



Sunday 23rd October 2022

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

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: Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

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

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. However, parishioners should be encouraged to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity.

Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers are asked to wear face coverings for the distribution of communion.



God in his mercy will always hear our prayers.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
23rd October 2022.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflections--god-be-merciful-to-me--a-sinner>

Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.

Diamond Valley Deanery

www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au



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

INVITATION TO THE EUCHARIST COURSE Bookings essential by 5.00pm Monday 24th October

HEAVEN

EARTH

God's Salvation Plan in Old Testament

God's Salvation Plan in New Testament

Do you need Equipment to defend the Real Presence of the Eucharist ???

Does your heart bum with a desire to better understand the amazing mystery of the Eucharist ???

Have you ever doubted the true presence of Jesus, Body, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist ???

3 Wednesdays, 26 Oct, 2 & 9 Nov
7.00-9.00pm

St Thomas the Apostle Church
251 Diamond Creek Road
Greensborough North

book before 5pm Mon 24 October AT: <https://www.trybooking.com/CDHSR>

A FREE Event Courtesy of the Catholic School of Evangelisation

LAMP-Love and acceptance for Mental Peace.

In response to the Bishop's Social Justice theme "Mental Health," a theme re-echoed in our parish during the plenary discussions in 2018, coupled with our experience of Covid and lock downs a group was formed to develop approaches and responses to the needs of our parish community. This group is called LAMP – Love and Acceptance for Mental Peace. LAMP has been active since then, e.g., parish survey and education sessions.

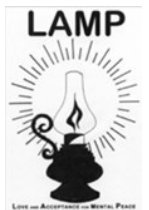
As a result of Covid lockdowns there has been a sharp increase in mental health areas, particularly anxiety and depression. Many family members and friends have often found themselves in a carer role with little or no support. In response LAMP would like to provide the opportunity for a mutual support group to meet over a 'cuppa' or the opportunity to share your experience, joys, and frustrations, of being a carer for a family member or friend.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Where: St Mary's Gathering Space

When: Wednesday 26th October

Time: 10:00 a.m. to no later than 12:00 p.m.



Advent begins Year A & the Gospel of Matthew, to prepare, meet

Matthew, his Gospel & his Jesus

3 Wednesday evenings:

23 & 30 Nov, 7 Dec. 7.30 - 9.30pm

On Zoom

book at: <https://app.tickets.org.au/CSOE/Matthew>

booking fee \$10

Overseas participants use code OVASEA

Further information: Sandra Bishop sandraebishop@optusnet.com.au

This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2022

ALL NEW KIA PICANTO TO BE WON



1st Prize:	Kia Picanto S 1.25ltr Auto
2nd Prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$5,000.
3rd prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$2, 000.
4th Prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$1,000.
5th & 6th Prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$500.

Tickets \$2.00 each (cash only) Drawn Saturday December 3rd 2022

Tickets on sale now until Sunday 30th October 2022

Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation Raffle Permit No 10389/22

Ticket available from Sacred Heart, St Mary's, & St Thomas Parishes after Mass
or contact the Parish offices.

CARING FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

One of the very important issues that came out of the Plenary Council consultation process across Australia was the hurt and sorrow caused by child sexual and other abuse by members of Catholic clergy and other individuals associated with the Church. Parishioners in our three parishes were keen for action to be taken locally and across our country to stand with those affected, recognise the pain and grief experienced and work towards reparation and healing in the Church.

Mary Ellen Davis, consultant psychologist from Carelink, has been invited to speak to us about the impact of sexual and other abuse on survivors and how we may provide care and support to anyone who has experienced abuse. Carelink provides professional support and care for adults (and their families) who have experienced clerical abuse or abuse associated with the Church.

Please join us on **Wednesday 9 November at 7pm in St Mary's Gathering Space** for this important interactive presentation.

Refreshments provided.

Please **RSVP by Friday 4 November** to:

- ◆ St Mary's Parish Office on 9435 1543 (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday) or email: greensborough@cam.org.au
- ◆ St Thomas Parish Office on 9434 7373 (Tuesday – Friday) or email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au
- ◆ Sacred Heart Parish Office on 94016361 (Tuesday-Friday) or email: diamondcreek@cam.org.au

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY APPEAL 2022

**BUILD
BRIGHTER
FUTURES
FOR FAMILIES
IN EMDIBIR**

This week Catholic Mission will share the continued vision of Fr Habte and how, through the Goat Rearing Centre, many other families living in poverty are able to access agricultural training and employment that they would otherwise be unable to.

As shared by Fr Habte, when established, the Centre will not only provide nutritious milk but job creation and agricultural training for farmers and community members.

Please give generously this weekend to help continue this program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/families or by scanning the QR code below. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/families



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



Baptisms: we pray for Olivia, Joshua, Fiorina and Elora who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in October.

Combined Catholic Parishes Car Raffle \$2 tickets or books available in the church and parish office.

Parish Fundraiser Craft Market: in Sacred Heart hall 10am – 2pm this Sunday 23rd October. **Please note that most craft stalls deal with cash only.** Please contact the Parish Office if you are available to donate a cake, cook or serve sausages, sell raffle tickets, assist with packing up tables and chairs.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27th has been set aside as a **REMEMBRANCE MASS** FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR. You are invited to come and remember them, you will also have the opportunity to remember those you have loved and lost. Frank on behalf of the funeral ministry.

Hurstbridge Church Photos: Our team organising the St Peter's 50th Anniversary Celebration Saturday 3rd December are requesting photos of Weddings, Baptisms, First Eucharist etc celebrations taken in the last ten years. Please forward any photos to Maree Frisby mareefrisby@gmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 13th October:

Frank opened the meeting with a Prayer. Agenda included:

-Partnered Parishes Plenary Council invitation for parishioners to **Carelink presentation** by Mary Ellen Davis on 9th November at St Mary's.

-Advent/Christmas **Daily Reflections booklets** have been ordered for parishioners.

-Report tabled from **St Peter's Anniversary** organising team.

-School Report: Anita from School Advisory Council reported building works ongoing. Hopefully completed in November. External painting and garden work 2023. School was well represented in DC Town Fair Parade, students gave out Sacred Heart school showbags. Parents very supportive of Parish Craft Market are assisting with advertising, stall holders, cleaning hall, running face painting, lucky dips, plant stall and cake stall.

-Two PPC members have nominated to represent Sacred Heart on the **Partnered Parishes Umbrella PPC.**

-Atonement Plaque Blessing Sunday 30th October at Sacred Heart.

-Fr Steven and Frank have discussed the format for **Remembrance Mass** Sunday 27th November.

-Alison reported the **Foundation (Prep) Connection Night** in the school was very successful. The parents were engaged and enthusiastic. Thank you to Suzanne Stevenson for speaking.

-Craft Market: Parishioners are very appreciative for help from school parents, and will reciprocate when School holds November Election Day BBQ.

-Maintenance report: ongoing situation with hall roof. Seeking another contractor to provide quote.

-Eftpos machine for church: Catholic Development Fund to offer tap machines to parishes in November.

Senior Moments: Wednesday 2nd November 12pm Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge. Please contact Margaret Jose 9438 1540 for bookings.

Wednesday 16th November 12 pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre

Parish Pastoral Council: Suggestion box in back of church. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

Rosters

Sunday 30th October 9am Sacred Heart

Reader: J. Hoyne **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Ledda, A. Schellens

Saturday 5th November 7.15pm St Peter's

Reader: Amindha **Commentator:** P. Leonard **Eucharistic Ministers:** Volunteers

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

Lina Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke,

Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Vi Hurley, Kevin Hurley

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

Felicia Ongarello, Salvatore Caputo, Fr Leo Pascoe, Colin Elliott, Emma Goodge, Patrick Finlayson, Maurie Roadley,

Wade Robinson, Dianne Galea,

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

Baptisms: We pray for Jack, Mila and Hudson who will be baptised later this month.

Square Tap Machine: *Now that our property has been connected to the NBN we are now able to process donations on the Square Tap Machine more efficiently.*

Parish Pastoral Council: The next meeting of our PPC will be on Wednesday 19th October at 7.00pm

Email: stthomasppc@gmail.com

The new sets of thanksgiving envelopes commencing 6th November are now ready for collection.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

Just to make it clear this is not a set group. We decided pre covid that we would have a coffee get together for **ALL PARSHIONERS** once a month.

So **YOU** are invited to come along to Phoenix & Co 1/285 Diamond Creek Road time is flexible 1.30 - 30 pm Thursday 27th October.

For bookings email me stewmarg@bigpond.net.au mobile 0408370685 RSVP 24/10 or before.

Marg.



ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL.

Since the establishment of the PPC's in March we thought we would let you know of what we have achieved in such a short period of time.

- ◆ 2 Prayer for peace liturgies - school and parish.
- ◆ 2 AV Screens and new amplifier replaced in the church.
- ◆ Painting behind TV's.
- ◆ 2 Liturgies to bless the completed St Thomas statue and plaque - school and parish.
- ◆ Outside lighting in aboriginal garden/pathway to St Thomas Village fixed.
- ◆ Tabernacle security issues addressed - key safe installed.
- ◆ Tabernacle prominence addressed/ Area open up by chairs being moved/awaiting extra "sanctuary" light.
- ◆ Survey for school parents.
- ◆ Meetings regarding the proposed Early Learning Centre construction.
- ◆ Partnered Parishes Plenary Council Facilitators Group. Plaque on rock is located under Magnolia tree in front of Church. Blessing to be organized for weekend Mass.
- ◆ Further planting in our Rose garden and annuals planted in the garden bed at the side of the church.



Rosters for Weekend 29th & 30th October

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: K. Salm

Commentator: T. Holland

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Bishop, K. Salm, C. Leahy

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny

Commentator: J. Kerr

Eucharistic Ministers: C. O'Brien, F. Landy, M. Tipping

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:

Peg Wilcox, Miran Kasalo, John Iacobucci, Andelko Korculanin, Robert Kasic

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

Guido Pariocco, Mary Moran, Helen Paul, Shirley Fraser, Katherine Biskup, Marianna Sacchetta, Reg Carr, Francis Bohan, Bill Watson, Pat Pelly, Frank Green, Grace Money, Betty Hannah, Nedilja Paleka, Sofija Zilic, Rocco Di Pierro

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS—Francesca and Sharon will provide for our secretarial needs on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please continue to send any bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at greensborough@cam.org.au by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES—Remaining Thanksgiving Envelopes will be available for collection in the Parish Office.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS:

Tickets will be on sale after Masses for the Annual Combined Parishes Car Raffle—tickets only \$2.00 each.

ST MARY'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: THIS SUNDAY 23rd October 2022 - scheduled for 11.15am at St Mary's Parish School Staffroom.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AT ST MARY'S We congratulate the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this week and pray that they will always be guided by the Lord throughout their lives.



TENNIS PLAYERS REQUIRED - St. Mary's Tennis Club would like to hear from anyone interested in playing in Junior or Senior competitions next season, commencing February 2023. We have teams entered in daytime and nighttime competitions. For more information please email stmarystennis56@gmail.com or phone 9438-3559.



PPC MEETING – 4TH OF OCTOBER 2022 MEETING SUMMARY Our opening prayer was led by Nick, and was focused upon St Francis of Assisi, who lived a modest life, whilst always looking to serve the poor. It also gave us an opportunity to reflect upon why Pope Francis assumed this name, and how we can look to live lives of service. Mark provided us an update on the most recent SAC meeting, with further discussions occurring around prep enrolments, as well the implications this will have for the school. Also, it was considered as to how child safe standards will be applied to the school working bees. Following this, we had a discussion about an article which talked about the relevance of faith, and how Christianity and religion is in decline amongst youth. Although this does present some challenges, it presents an opportunity to evangelize. Furthermore, it is important for us to ensure our faith has practical applications in our daily lives. Then, Fr Steve gave us an update on the Safeguarding committee and we discussed and accepted the safeguarding report. The St Mary's Parish AGM is on Sunday the 23rd of October 2022 at 11:15am after mass. Steve Hodgson then provided an update on the ALPHA program which is in its final week and has been enjoyed by all participants. To end our meeting, Fr Steve discussed the plan to establish an umbrella pastoral council across all three parishes, with members from each PPC participating. He also announced that Sandra Starbuck has been appointed as our new Pastoral Associate and will begin at the end of November.



FURNITURE AVAILABLE—If you need some tables and chairs, the Parish has some used ones available.

There are a few trestle tables of approximately 2 metres in length. They are chipboard, grey laminated. There are also a number of bluey/grey cloth covered chairs. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. A small donation would be appreciated. Thank you.



ATTENTION CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTORS please contact the parish office on 9435 1543 or email to greensborough@cam.org.au if there has been a change to your credit card details, e.g. expiry date, new card. Your contribution cannot be processed without up to date information. Thank you for your assistance.

HIRING OF PARISH FACILITIES: Unfortunately due to a number of various circumstances, the James Kierce Centre and the Parish Hall are no longer available to hire for social functions.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

ST MARY'S PRAYER SHAWL GROUP: Meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquires: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED REMEMBERING ST. MARY'S PARISH IN YOUR WILL?

As a measure of your appreciation of the life of the Parish, in your life, it can be a way of leaving a legacy with St Mary's. There is no compulsion to do so, but you may feel this is a way of showing your appreciation to St Mary's. We understand that including a charity in your Will is a very personal decision and one to be carefully considered. We appreciate that your family and loved ones should always come first, and believe it is important to talk with them about your intentions and why leaving a gift to St Mary's Greensborough is important to you. Philanthropy Australia is the national peak body for philanthropy and it defines a Bequest as the following: "A gift made available upon the donor's death by provision in their Will. A Bequest can be a specific sum of money, an item or piece of property or a percentage of an Estate". If you would like to explore this more please consider taking a brochure from the Gathering Space and for further information please visit the Parish website.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

October Baptisms: Rosalie Jones, Anashe and Tadisa Mulholland

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time: Peter Mejak, Michael McAleer, Helen Sinnott, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Judy Malamaci, Noah Thorley, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, John Mullins, Margaret Bramley, Marcelo Victoriano, Marie MCentee

Recently Deceased: Ron Weir

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Eugene Mulcair, Alice Mathews, Vin Hyland, Joseph Neeson, Bill Watson, Vincent Atkinson, Michael Conlon, Ern Taylor, Heather Hall, Estrella Cabacungan, Fr. Liam Mackle OSM, Kevin Tuttle, Tony Desensi, Bill Watson, Bernard Richardson, George D'Souza, Gerry O'Donnell, Crustus Bastian, Don Kennan, John Duncan, Diana Perini, Nella Padula, James Joseph McCarthy, Robert Barker, John Hussey, Len Houlihan, Archibald Gleason, Michael Juzva, Wilfred Tellis, Sr Faustina, Glenn David, Agnus Cloney, Glen David, Myrtle Rebeiro, Cora Phillips, Pauline Dancek, Ronald Harwood, Len Houlihan, Ben Burge, Irene Taylor, Emily Evans, Henry Hill, Syd Farrimond, Noel Munro, William Hains, Dorothy Cummins, Estelle Stein, Brian McEntee, Joan O'Sullivan, Benadict Silvapulle, Myrtle Rebeiro, Trevor Anderson, Fr. Len McKenna, Marie Low, Thekca Schumacher, Marino (Peter) Casamento, Sam Scinto, udy Birthisel, Leo O'Connor, John Parker, John Ireland, Maree Dixon, Frank Fullarton, Donnie Bagon, John Bowlen, Margaret Dalton, Cornelia D'Souza, Ricky Willis, John Luttick, RegDAvine, Marina Mamangon, Joyce Draper, Agatha Cheong, Chan Swee Huat, Lorraine Ong, Chan Swee Seng, Ong Yeow Kwang, Lim Ser Boon, Agnes Lim, Frances Boran, Margaret Lynch, Alex Phillips, Marie Low, Salvatore Renaldo, Jack Toohey, Lorenza Borg, Peter Baird, Constance Dennis, Stella Davine, Felicidad Tobias, Rico J Puno

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS.

THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY PASSES BY THE WAY OF THE FAMILY: You are invited to attend a public conversation hosted by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, featuring internationally renowned speaker and author Mary Eberstadt discussing the topic: The future of humanity passes by way of the family. The conversation will be held on Tuesday 25 October, 12.30-2pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne. Tickets are free; however, bookings are essential with a light lunch provided. Tickets can be booked via: www.trybooking.com/CDKKN or 9926 5612.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: In response to the devastating floods in Pakistan, ACN is sending emergency help by providing emergency aid to over 5000 families, in the form of food packages for one month, cash grants for the most vulnerable families, mobile health units, temporary shelters and even basic – but essential – items such as mosquito nets and repellent. Damaged churches and community infrastructure must be repaired to shelter victims of the flooding. To make an offering to the Church in Pakistan. Visit: www.aidtochurch.org/pakistan

WALTER SILVESTER MEMORIAL LECTURE: A free public lecture will be held at the Knox Room, Thomas Carr Centre. 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, on Tuesday 25th October at 6.30pm. You can attend in person or via zoom. <https://divinity.zoom.us/j/83350628349?pwd=TzJYNnh4d21KdTVYSWhzaVoxdjJuZz09> Meeting ID: 833 5062 8349 Passcode: 879518 Vincent Long is a great orator and the topic speaks to the reality and vision of the Church now and going forward.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close In this parable, Jesus parodies two types of men that are well known to his audience – the Pharisee and the tax collector – and he casts them as the self-righteous egoist and the humble sinner. A fundamental Kingdom value is evident here: the first will be last and the last first, or 'all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

23 October 2022

First Reading Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

The Lord is a judge
 who is no respecter of personages.
 He shows no respect of personages to the
 detriment of a poor man,
 he listens to the plea of the injured party.
 He does not ignore the orphan's
 supplication,
 nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
 The man who with his whole heart serves
 God will be accepted,
 his petitions will carry to the clouds.
 The humble man's prayer pierces the
 clouds,
 until it arrives he is inconsolable
 nor will he desist until the Most High takes
 notice of him,
 acquits the virtuous and delivers
 judgement.
 And the Lord will not be slow,
 nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

**Responsorial Psalm
 Ps 32:2-3. 17-19. 23. R. v.7**

(R.) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
 his praise always on my lips;
 in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
 The humble shall hear and be glad. *(R.)*
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
 to destroy their remembrance from the
 earth.
 The just call and the Lord hears
 and rescues them in all their distress. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
 those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
 The Lord ransoms the souls of his
 servants.
 Those who hide in him shall not be
 condemned. *(R.)*

Second Reading 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.

My life is already being poured away as a
 libation, and the time has come for me to
 be gone. I have fought the good fight to
 the end; I have run the race to the finish;
 I have kept the faith; all there is to come
 now is the crown of righteousness reserved
 for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge,

will give to me on that Day; and not only to
 me but to all those who have longed for his
 Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence,
 there was not a single witness to support
 me. Every one of them deserted me – may
 they not be held accountable for it. But
 the Lord stood by me and gave me power,
 so that through me the whole message
 might be proclaimed for all the pagans to
 hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's
 mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil
 attempts on me, and bring me safely to his
 heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever
 and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!
*God was in Christ, to reconcile the
 world to himself;
 and the Good News of reconciliation
 he has entrusted to us.*
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 18:9-14

The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some
 people who prided themselves on being
 virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two
 men went up to the Temple to pray, one
 a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The
 Pharisee stood there and said this prayer
 to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not
 grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of
 mankind, and particularly that I am not like
 this tax collector here. I fast twice a week;
 I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector
 stood some distance away, not daring even
 to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his
 breast and said, "God, be merciful to me,
 a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home
 again at rights with God; the other did
 not. For everyone who exalts himself will
 be humbled, but the man who humbles
 himself will be exalted.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This parable begins 'Two men went
 up to the Temple to pray'. But only
 one of them actually prayed: 'God
 be merciful to me, a sinner'. The
 other informs God how well he is
 doing in the piety stakes. Notice
 that he strings together a whole lot
 of verbs, all in the first person
 singular! This means he is in
 mortal danger of staying in the first
 person singular after death, which
 is Hellish.

The other is said to be 'humble'. I
 like the English companion word:
 'humus'. He is well-grounded,
 knows where he is standing,
 sometimes in the manure of life.

It takes courage and humility to
 admit to God exactly where we
 stand. We can do so in Confession,
 or less formally simply praying:
 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'.

We could pause for a moment to
 humbly pray so that we may hope
 to hear Our Lord say: 'This woman,
 this man, this boy, this girl, went
 home at rights with God.'

mtate@bigpond.com

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