

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Cusack, J. Bruce

Saturday 16th December St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: P. Leonard **Commentator:** M. Frisby

Eucharistic Ministers: Amindha

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 Fr Gerard Dowling 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



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.

THANK YOU: Sincere thanks to Barbara, Joe, Benny and Paul who transported plants to the fair, a further thankyou to Paul for returning to pick up unsold plants. Special thanks to Christine who worked tirelessly all day. Phil Newell.

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.

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



As Advent approaches, the Library has a collection of books and pamphlets to help us prepare for Christmas, e.g.

Waiting for Christ by John Henry Newman

What are we waiting for by Richard Leonard

Find other books on the shelf at 242.3 or on the pamphlet stand.



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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

November 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: Fr. Gerry Dowling

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

Edith Straede, David O'Regan, Luke Benson, Joseph Brown, Charles Woodhead, Dorreen Harricks, William Hains, Adelina Tarnate, Leo Rutter, Mary Hoath, Joe De Sensi, Frank Dowling, Peter Hedger, James Sertori, France Battour, Alex Stewart, Francis Marshall, Gregorio Noblejas, Michel Leao, Tessie Sargent, Jack Collis, Ron Coleman, 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 Naphine 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 Trenergy, Vito Cannizzo



SOLEMNITY OF
THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY

December 8th

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

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS CRIBS: This weekend 2nd and 3rd December, the First Weekend of Advent, is the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi preparing a reenactment of the Nativity at Bethlehem, and school families have been asked to bring an item from their crib or stable at home to have it blessed at Masses. All parishioners are invited to bring an item from their own cribs also. We will be also having a barbecue after Mass on Sunday 3rd, and all parishioners are invited to attend.



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 9th & 10th December

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: J. Bohan

Commentator: K. McMahon

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Bohan, M. Bedford, S. Bishop

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Bates

Commentator: Volunteer

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Riordan, A. Letzia

Set Up: M. Bates

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS continued

St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council Report

On Wednesday 15th November, members of the PPC met for the final meeting for the year. It was a very constructive and full meeting and we include below a report of achievements for the year for your information and consideration.

Our first meeting for 2024 is on Wednesday 21st February.

2023 Achievements

- ◆ Establishment of close liaison and communication with the parish primary school, resulting in a number of actions/activities such as:
- ◆ Rosary beads provided for school students
- ◆ Sacramental cards for St Thomas students who received the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.
- ◆ Visit by parishioners to students to present Confirmation cards.
- ◆ Letters of farewell and congratulations given to graduating Garde 6 students
- ◆ School and parish teams working together, inviting students and the new Preps for 2024 , to the blessing of the cribs on the first Sunday of Advent and a barbecue after the Mass
- ◆ Holding the first Annual General Meeting for this PPC
- ◆ Regular communication with parishioners regarding PPC activities and initiatives
- ◆ Strong relationships built with parish groups and inter parish groups with regular consultation, planning, provision of support and sharing of information
- ◆ Support for shared liturgies, events etc between the three parishes
- ◆ Support for initiative of the Baptism Team to invite families who have had children baptised this year to renew baptismal vows on first weekend of Advent and to participate in the blessing of the cribs – work with Liturgy Team to plan and organise
- ◆ Initiation of Alpha Parenting Children course
- ◆ Special blessing and recognition at Mass and morning tea for all those who volunteer in any capacity in our parish
- ◆ Continued reach out to St John of God Accord regarding how we may offer support and community
- ◆ Early Learning Centre development - PPC kept informed of progress
- ◆ Involvement in formation of Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council – three PPC members participate in this council
- ◆ Initial work on production of a brochure - what groups and activities are available in the parish
- ◆ Decision to have remembrance plaques for priests who have served the parish placed in the church. Plaques for Fr Peter and Fr Tao now in place
- ◆ Initial consideration of and planning for the 25th anniversary of St Thomas' church – 2024 - and the 40th anniversary of the parish - 2026
- ◆ Involvement by more parishioners in 'The Way of the Gospel' – Proclaim
- ◆ Exploring further conversation on how to engage parishioners through "pre-evangelisation, kerygmatic, catechesis" activities/ events
- ◆ Ongoing formation of ministry groups across 3 parishes initiated, commencing with Baptism groups in February 2024
- ◆ Church air-conditioners replaced
- ◆ Church projector screens replaced
- ◆ Ongoing Church/grounds maintenance

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 Advent is a waiting time and a time of change in our world. Things are changing, but the changes can take us by surprise if we are not alert and looking for them. The natural cycle echoes the Advent mystery: we wait in hope for the coming of the Kingdom, for the end time, for the completion of creation.

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3 December 2023

First Reading **Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8**

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading **1 Cor 1:3-9**

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation **Ps 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mk 13:33-37**

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

mtate@bigpond.com