

**Sunday 5th May 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough)

**Secretaries:** Lisa & Libby

**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](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://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](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://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](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

**On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.**



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME, SO I HAVE LOVED YOU**

*Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do.*

**Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B, 5th May 2024.**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/scripture-6-easter-year-b-2024>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

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

**St Mary's Facebook page**

[facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/](https://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

### CATHOLICARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential.

Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community, those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available, donate online at [www.catholicarevic.org.au](http://www.catholicarevic.org.au) or call (03) 98287 5513.



### LAMP

LAMP Group invite you to attend **An evening with Sr Kerrin Caldwell SGS**, who will speak on the topic "Ageing and Awakening God's surprising Gifts".

*It will be held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm in St Mary's Gathering Space.*

*There will be a light supper afterwards. If you wish to attend, please ring or text Mary on 0412 813 512 before May 10<sup>th</sup>.*



## A PARTNERED PARISHES EVENT

There is much unrest in the world – Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, the traumatic and senseless stabbings in Sydney, protests across many countries, the lingering presence of COVID and long COVID resulting in ongoing health concerns for our communities, the damage we continue to inflict on our earthly home and the list is growing. The impact of this reality has each of us unsettled, afraid, searching for signs that will bring change – for the common good – signs God has not forsaken his people. Perhaps this feeling of uncertainty and vulnerability is similar to how the disciples were feeling the night of Pentecost.

They too were experiencing a sense of abandonment, their Teacher was gone, what were they to do? They called upon God to come to their aid – through their prayer God's Holy Spirit came upon them and their whole being filled with a powerful burning desire to go out and reassure people – God is with US! – His Son and our Savior is with us! Let us do the same – beginning with Prayer. With the support of the Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council of Sacred Heart, St Thomas' and St Mary's, I am asking those who would like to join me in planning our local "Fiat" in this Year of Prayer to say YES!. This event will be across our 3 communities and I would welcome an opportunity to meet with MANY! who will bring their creativity, their Spirit filled gifts to plan a wonderful prayer service for Peace.

Please contact me through the Parish Office – 9435 1543 or email me [sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au](mailto:sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au) and we will find a time to meet convenient for all.

### FAMILIES IN SPIRITUAL HARMONY



Calling all tweens, teens, young adults and families with children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Are you looking for a place for you and your children to meaningfully connect with other Catholic families? We have the pleasure of introducing Families In Spiritual Harmony (**FISH**). This group has been created by families for families; with the objective of creating a spiritual safety-net for our youth and fostering our catholic community. It is open to everyone, and is for the benefit of all three of our parishes. We will focus on and encourage faith formation, reflection and discussion in these sessions – all whilst having some fun! These sessions will be held every Friday, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

On the first Friday of every month, we will also have

The First Friday's Devotion, along with confession, and all are welcome to join in.

We hope to see you all soon.

**Fr Ananda Maddineni**

### Join us for Fiat—A Weekend of Prayer Friday 31st May—Sunday 2nd June 2024

For the second year running, our local communities of grace across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June 2024.

Beginning with the Feast of the Visitation on Friday and concluding with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, parishes, movements and communities are invited to host a time of prayer.

In March 2023, over 50 parishes and communities took part in the inaugural Fiat weekend meditating on Mary's 'yes' to the Lord. Inspired by Mary and Elizabeth's example and the immense gift of the Eucharist, Fiat 2024 promises to be a period of great grace and closeness to the Lord, as we ponder our own 'yes' as individuals, as local communities of grace, and as the local Church in Melbourne.

Fiat may be a time to explore various forms of prayer, particularly with Mary and the Eucharist. Click on the link below to find a regularly updated list of ideas and resources to help plan your local community's special time of prayer.

Parishes, communities and movements are invited to register their time of prayer via the link <https://melbournecatholic.org/fiat>

#### Your 'How to' guide to the Year of Prayer

On 24 December 2024, the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome will open, commencing the Jubilee Year. To prepare for this year of celebration, Pope Francis invites us into a Year of Prayer throughout 2024, reflecting on the Jubilee's theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

We have developed a practical guide, drawing on a resource from the Holy See's Dicastery for Evangelisation and our local context, to help parishes celebrate the Year of Prayer well over the coming months.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Year-of-Prayer-guide.pdf>



## 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 Andre, Charlotte, Jackson, and Mia who will be welcomed into our community in May.

**MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE:** prize is a patchwork quilt which is displayed in the church- tickets \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

**SACRED HEART MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES:** The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com) or leave a message with Pat in the Parish Office if you would like a loved one remembered in this way.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Next PPC meeting is on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June Lunch 12pm Diamond Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant

**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](mailto:alisonpieper52@gmail.com)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 7<sup>th</sup> May** F. & C. Ledda

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** D. Botica **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien **Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Bruce, M. Cusack

**St Peter's Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 7.15pm**

**Reader:** A. Perera **Commentator:** E. Gittins

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

*Mary O'Dea, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard, Maureen Jenkins*

**Recently deceased:**

**We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of May that they may enter**

**joyfully into God's Kingdom:** Dorothy Pittle, Glenn Hurley, Michael Berriman, Peter Beaumont, Frank Perversi, Noela Atkinson, Mary Camilleri, Henry Van Oosterom, Kevin Rogers, Eddie Schellens.

### **EVENTS ELSEWHERE**

#### **CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE Austin Cooper Symposium**

Catholic Theological College invites you to a hybrid symposium in honour of the Rev Professor Austin Cooper OMI AM (1931 – 2023) founding Master of CTC, historian, formator, and ecumenical friend. The symposium will feature speakers exploring Fr Austin's various contributions to Christian scholarship and formation, and as spiritual friend to so many.

- Cost: \$60 (lunch included) or \$30 (online attendance)

For more details, please see the attached flyer or [click here](#) to go to our website.

Engaging Your Faith online seminar series.

Nine stand-alone sessions on a range of themes will be presented by members of our lecturing staff.

- These sessions would be an ideal opportunity for lay leaders and other interested people in your parish to explore the possibilities offered at CTC for personal, theological, and spiritual development.

- Cost: \$25 per session: General audience.

For more details, please see the attached flyer and bulletin notice, or [click here](#) to go to our website.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 11am-3pm*

**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](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

*On behalf of Fr Steven, Sandy and myself, we welcome Libby as a new member of our Administration team at St Mary's.*

*Libby will be working on Tuesday: 11.00am-3.00pm, Thursday: 9.00am-1.00pm and Friday: 11.00am-3.00pm*

*If you pop into the office please introduce yourself to Libby and we look forward to working together.*

*Lisa*

**SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED** to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. If you can help, even occasionally, to provide this service for our priests and our parishioners,

Please contact Marian [mariantacey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mariantacey@optusnet.com.au)

**PROFESSOR SISTER MARY COLOE** an accomplished Scripture scholar and Presentation sister, will be delivering the homily at the 5 pm Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday May 5th. All are invited.

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS:** It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

**LADIES AUXILIARY:** Thank you to everyone who supported our plant Sale. Once again thank you to Benny, Paul, Barbara & Joe for transporting plants to gathering space. Great work Phil in propagating so many plants. Winter Warmers stall after Masses w/end 4th./5th May. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990

**MASS OF ANOINTING:** A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

*For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.*

**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](mailto:mamitchem@gmail.com) for further information.

**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.

**A LOST PROPERTY BOX** is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### Baptisms:

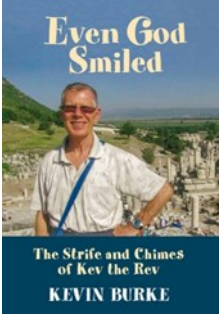
*Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:*

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York

### Recently Deceased:

*We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:* Mary Lewes, Lindsay Nolan, William Jowett, Mary Louise Dixon, Joan King, Hugh Boyd, Joan Wright, Julian Hutchinson, Sr. Agnes Scully, Kathleen Kirby, Leo Kelly, Kevin Doyle, Pilar Sanchez, Jim Mackie, Rosie Williams, Jessica Meyer, Adelaide Steele, Sofio Vallejo, Iris Andersson, Eleanor King, Ramon Peña Sr., Betty Nechwatal, Ormond Easton, Mary Dwyer, Herbert Kent, Patrick Gormley, Alex Parker, Daisy Caliste, Mara Michelone, Philip Thomas, Sebastiano Merlino, Teresa Fernandes, Sylvester Reggo, Terry McManue, Irma Roskosz, John Kierce, Pamela Adams, Mara Michelone, Alicia Malicse, Alex Parker, Nancy Brumwell, Isabella & Clifford Barnett, Vonnice Coyle, Margaret Hickenbotham, Rafael Calinisan, Pina Galati, Didier Bourdet, Joane Clarke, James Nihill, Vincent O'Callaghan, Harry Krohn, Elsie Toomey, Tim Gilmore, Mick Sullivan, Daisy Caliste, Jose Arce, Fr Paddy Stephenson, SJ, Mary Hoey, Shirley Hatherly, Gabriele LaRosa, William Fyfe, Denis McCarthy, Rachele Monteleone, Silvano Kos, Shirley O'Connell

*Be informed, inspired and entertained*



**Book of the week: Even God Smiled: The Strife and Chimes of Kev the Rev by Father Kevin Burke**

Father Kevin has offered Mass at St Mary's on several recent Sundays. The Library has obtained a copy of his entertaining autobiography.

We would be grateful if borrowers who have had items for more than a month could return them or arrange an extension? There are no penalties for late returns or lost books. There is a return chute outside the Library.

Many thanks to those who have donated books and money to the Library recently. We appreciate your generosity.

[cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



# CHURCHES UNITE

MONDAY, 13 MAY - 7:30 PM

DIAMOND VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH  
(309 DIAMOND CREEK RD, PLENTY)

**"WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?" A COMBINED CHURCHES EVENT, BRING OUR GRIEFS AND HOPES TO A GOD WHO DOES NOT ABANDON US.**

This event will focus on women and children, in particular thinking and talking about domestic violence in Australia, war in the Middle East and human trafficking.

These are confronting topics, but they will be handled with sensitivity.

Between each presentation there will be a liturgical prayer, and we will finish the evening with an action, a song, and the lord's prayer.



## 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 Olivia, Jude and Harvey who are being baptised later this month.

**BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP – Change of Date:** Come up join us for a coffee and chat on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** at 1.30pm at Phoenix & Co, 285 Diamond Creek Rd Plenty. (Phoenix & Co is closed on Anzac Day). So I can book a table, please email [lilian.hobson@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.hobson@gmail.com) or text 0402 823 679. Everyone welcome! Lilian (on behalf of Marg).

### Roster for Weekend 11th & 12th May

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** T. Holland

**Commentator:** K. Salm

**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Bishop, C. Leahy

**Set Up:** J. De Carlo

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** M. Bates

**Commentator:** B. Iacobucci

**Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Riordan, C. Riordan

**Set Up:** S. Dossa

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle. Please contact Lisa or Tim [stthomasppc@cam.org.au](mailto:stthomasppc@cam.org.au) if you are interested in getting involved.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: [stthomasppc@cam.org.au](mailto:stthomasppc@cam.org.au) if you are interested in getting involved.

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

*Domenica Picollo, Kath Mumford, Theodora Ellul, Maura McGauran, Stephen Ruzic, Marg Watson, Ray Money, Gaetano Palazzolo, Raymond Bowman, Felice Paiola*



“John the Beloved Disciple” course



“Moses - Beyond the Desert” course

Thank you for your prayers for my April mission to Goroka, Papua New Guinea with Fr Wahid Riad.

All went well, thank God.

There were many blessings experienced. The participants are eager to pass on to others what they have received.

Sandra Bishop



**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close** Jesus called his disciples friends and advised them to 'love one another' using his relationship with them as a model; but his kind of love meant sharing everything and giving everything – even his life. Friendship and love are risky, so why bother? They are worth the risk because their fruits are ultimately life giving and lasting.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B**

**5 May 2024**

**First Reading**

**Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48**

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2**

**(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

*or:*

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Jn 4:7-10**

*God is love.*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God

and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Jn 15:9-17**

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'



**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

A pagan Roman officer was so evidently graced by the Holy Spirit that St Peter realised that the followers of Jesus Christ need not be constrained within the confines of Judaism. This incident, together with St Paul's mission, has helped Christianity spread to every tribe and nation on the face of the earth.

'Catholic' simply means 'world wide', and the Church's universal mission is to preach the truth of Christ's victory over death and the true meaning of love: 'No greater love can a man have than to lay down his life for his friend.'

In our experience, this is best exemplified in the desire of a mother or father to substitute themselves for a dying infant or child. Our Lord practised what he preached with incredible intensity. He substituted himself for the whole of humanity dying because of a broken relationship with its Creator. He did so on behalf of us whom he calls friends, those with whom he wishes to share his victory over death.

This is the message entrusted to the members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church to be spread to the people of every tribe and nation.

We could take a moment to pray that we better express our undying gratitude for our status as friends of the Risen Lord, and better do our part as missionary disciples spreading the news of his great love embracing the whole of humanity.

mtate@bigpond.com

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