



**Sunday 21st November 2021**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Dixon George

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Jacinta Bright & 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.cam.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam.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**  
**(Unknown Vaccination Status)**

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** By Appointment only please call the Parish Office

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**  
[principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3088

**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

**Saturday:** **6.00pm (Unknown Vaccination Status)**

**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](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

**Wednesday:** **9.15am (Unknown Vaccination Status)**

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

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

Weekday Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes.

Sacred Heart: 9.15am Monday & Friday. St Mary's: 9.15am Tuesday-Friday. St Thomas: 9.15am Tuesday & Thursday.  
**6.00pm Mass on Saturday at Sacred Heart & 5.00 pm Mass on Sundays at St Mary's & 9.15am at St Thomas has been set aside for people of unknown vaccination status.**

Mass is recorded each weekend and uploaded onto our Websites for you to view.

St Mary's: [www.cam.1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam.1.org.au/greensborough) Sacred Heart: [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

St Thomas: [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth)

**Mass at Home: St Patrick's Cathedral:** On Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass at 11.00am



*This week, we ask God for the grace to open our hearts and minds to the needs of those who do not yet know his voice.*

*Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King  
Year B, 21 November 2021*

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



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

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**



**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.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



### Senior Moments

Wednesday 1st December 12pm Christmas Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

**Thank you to parishioners for their patience while Diamond Creek is experiencing ongoing Internet issues which also affect the Parish Office phone.**

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION

**Parishioners offer their prayers and support for Riad and Tarek who are celebrating First Eucharist, and for Vanessa, Daniel, Riad and Tarek celebrating their Confirmation at 9am Mass this Sunday.**

**Our Somalian refugee family who occupied Sacred Heart Mercy Cottage since 2016 have recently moved. Flowers and a Thank You card were delivered to the Parish Office.**

**Dear Parish, Thank you for helping us for many years. We hope you are well. We would like to thank the community.**

**From Zahra and Nihal**

### Parish Pastoral Council met recently.

A PPC Commissioning Mass will be 9am Sunday 5th December followed by morning tea provided by members. Parishioners are invited to stay and meet your new members.

Brian Flynn has accepted the role of Facilities Manager to oversee maintenance, and organise Parish working bees.

Frank Ledda will be involved in Parish Funeral Ministry. The PPC encourage parishioners to consider joining this team.

Alison Pieper hopes to find ways to keep in contact with our Baptism families.

A video will be made to update parishioners about the proposed Melbourne Archdiocese Mission Hubs.

PPC Suggestion Box is at the back of Sacred Heart church.

### **Next meeting 9th December.**

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherine Leonard,

Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Thomas Keenan, Maureen Roberts

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

Jack Ridley, Ros Thomas, Geraldine Nihill, Bev Camilleri, Kevin Doherty, Rebekah Weston, Vincent Atkinson, James Burke,

Kathleen Hudson, Derek Lyons, Lena Finlayson, Grace Jones, Lena Anderson, Haydn Chapman, John Prendergast

### Roster for Weekend 28th November

**Reader:** T. Jenkins

**Eucharist Minister:** P. Keenan, R. Padget.

## ALL THINGS NEW 2022 - IGNATIAN GATHERING FOR YOUNG ADULT (18-30YRS)

The Society of Jesus (Australian Jesuits) invites you to its Ignatian Gathering for Young Adults (18-30 years), to take place in Melbourne on 17 – 21 January 2022, at Newman College. This gathering is a chance for young people to 'reset, reconnect and re-engage' through building friendships, sharing values, celebrating gratitude, offering service.

To register go to : <https://www.trybooking.com/BUNRC>

Cost: \$320 + Trybooking fee (\$8.50) - (includes all meals, individual rooms and all program activities).

For any questions, please contact us at: [mqjisaustralia@sjasl.org](mailto:mqjisaustralia@sjasl.org)



## PRAYER, WORSHIP & WELLBEING

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK WITHIN OUR PARISHES:** If you wish to have someone added or removed from the sick or Anniversaries list for our newsletter could you please notify **Sacred Heart Pat: 9401 6361 St Mary's Sharon /Francesca:9435 1543**

**St Thomas Lisa 9434 7373**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

### St Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Establishment Team



Over the last couple of weeks, we have been informing you about our planning process for our Parish Pastoral Council, or PPC. We have discussed the role of the PPC, the importance of keeping people connected in our community, especially coming out of COVID restrictions, and also about developing and rebuilding relationships, be that with our families, and our schools, and also within our parish. These themes have been explored via us talking at weekend Masses, and last weekend a video presentation.

This week, we are focusing on leadership and opportunities to provide your valuable involvement and contribution through both the PPC, or through our various parish groups, such as Liturgy, Social Justice, Prayer, Finance, Sacramental Preparation and Funeral Ministry. We have prepared a Photo Presentation, supported by a voiceover, whereby you will meet members of our Establishment Team, our hopes for the future PPC, while re-emphasizing the need for fostering relationships throughout our faith community. We are still needing further support from all of you in our community to ensure this is a great success.

We are holding an Information evening in our church beginning at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 30 November, we are looking forward to meeting you there. Could you please contact the Parish Office via phone 94347373 or email [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) if you are able to attend.

### Sacrament Celebrations

*Congratulations to the children from Sacred Heart who are celebrating First Reconciliation and the children from St Thomas' school who are celebrating First Eucharist this week.*

*May God bless them and their families on their special day and continue to bless them as they continue on their faith journey.*

**Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia, Solomon and who are awaiting Baptism at St Thomas.**

We look forward to the restrictions easing and welcoming these families into the St Thomas Parish community.

***Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be***

***healed & comforted during this time:***

Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo, Trevor Corcoran

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

Nick Piccolo, Maura Coyle, Lena Brullo, Ray Tipping, Lawrence Meilak, Theresa Meilak, Marcel Bishara, Frank Mercieca, Thomas Iacobucci, Fr Kelvin Kenny, Christopher Kenny, Joan Campbell, Serge Teychency, Joan Chadzynska, Rocco Di Pierro, Haydn Chapman, Francis Mc Mennemin

### Rosters for Weekend 27th & 28th November

#### Saturday 6.00pm Mass

**Reader:** P. Carty      **Commentator:** K. Salm      **Special Ministers:** L. Carty, D. Haesler, M. Bedford

**Set Up:** C. Leahy

#### Sunday 10.30am Mass

**Reader:** S. Millar      **Commentator:** J. Kerr      **Special Minister:** B. Riordan, C. Riordan, A. Kerr

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

**Counters:** B. Tipping, J. De Carlo

**Cleaners:** B. Guldon, G. Kilkenny ( November)

***Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued support with the smooth running of our Parish.***

***Your help is greatly appreciated.***

## TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

As you may be aware there is an Archdiocesan project that is proposed for the implementation of restructuring parishes in the Archdiocese. This project is called Take the Way of the Gospel.

A group has formed with representatives from each of our three parishes to plan the way forward including ways of consulting and discerning with our communities. The group has met this week.

A video presentation will be prepared and available during Advent and further information will follow in the new year.

For further information: <https://melbournecatholic.org/about/take-the-way-of-the-gospel>

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



## MASSES AT ST MARY'S DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS –

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR STEVEN RIGO AND JACINTA BRIGHT

These are very difficult times for all of us as we keep continue to find ways to be Church; a Eucharistic community who embraces all, given the challenges with COVID. There are differing beliefs and opinions about what the Government should be doing and what the Church should be doing and what we as individuals should be doing. Sadly, differences can fracture families and communities. Here is our challenge – how do we live with the differences, respecting the dignity of each person by trying to understand and reach out to one another. Misinformation can exacerbate division – yet we are called to be reconciled and reconcilers. It is important that we have conversations that lead to understanding.

Just to clarify any confusion, St Mary's is not paddling its own boat in relation to the current restrictions. We are following State Government requirements, which are handed down to us from the Archdiocese – and these requirements are very specific. Other parishes have at times not adhered to the requirements, which has made it difficult for us. We have been accused of being too strict, or of not caring about our people, or of being discriminatory.

Quite apart from our following the regulations because we are asked to do so, it is our Christian mandate to protect the vulnerable. If that's not enough - places of worship can incur significant fines if found to be not complying with regulations, as you can see on this link: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-religion-and-ceremonies-guidance>

Victoria Police and Department of Health Authorised Officers regularly check places of worship for compliance with current restrictions.

We are doing all we can to hold our community as one, despite the tensions around us. Our Liturgy Team, together with a small band of volunteers, have made themselves available in order to carry out the task of sanitisers and Check In Marshals, roles that are required by the State Government. Two members in particular, have come to several Masses each weekend since COVID began, so that we can continue to comply, otherwise we wouldn't be able to have Mass. We don't have enough volunteers so they step up selflessly.

Please understand that although there may be dissatisfaction with some measures taken, there is a bigger picture here for parishes and organisations and we are doing our very best to comply – not only because we are required to do so, but because we are always to support the most vulnerable, including the many elderly and the immuno-compromised amongst us, and also those who choose to remain unvaccinated for whatever reason that is important to them. Let's be aware of how we might be people of reconciliation in a world in which surely needs that grace.

Fr Steven Rigo, Parish Priest & Jacinta Bright, Pastoral Associate

**Reminder - please bring Proof of Vaccination each time you come to Mass, as we are required to sight it at every gathering.**

**FIRST EUCHARISTS** will be celebrated on the weekends of **27/28 November and 4/5 December**. In relation to **5.00pm Mass**. If you are doubly vaccinated and usually go to 5.00pm Mass, please consider coming to a different Mass on these two weekends. The reason is that, if the restrictions for people of unknown vaccination status still apply, we will have some families (to a maximum of three families) with immediate family members only, coming to those 5.00pm Masses for their child's First Eucharist - and therefore may only have 15 places for others of unknown vaccination status at that Mass, on both weekends. As this is the only Mass where people of unknown vaccination status can attend, please be considerate of them.

**ST MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS—ASYLUM SEEKERS.** We are now able to again collect food & toiletries for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Any help is gratefully appreciated and some suggested goods are milk, tuna in oil, dried fruits, small packets of spices, peanut butter, biscuits, razors, detergent.

**MASSES—Tuesdays to Fridays at 9.15am and Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 5.00pm.**

**Bookings are essential for admission FOR WEEKEND MASSES ONLY. See Links below.**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Space</u>	<u>Max #</u>	<u>Booking Link</u>
Saturday	20 Nov	6.30pm	Church	120	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZQ">https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZQ</a>
Sunday	21 Nov	8am	Church	120	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZS">https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZS</a>
Sunday	21 Nov	10am	Church	120	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZT">https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZT</a>
Sunday	21 Nov	5pm	Church	25	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZV">https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZV</a>

Please note children over 12 months must have a ticket booked for weekends and will be included in the total count for both weekend and weekday masses.

**PLEASE NOTE: It is essential that if you are booking via TryBooking, for more than one member in your family or for a friend for a mass, that each name MUST be booked for and entered separately.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

### FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

**Contactless Payments-** At St Mary's over the coming weeks we will be introducing terminals to allow electronic transfer of funds. Parishioners will be able to 'tap and go' for the Presbytery and Parish collections. This will enable those who want to have less reliance on cash to be able to keep supporting the Parish.

**Thanksgiving Renewal Program 2022**—St Mary's is due to run a stewardship campaign as it is three years since our last update. We are looking for parishioners to be involved in a short term project for the new campaign. Please contact Fr Steve or a member of the Finance Committee for more details. **Paul Girolami Finance Committee**



**STAY TUNED** - Thank you to all who participated in last month's session – *The Whole Story of Mental Health*. The feedback indicated that what Ros presented was very helpful and provided much fruit for reflection. A second session will be held in late February. Based on the feedback received, we have decided that this next session will delve deeper into this whole area of spirituality and mental ill health, perhaps with some exploration around listening skills. We will keep you posted. Also, keep an eye on our website [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough) We are updating our resources page with a number of helpful resources, to support people in every aspect of life, including mental ill health. We will also be uploading a great video of a talk hosted by the Uniting Church Vic/Tas, Mental health: *Does Religion/Spirituality support or hinder?* with John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology, University of Aberdeen. This video is highly recommended. John Swinton is very easy to listen to and engaging.

**Support Group for people experiencing anxiety during this COVID transition time** Whilst, as a society, we navigate coming out of lockdown, anxiety seems heightened, for various reasons. Whether we are vaccinated or not, and for whatever reasons we make our choices, we are all human and we are all made in the dignity and likeness of God. At a time when there is a danger of judging, let us be a community of compassion. This is an invitation for anyone feeling anxious at the moment, to come along to a small support group in the parish. It isn't a therapy group. It's a support group. There will be some ground-rules, such as confidentiality and listening, but also no discussion about politics or conspiracy theories. Whilst some who are anxious hold certain beliefs about the vaccine, that others don't, this needs to be a space where we find compassion and care and support and respect – and perhaps a sense that we are not alone, and that all will be well. If you are interested, even just to find out more, please contact Jacinta at [Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au) or call the parish office on 9435 1543. I am thinking that we might gather as a group of a Wednesday morning at 9.15.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**November Baptisms:** Evie O'Meara, Isabelle James-Wotherspoon, Audrey Thwaites, Hunter Ludvik, Jamie Cartelli, Jessica Sutherland, Olivia Bonadio, Sylvie Bonadio, Charlotte Winther, Violet Winther, Lincoln Saavedra, Joshua Johnstone, Harry Lowther.

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

Adele Wilkinson, Cynthia da Roza, Peter and Elsa, Larubina, Eileen Martin, Cecilia Chang, Anna Mouchacca, Isla Magann, Thomas Hyde, Miran Kasalo, Pat Garrard, Jose Gomez, Michael McAleer, Matt Lorkin, Julie Daynds, Angelina P Licup, Aldous Licup, Paula Licup, Alfred Paulo Licup, Iya Licup, Trevor Corcoran

### **Recently Deceased:**

**We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:** : Ann Hill, Veronica Bonner, John F Kennedy, James Lambert, George Spoljar, Michael Sofoulis, Mary Ecker, Sylvia De Zilwa, George Suiter, Mario Giusti, Allan Newman, James Joseph Ryan, Maud Hearn, Ida Chance, John Walsh, Allan Wade, Louise Desmond, Noah Pendry, Bernie Branagan, Josh Koomen, Roland Castillo, Elizabeth Kierce, Dr. & K. Orr, Jean Shannon, Molly Dunne, Robert Chaplin, Rebecca Easton, Albert Pereira, Sadie Sargeant, Ross Palaia, Marese Murphy, Lawrence May, Thomas Murphy, Peter Attard, Grace Ellen de'Smet, George Armstrong, Patricia Davis, Emily O'Shea, David Appleton, Jose D. Briones, 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 Leaon, Tessie Sargent, Jack Collis, Ron Coleman

LOYOLA COLLEGE PRESENTS

COMMUNITY

CAROLS & FOOD TRUCK  
NIGHT

FRI 26 NOV

5.30PM - 9PM | LOYOLA COLLEGE GROUNDS  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES  
& MARKET STALLS | GOLD COIN ENTRY

COVID SAFE EVENT

**EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS**

In every Parish, there are two collections and two separate accounts,

The Presbytery collection/account (1<sup>st</sup> coll.) provides the pastoral stipend and living costs of the Priest.

The Church collection/account (2<sup>nd</sup> coll.) provides for the maintenance, office and staff expenses of the Parish.

## MORNING TEA VIA ZOOM

Our Combined Parishes Morning Tea via Zoom will meet for our last gathering for 2021 on Friday, 26th November from 10:30 am-12 Noon. All welcome! Please join us for laughter, catching up and giving a warm welcome to new members.

If you are a first-timer, please contact Jacinta: [Jacinta.Bright@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.Bright@cam.org.au) who will add you to the contact list and send out a Zoom notification.



## CATCHING UP ON THE FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY



**Plenary Council 2020**  
*'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...'* Mt 27

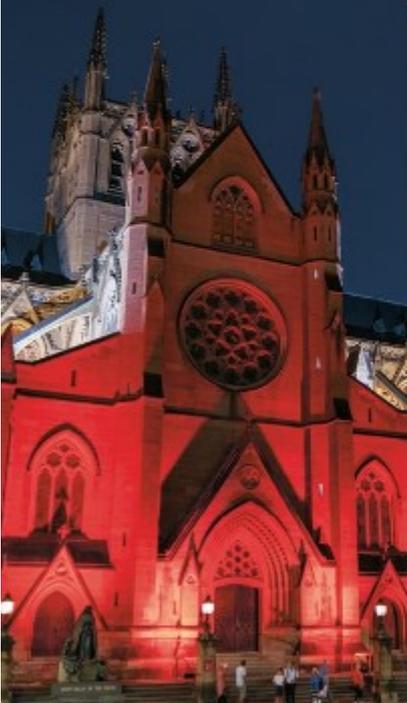
After much preparation, the Australian Plenary Council ran from the 3rd-10th October 2021. If you are wanting to catch up on what happened see <https://www.cam1.org.au/Portals/83/Plenary%20Council%20Session%20online%20summary%20final.pdf> our Parish website which has some suggested links to the Plenary Council website and other online commentaries.  
**Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group.**

## ACN AUSTRALIA

ACN continues to highlight the persecution of Christians through Red Wednesday which will take place on Wednesday 24 November. On this day Cathedrals throughout Australia and the world will hold Masses and prayer vigils and be lit in red to remember our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith. To learn more and get involved visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/redwednesday](http://www.aidtochurch.org/redwednesday)

# RED WEDNESDAY

LIGHT RED • WEAR RED • PRAY RED



## Wednesday 24 November 2021



## LECTIONARY ART AND REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE

Jesus says that his kingdom is not from this world. The kingdom, however, can be detected in the fabric of the universe if one has eyes to see. Jesus was born to testify to the truth, to show the world how to read its experience for signs of kingdom reality.

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year B

21 November 2021

#### First Reading Dn 7:13-14

*His sovereignty is eternal.*

I gazed into the visions of the night.  
And I saw, coming on the clouds of  
heaven,

one like a son of man.

He came to the one of great age  
and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty,  
glory and kingship,  
and men of all peoples, nations and  
languages became his servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal  
sovereignty

which shall never pass away,  
nor will his empire be destroyed.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1**

*(R.) The Lord is king;  
he is robed in majesty.*

1. The Lord is king, with majesty  
enrobed;  
the Lord has robed himself with might,  
he has girded himself with power. (R)
2. The world you made firm, not to be  
moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old.  
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. (R)
3. Truly your decrees are to be  
trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time. (R)

#### Second Reading Rv 1:5-8

*The ruler of the kings of the earth ... made us a line of kings,  
priests to serve his God.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the  
First-born from the dead, the Ruler  
of the kings of the earth. He loves us  
and has washed away our sins with  
his blood, and made us a line of kings,  
priests to serve his God and Father; to  
him, then, be glory and power for ever  
and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming  
on the clouds; everyone will see him,

even those who pierced him, and all the  
races of the earth will mourn over him.  
This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha  
and the Omega' says the Lord God, who  
is, who was, and who is to come, the  
Almighty.

#### Gospel Acclamation Mk 11:9, 10

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Blessed is he who inherits the  
kingdom of David our Father;*

*blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord.*

*Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Jn 18:33-37

*You say that I am a king.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate  
asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of  
your own accord, or have others spoken  
to you about me?' Pilate answered,  
'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and  
the chief priests who have handed you  
over to me: what have you done?' Jesus  
replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this  
world; if my kingdom were of this world,  
my men would have fought to prevent  
my being surrendered to the Jews. But  
my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you  
are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you  
who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am  
a king. I was born for this, I came into  
the world for this: to bear witness to  
the truth; and all who are on the side of  
truth listen to my voice.'



#### Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week marks the end of the  
liturgical year. Next week, with the first  
week of Advent, we begin the new  
liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the  
Church concludes the liturgical year  
with the celebration of Christ the King.  
The conversation between Jesus and  
Pilate displays a lot of word play on the  
part of Jesus and quite a lot of  
confusion on the part of Pilate. The  
confusion stems from different  
perceptions of what it means to be a  
king. For Pilate, part of the most  
powerful political and military rule in  
the ancient world, the idea of a king  
was a threat. Claiming kingship was  
claiming authority and power that  
would inevitably lead to challenging the  
authority and power of Rome and, more  
directly, its representative in Palestine  
- Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a  
completely different idea about  
ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed  
declare that he is a king and that is  
what leads us to today's feast of Christ  
the King. However, his intention is not  
to claim a position of power and  
authority. When we think back to Jesus'  
teachings about the kingdom of God,  
we recall that he declares the people of  
highest status - the first - in the  
kingdom to be the lowliest of this world.  
It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the  
children and the widows who will hold  
the highest places in the kingdom of  
God. In a kingdom like that, what does  
it mean to declare oneself king? The  
confusion about what it means to be a  
king that is captured in this interaction  
between Jesus and Pilate is the same  
confusion that we saw among the  
disciples as they came to terms with  
exactly what it means to be the  
Messiah.

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