



Sunday 3rd March 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** 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: 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 Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **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

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **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

**Communal Penitential Service will be held at St Thomas the Apostle Parish on
Tuesday 19th March at 7.00pm**



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Christ, the power and the wisdom of God
O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

Third Sunday in Lent Year B, 3 March 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-3-lent-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.

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Week 3

Today is the third weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today Jesus drives out of the Temple the money changers and merchants who treat the house of his Father principally as a place of business, not one of prayer and worship. Jesus also references his resurrection, which was not understood by the Jews or the apostles at that time.

To understand the word of God requires a transformed heart, one that hears and responds to the invitation of faith, to enter the Kingdom of God.

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:44)

VOCATIONS NEWS:

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you for your prayers for Vocations over the years. We were delighted to accept eight men to the Seminary for Melbourne this year:

Chinh Tran, Rohan Prince, Luke Kennedy, Luke Emslie, Tung Phan, Joseph Maae, Patrick Harris and Mathews Noble.

Many of you have personally helped and encouraged these men along their journey to apply to join the Seminary; it truly is a team effort!

Please continue to pray for them!

Part of the work of the Vocations Office is to promote Vocations throughout our Archdiocese. Please feel free to contact us if you have any thoughts/plans of how we can do so better.

In Christ,

Fr Dishan and the Vocations Team

ST MARY'S LADIES AUXILIARY: St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome.

TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION: at St John's Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19th – 28th April at 12 noon until 4pm. TOGETHER 2024 is inviting local artists to display their work in the welcoming space of St John's.

All mediums welcome. Art has the power to transcend words, fostering connections that go beyond the ordinary.

TOGETHER aims to be a space where community members connect, resonate, and find common ground through the language of art.

Free Entry. www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SPECIAL FORUM :In anticipation of International Women's Day on March 8th, Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) extends a warm invitation to the International Women's Day Special Forum – a special event commemorating this milestone achieved through a collaborative effort with the Grail in Australia.

The International Women's Day Special Forum is open to Australian women preachers, avid listeners, and supporters.

Together, we will celebrate the latest achievement of the Australian Women Preach team: the creation of 157 sermons, now encompassing the entire Sunday lectionary cycle.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross will be held at St Thomas Church every Friday during lent commencing at 7.00pm.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT WEEKEND OF 2-3 MARCH 2024

**LEAIA'S STORY,
SAMOA**



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother, and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to clean water for their daily lives has caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they used to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, she had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at their home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.



REFLECTION

If the world is one great classroom, then God is a fantastic teacher. We have all had experience of this: the firm and gentle way that God opens our minds and helps us to understand.

Today's readings show three different ways that God tries to get through to us. In the first reading, God sets some clear expectations for behaviour. They are all based around respect, both for the teacher and for those with whom we share the class! At the same time, God reminds us 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.' In other words, these are not random rules. They are designed to protect our deepest freedom. Disregarding them sends us back into captivity.

In the Gospel, Jesus is annoyed by people who think they know everything but who have not properly understood the basic lesson about justice and reverence. 'Stop turning my father's house into a market.' Finally, St Paul speaks about wisdom. 'God's weakness is human strength.' This is another style again: inviting us into a mystery, almost using riddles to get us to think outside the box.

It is no surprise that the Catholic community has always valued education and done a great deal to

make it accessible for people around the world. Just as God teaches us, so too do we try to share the wonderful gift of learning with others.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Leaia, who lives in Samoa. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed in Leaia's home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe. The time that was previously spent walking to collect water in buckets from a neighbour down the street can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly, her children don't have to miss out on school. School is a doorway that opens onto a better world.

The Gospel today says that Jesus knew what a person had in them. We should try to be the same: to see the potential, not just the surface.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray that we will deepen our faith over the whole of our lives. May we be open to the many lessons God wants to teach us. Through Project Compassion, may we support the journey of all to fullness of life. Lord, hear us.



FUNDRAISING IDEA

Spread the word of Project Compassion and ask parishoners to take part in a fundraising event like Caritas Ks. Resources can be found at fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au

BULLETIN NOTICE

You can help women like Leaia access clean water and look forward to a brighter future for her family by making a generous donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

LENT / HOLY WEEK - 2024

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

St Thomas: Continuing on Fridays **1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March** at 7:00 pm

COMBINED PARISHES COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

St Thomas: Tuesday **19th March**, 7:00 pm *(with supper following)*

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart: Fridays (not Good Friday) 9:45 - 10:15 am

St Mary's: Saturday evenings 5:45 - 6:15 pm *(or by appointment)*

St Thomas: Saturdays 9:30 - 10:00 am *at each Parish)*

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY – 23rd/24th MARCH *(Please bring own foliage)*

Ceremony will begin outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart : Sunday 9:00 am

St Mary's: Saturday 6:30 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

St Thomas: Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:30 am

HOLY THURSDAY – 28th MARCH ***NO morning Mass***

St Mary's: 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

St Thomas: 6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

(St Mary's & St Thomas -Prayer before Altar of Repose after Mass

Concluding with Night Prayer at 9:30 pm)

GOOD FRIDAY – 29th MARCH ***NO morning Mass***

St Thomas: 11:00 am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (Combined local Churches)

St Mary's: 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Sacred Heart: 3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY – 30th MARCH

St Mary's: 10:00 am Morning Prayer

EASTER VIGIL - 30th MARCH

St Mary's: 6:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

Sacred Heart : 7:30 pm Service of Light outside the Church (weather permitting)

EASTER SUNDAY - 31st MARCH

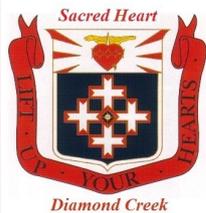
Sacred Heart: 9:00 am

St. Mary's: 8:00 am & 10:00 am ***NO 5:00 pm***

St. Thomas: 10:30 am



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 Lenny, Mila and Oscar who will be welcomed into our community in March.

FLYNN HOUSE MASS: We welcome staff and students from Loyola College 9am this Sunday 3rd March. Parishioners are invited to stay after Mass for morning tea generously provided by Flynn House families.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: at Sacred Heart on Fridays, when Fr Steven is away on holidays this year, we are planning to celebrate Liturgy of the Word instead of Mass. Any generous volunteers, interested in leading Liturgy of the Word, would be most welcome to contact the Parish Pastoral Council via email at ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com Support and formation will be provided.

With thanks, Marg Farrell. PPC Chair

PARISH RAFFLE: tickets are now available in the church for next month's raffle, the prize is a Voucher for Vines Café/Nillumbik Cellars.

AUDIO-DIVINA: is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. The-RightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/> The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: 'Let the little children come to me' Mathew19:14

Children's liturgy of the word is commencing in 2024 during 9am mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of school terms for children from preschool to grade 3. Volunteer leaders are welcome. Working with children card and safeguarding training is mandatory. Training provided. For information call Jasna Bruce 0403827350.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting 14th March. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 6th March 12pm lunch at Diamond Creek Hotel.

Wednesday 20th March 12pm Lunch & Scrabble 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 March B. & P. O'Regan

Sunday 10th March Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: J. Hoyne

Commentator: Y. O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Cusack, J. Bruce

Saturday 6th April St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: R. Nicolaisen

Commentator: E. Gittins

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, Fr Terry Kean

Recently Deceased: *John McCann (Alison Leutchford's father) Jesse Baird and Luke Davies*

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

Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

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

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS: Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email mamitchem@gmail.com for further information.

LADIES AUXILIARY: St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome

PLEA FOR COMPASSION, MERCY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE-AND AN END TO GLOBAL CONFLICTS: Pope Francis has been publicly vocal about war since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and his voice has become louder since the beginning of the Israel-Palestine War. In his calls he does not take side.

The Pope is quoted as saying: "Either we do not realise it or we are pretending not to see that we are on the brink of the abyss.... A global cease fire is urgent....I will never tire of reiterating my call, addressed in particular to those who potitital responsibility: stop the bombs and missiles now, put an end to hostilities. Everywhere, 'pointing out that humanity is embroiled in a "piecemeal world war three".

Let us work for Peace to All St Mary's Social Justice Group.

OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT During Lent, our worship space is simplified with no flowers or greenery in the church or gathering space representing the barren desert where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. This is symbolic of the Lenten Season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty - only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Three Stations of the Cross services are available: one based on the *Gospel of St Mark*, another *Mary's Stations*, and a video *Way of the Cross* with images of the Stations at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Deepdene carved by Austrian immigrant Leopoldine Mimovich.

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK: Choir Practice for Holy Week Ceremonies will take place on **Fridays 1, 8, 15 & 22 March** in the Church from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Dom LaFerlita our Saturday night pianist will accompany us. The Liturgy is the centre of the Church's life and music adds another prayer dimension. We sing at the Palm Sunday Vigil (Sat 23/3), Holy Thursday (28/3), Good Friday (29/3) and the Easter Vigil (Sat 30/3). All are very welcome to join and no experience is necessary.

Please contact Megan Mitchem via email: mamitchem@gmail.com if you would like to be part of the choir so that music can be organised for you.

SUNDAY CATECHIST CLASSES: For primary school children attending Government Schools classes commenced in February at 9.00am in St Mary's School. Classes are for children from Grades 3 to 6, and include the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, and are held during each school term. **All enquiries - Geraldine - 0438 148 896**

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

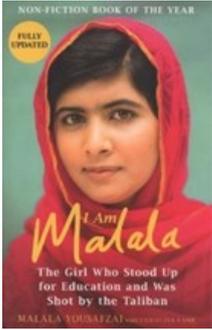
THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

AUDIO DIVINA: Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S continued

Be informed, inspired and entertained



I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Malala is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize winner. She is known for human rights advocacy, especially education of women in her native northwest Pakistan where the Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school. Her advocacy has since grown into an international movement.

Find this book and many other inspirational biographies in your Library.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms: Marcus, Darcy, Eliza, Jackson, Riley

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, Fr Terry Kean

Recently Deceased: *John McCann (Alison Leutchford's father) Jesse Baird and Luke Davies*

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

John Barry, Margaret Todd, Rosario Ferraro, Edna Houlihan, Joseph Hall, John Hutchinson, Andrea Rebello, Lenny Peres, Leo Dowling, Arthur Valente, Leo McGahan, Ron Hooper, James Pryor, William Evans, Marian Jones, Gregorio Noblejas, Oscar Barreto, Robert Nisquitta, Roy Gardiner, William Monagle, Francis Davine, Elena Gillingham, Gabriel Delaney, Michael McHugh, Fr J Phelan, Eric Hegarty, Luruthu, Horacio "Boy" Morales, Jr, Catherine Ganter, Robert Torrens, Elizabeth Head, George Dabovich, Jack De Highden, Michael Powell, Paul Tunny, Anne Pelly, Fr Frank Crilley, Desmond Mackie, Jack McCarthy, Marie Gartland, Clara Penry, Aurea T. Diaz, Giacono Epiphano, Constance McDonald, Rosebud Mathias

TIME OF PREPARATION Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ 31 January 2024

Lent is a time of preparation. It asks us through prayer, reflection and penance to deepen our understanding of the Gospel and its riches.

Read the full story at: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/time-of-preparation>



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: Please keep in your prayers Andrew, Hannah and Lucy who are being baptised later this month.

ST MARY'S LADIES AUXILIARY: St Patrick's Day celebration in St Mary's gathering space on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am light refreshments & great entertainment, entry \$15.00 per person. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome.

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LOYOLA MASS: MacKillop House Mass Sunday 3rd March, 10.30am.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC: StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

Roster for Weekend 9th & 10th March

Saturday 6.00pm

Readers: T. Holland

Commentator: J. Bohan

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Bishop, C. Leahy

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: L. Hobson

Commentator: M. Bosco

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, A. Letzia

Set Up: M. Bates

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, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

We pray for those who have died recently John McCann (Alison Leutchford's father) Jesse Baird and Luke Davies

and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahan, Matthew Van Beek, Mary Tan, Owen Doyle, Anthony Barker, Stjepan Degaac, Cathrine Formosa

PALMS AUSTRALIA

Mission Transforms Lives—theirs...and yours

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives.

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Learn even more: Join our two week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024. to see Palms program participants

our local partner communities in action together

Contact 02 9560 5333. palms@palms.org.au



Palms Australia



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Herod's temple took years to construct and it was a masterpiece of human skills and energy. Even so, its stone structures proved to be as ephemeral as the life cycle of a small plant and as vulnerable to human violence as the body of Jesus.

Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

3 March 2024

First Reading Ex 20:1-17 (or shorter form Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. *(R.)*
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. *(R.)*
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth all of them just. *(R.)*

4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,

that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

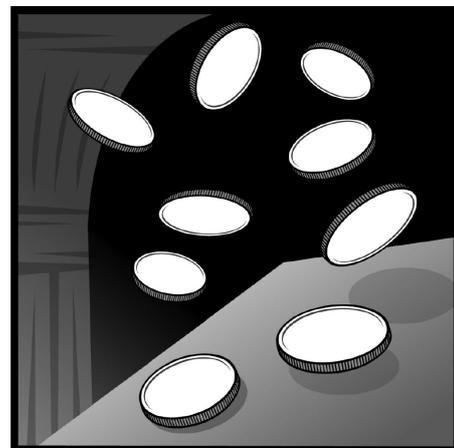
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Jn 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Israel believed that the temple was built over the navel of the universe, the *axis mundi*, that spot where the world above and the world below met the world of history, thus enabling the three worlds to communicate. When Jesus called himself the new temple, he was claiming to be the centre of the universe, the spot where three-way cosmic communication occurs, the presence of God in the midst of the community. When we accept him in faith, we are accepting these claims. We may profess this belief, but do our lives reflect it?

Although some consider the law a rigid set of precepts, it is really more a collection of directives that have grown out of the experience of life. To say that Jesus is the wisdom of God means that God's wisdom is made known in him and that he is the way that points to God. While laws often embody distinctive cultural values or customs, as wisdom of God, Jesus crosses cultural boundaries and breaks down cultural distinctions. As the wisdom of God, Jesus fulfils the expectations of any and all codes of law.

Both the law and the temple witness to the power of God in the lives of believers. However, both institutions pale in the light of Jesus who is identified as the power of God. This divine power is not revealed in lofty precepts or in magnificent stones, but rather in the broken and pierced body of Jesus Christ. How willing are we to accept him?