



Sunday 3rd October 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

Website: www.cam.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Frances Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

Communications Officer: Denise Chang-Faux

Mass Times

Monday: Liturgy of the word 9.15am

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Mass 8.30am & Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.00am & 5.45pm

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart

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

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

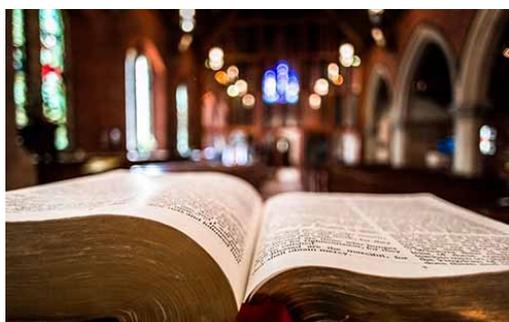
THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

During this time of Lockdown we are unable to gather together to celebrate Mass. Our Churches will remain closed until the restrictions are lifted. Mass is recorded each weekend and uploaded onto our Websites for you to view.

St Mary's: www.cam.1.org.au/greensborough Sacred Heart: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

St Thomas: 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



*The community of disciples, as the
"beachhead" of the Kingdom in the
world, are called to live out and bear
witness to this original ideal.*

© Australian Catholics

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherine Leonard,
Tony Ledda, Sarah Drummond, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis

**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, Ken Nettleton, Patrick Finlayson, Maurie Roadley,
Guido Pariocco, Mary Moran, Helen Paul, Shirley Fraser, Katherine Biskup, Marianna Sacchetta, Reg Carr, Francis Bohan, Bill Watson,
Pat Pelly, Frank Green, Dianne Galea, Grace Money, Doris Toohey, Betty Hannah

WORSHIP & PRAYER

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 **Pat 9401 6361** or **Lisa 9434 7373**.

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: During lockdown The Way Prayer Group continues to meet on Thursday evenings via zoom with Rosary from 7.30pm-8.00pm. If you wish you would be most welcome to stay on for the evening's activity.

Zoom link is as follows: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85621062547> Passcode 258371

For any further enquiries, please email Rose: roserendina@gmail.com

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: The Way Prayer Group is hosting an 8-part video series 'Metanoia' on Zoom over 8 Thursday evenings, commencing Thursday, 7th October from 8-9.30pm. "Jesus invites each of us to an ever deeper and more profound conversion. This continual need for conversion - 'metanoia' - should be for us a source of hope and encouragement that keeps us seeking the transformative grace of God's Holy Spirit."

For further details and Zoom link, please email Rose roserendina@gmail.com or Emilia emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com



BAPTISMS WITHIN OUR PARISHES

Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia and Solomon who are awaiting Baptism at St Thomas. We look forward to the restrictions easing and welcoming these families into the St Thomas Parish community.

Zoe, Joseph, and Lola have been presented to the Sacred Heart Community and will be celebrating their Baptisms in the coming months.

RECORDED MASSES—HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

When we can be together again to celebrate the Eucharist, our 2 videographers will not always be available due to other commitments. **To continue to offer weekly recorded Masses for parishioners not able to attend in person, help is urgently needed.** An invitation is extended to St Mary's, St Thomas' and Sacred Heart parishioners to assist with this valued ministry. Training will be provided.

For more information, please contact Marian 0409 591 527. Thank you.



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: That Catholic Shop is an exciting development of ACN Australia. It is a go-to shop for Catholic gifts and devotional items. From Sacramental gifts, statues, books, rosaries, Christmas items and more, there is something for everyone. The purchases you make at TCS go to support the work of Aid to the Church in Need to keep the faith alive in those places where it is most at risk. To browse our full range visit: www.thatcatholicshop.com



LOCKDOWN LIGHT—WEEK FIVE

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the Recommendations below.

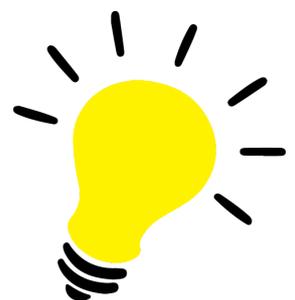
Podcasts for Christian living: How to keep our kids Catholic

In this episode of The Word on Fire show, Bishop Robert Barron and Brandon Vogt discuss what helps children retain their faith into young adulthood. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving5

Getting to know your Bible: Science and the Bible: Are they opposed?

Getting Started: In this video, Bishop Robert Barron firmly debunks the common claim that science and religion are diametrically opposed. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted5a and visit www.reasonfaithscience.com for further resources.

Going Deeper: This video skilfully explores a Catholic understanding of the Book of Genesis' account of creation through a tapestry of voices. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper5





Jacob's Blessings

Illuminate and
Inspire Today

Reflecting on Marc Chagall's 12 windows, inspired by Genesis 49 account of Jacob blessing his 12 sons, will take us on a fascinating journey of discovery. It provides an opportunity of learning from Jacob's descendants as their lives illuminate and inspire us on our faith journey.

The Participant Guide will enable your reflection.

Over 4 Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm,

12, 19, 26 Oct & 2 Nov

Book before Sun 10 Oct at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BUKPB>

Overseas participants use code: OVASEA

AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT

What kind of person do you want to be as we come out of COVID and move into the future? What are the priorities that have changed in you, that you want to notice and wonder about and continue to let change you?

St Mary's Parish offers men and women, older and younger people, an opportunity for a time of reflection that will take into account these important questions, considering the different dimensions of your life.

The Life's Journey Program uses the *image of a walk to describe our lives*. We imagine ourselves as walking with others for some days, sometimes tired, sometimes walking alone, sometimes able to see where we are going and sometimes lost. *The program invites us to ask where we are going in our lives, and how we can best get there.*

This is a four week program, inviting you to set aside some time each day for reflection, in a gentle and natural way. We will meet together every Saturday from 1.00 until 2.00 to touch base and see how everyone is finding their reflection. As a community we will find we have more in common than not, especially in our desires that have been informed by our experiences during this COVID time. Take this time for yourself to become more conscious of your deeper desires and to find a space within yourself and together, to nurture them.

Dates: Saturday the 9th of October (to get started) until Saturday the 6th of November (to bring the experience to a conclusion)

Facilitated by Fr Steve and Anne Fleming, with Jacinta Bright as support.

Enquiries and registration contact Jacinta Bright at: jacinta.bright@cam.org.au or 9435 1543



PLENARY COUNCIL

Over three years ago the decision was announced to hold a Plenary Council and the People of God began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God and by listening to one another's stories of faith. After this time of listening and journeying the Catholic Church of Australia will gather for the first assembly of the Plenary Council from 3-10th October 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the First Assembly will be held via 'one device-one person' mode. There will be 17 members participating in this gathering who have been called from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Plenary Council website will provide daily livestreams of parts of the opening Plenary sessions and Masses (including the Opening Mass on Sunday 3rd October). <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

Plenary Council Masses and daily morning prayer booklets for full participation are available here: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/prayer/>

We call on God's protection and care, seeking the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as the members gather next week and discern the future that God is call us to. May God grant the grace to all those gathering to be open to the Spirit leading through these upcoming days of prayer, listening and discernment.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

Presider: **The Spirit brings new life to the Church. Let us be open to the prompting of the Spirit as we pray for our needs and those of the Church.**

For the Catholic Church in Australia as we begin the First Assembly of the Plenary Council; that the Holy Spirit may inflame the hearts and minds of all so that we may experience a new Pentecost in this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Plenary Council members who are assembling around Australia for the First Assembly: that their hearts and minds are opened to receive the Holy Spirit in all their conversations and prayer.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Nation: that this journey of discernment and listening of the Plenary Council becomes a source of wisdom and courage as we move into the future.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are currently living under lockdown conditions due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and those involved in the front line of care: that they may be supported in this difficult time by our loving and prayerful support.

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are suffering: that they will know the compassion and kindness of Jesus by the outreach of all Christians.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have gone before us: May their lived example as followers of Jesus Christ be an ever present memory that fires our own commitment to the Gospel message.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with your loving presence. Make us strong and constant followers of Jesus with a desire to live and proclaim the Gospel message.**

All :Amen.

PLENARY COUNCIL

People across Australia and beyond will be able to follow the progress of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia through Masses and livestream sessions when the first general assembly opens this weekend.

The Plenary Council, the first such event in Australia since 1937, will open with Mass livestreamed from St Mary's Cathedral in Perth on Sunday, October 3. Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB will celebrate that Mass at 2pm AEDT and officially open the nine-month journey of the two Council assemblies.

Masses will be broadcast at 9.30am AEDT each of the six days of the Council program, with Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrating the Mass to conclude the first assembly at 11am AEDT on Sunday, October 10.

"Across our vast continent, people will be able to gather in prayer and worship to share in this journey of discernment," Archbishop Costelloe said.

The Masses, which can be viewed on the Plenary Council's website, are designed specifically for those – Council members and the wider community – who are unable to gather for Mass in their local place.

Where local health and government restrictions allow public Masses to be celebrated, the same Mass being celebrated for the Plenary Council, including prayers, readings and musical suggestions, can be used.

"We know that gathering in person for worship is everyone's first choice, but we wanted to ensure that those who can't come together can share in the liturgical life of the Plenary Council," Archbishop Costelloe explained.

Starting with the opening plenary session on Monday, October 4, parts of the morning session at which all 278 Plenary Council members gather online will be livestreamed. The livestream will open at 11am AEDT each day and run for about 75 minutes, except on Thursday, October 7 – a day when most of program will be offline.

"These livestreams will allow the People of God to stay connected with the work of the Plenary Council, including through the sharing of the fruits of discernment," said Lana Turvey-Collins, the Plenary Council facilitator.

"Across the six days of the first assembly, the members will be praying with the 16 questions of the agenda and engaging in the practice of spiritual conversations. We know that some parishes and families and other Church communities are planning to do the same."

Ms Turvey-Collins said the national reach of the Plenary Council journey's period of preparation, dating back to March 2018, can and should continue during the nine-month period of the Council's celebration.

"We invite everyone to find ways to pray for and engage with the discernment of the Plenary Council as the members look to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church," she said.

The morning livestream each day will feature Auslan interpreting for members of the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Find out more at: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, First General Assembly										
All times are local AEDT										
SUN 3.10	TIME	MON 4.10	TUES 5.10	WED 6.10	THUR 7.10	FRI 8.10	SAT 9.10	SUN 10.10		
Opening Mass of Plenary Council Streamed Live from Perth 2pm	9.30am	Daily Mass Streamed (Plenary Council webpage)							Closing Mass of First Assembly Streamed Live from Brisbane 11am	
	11.00am	Session 1 Opening Plenary (Livestream from 11am-12.15pm*)	Session 4 Plenary (Livestream from 11am-12.15pm*)	Session 7 Plenary (Livestream from 11am-12.15pm*)	Session 10 12pm - 3pm Special Plenary	Session 11 Plenary (Livestream from 11am-12.15pm*)	Session 14 Plenary (Livestream from 11am-12.15pm*)			
	* Livestream closing times are approximate									
	2.30pm	Session 2 Spiritual Conversation Round 1&2	Session 5 Spiritual Conversation Round 1&2	Session 8 Spiritual Conversation Round 1&2	Individual Reflection <i>Offline</i>	Session 12 Spiritual Conversation Round 1&2	Session 15 2.30pm-4.00pm Small groups			
	4.30pm	Session 3 Spiritual Conversation Round 3	Session 6 Spiritual Conversation Round 3	Session 9 Spiritual Conversation Round 3	Individual Reflection <i>Offline</i>	Session 13 Spiritual Conversation Round 3	Session 16 Closing Plenary			
	6.30pm	Plenary: Daily Examen, Closing Prayer	Plenary: Daily Examen, Closing Prayer	Plenary: Daily Examen, Closing Prayer	Individual Reflection <i>Offline</i>	Plenary: Daily Examen, Closing Prayer				
Access livestreams and other material at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au										



PRAYER OF PETITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*A prayer used before every session of the Second Vatican Council.
This is to be prayed at the beginning of a Plenary Council.*

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own
and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God,
sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for All
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favour.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name
may we temper justice with love,
so that all our decisions
may be pleasing to you,
and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants,
Amen.

FORMATION OF SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The following people have generously accepted their nomination to be a member of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council.

Alison Pieper, Ann Marie O'Hare, Clare Zabrowarny, Brian Flynn, Frank Ledda, Judy Hoyne, Margaret Farrell, Maureen Walsh, Ted Jenkins, Tonina Sirianni.

Thank you for agreeing to make a commitment to our Parish by joining the PPC.

MORNING TEA (Via Zoom)

Because of the Public Holiday on Friday, 24th September our monthly lockdown Morning Tea was postponed to this Friday, 1st October from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Normally we meet on the last Friday of the month. So watch this space! All are welcome to this Morning Tea which is COVID safe, and no masks or vaccines needed! We would love to see some new faces and if you are interested, please contact Jacinta Bright on jacinta.bright@cam.org.au who will then send you a Zoom link. Please join with us - it is FREE with laughs guaranteed.



LAMP FORMATION (Love and Mental Peace).

Have you ever wondered what is the Whole Story of Mental Ill Health?



This is an invitation to explore the hidden dimension of mental ill health, in particular, the spiritual dimension of mental ill health and the nature of spiritual care. Rather than splitting off the lived experience of the person with mental ill health, from the lived experience of the one who is well, our starting point is that life and longing for purpose and meaning is an experience shared by all.

Given our concern for the spirit of the person and how that will infuse the whole of life experience, we will consider the inherent dignity of the individual living with mental ill health and how they find meaning and purpose within this context.

Rather than move directly to solutions, we will consider our shared humanity. Should you take up this invitation, you will experience an exploration of a pastoral view, which we might all embrace, that is consistent with spiritual care and healthcare practice, and complementary to the current medical paradigm.

The foundation of pastoral/spiritual care is listening. In this initial session we will explore how particular listening skills enable reflection and action which has the potential to change us all.

Who is this for? Everyone! We are quite sure that everyone reading this will know of someone now or in the future, who has been touched by the lived experience of mental ill-health, particularly given the last 18 months of COVID.

When? 7.30pm until 9.00pm Thursday, 14 October 2021

Where? The Gathering Space of St Mary's Church, Greensborough

Or Zoom, if need be. Interested people will be emailed a Zoom link.

RSVP & Enquiries Email our parish office greensborough@cam.org.au or phone 9435 1543 by Monday, 11th October 2021

SR ROSALIND CAIRNS, MSC -Ros is a member of St Mary's Parish

Ros worked in mental health for 27 years initially as pastoral care worker and coordinator with experience in hospital and community settings and then in management. As Manager of Mental Health within the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria, Inc. Ros's responsibilities involved leadership, consultation, and education in the strategic development of spirituality, chaplaincy, and pastoral care in Victorian Mental Healthcare Services.

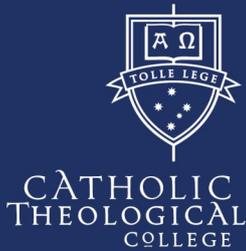
Ros is semi-retired and maintains a particular interest in the relationship between spirituality and mental wellbeing and offers education and training in this area, in communities and at the University of Divinity. Her background is varied having worked in the areas of education, liturgy, counselling, and community development work in PNG.

EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS

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

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

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



Christian Faith and World Religions: Inter-religious Dialogue in Australia



Semester 2 Intensive, 2022

Synchronous sessions online via Zoom over six Saturdays

23, 30 July; 6 August; 3 September; 8, 15 October: 10am–12pm, and 2-4pm

- This unit is designed for all who wish to contribute in a practical way to the multi-faith and multi-cultural society which Australia has become.
- It is designed specifically for teachers, for those in parishes, in hospitals, in welfare and so on. It will also be value to those who seek personal development in interfaith.
- The unit will also assist teachers in implementing the document *Welcoming Each Other* which has been approved and endorsed by Archbishop Peter Comensoli DD who asks that education in interfaith be implemented in both primary and secondary schools.

Interested in finding out more?

Attend our online information session
Wednesday 20 October: 7pm - 7.30pm
Booking essential: [click here to register](#)

CTC Open Days

Bringing to you your study options for 2022.
For more see ctc.edu.au/open-days

You can enrol:

- as an audit student (no assessment/credit) fee: \$650
- at undergraduate level: fee: \$1,764
- at postgraduate level: fee: \$2,732

Fees may be paid through Fee-Help when units are part of a University of Divinity award.

Units

- [CT2017C](#), [CT3017C](#), or [CT9017C](#)
- crosslisted as [DP2017C](#), [DP3017C](#), or [DP9017C](#)

Lecturers

[Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche](#)
Catholic Theological College

[Very Rev. Denis Stanley](#)
Catholic Theological College,
Rector of Corpus Christi College

[Dr Mary Reaburn NDS](#)
Yarra Theological Union

Contact the Academic Records Office for enrolment information and appointments.
+61 3 9412 3333 | registrar@ctc.edu.au | 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne | ctc.edu.au

First Reading Gen 2:18-24

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127. R. v.5

*(R.) May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.*

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. *(R.)*
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. *(R.)*
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
he man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! *(R.)*

Second Reading Heb 2:9-11

*He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified
have one origin.*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,

God will live in us in perfect love.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 10:2-16

or (shorter form Mk 10:2-12)

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.



Reflection by Nick Brodie

Jesus repeatedly called out the Pharisees' inflexible attitudes and hypocritical behaviours. They were seemingly fixated on the letter of the law at the expense of its spirit. Given that, Jesus' reply to the Pharisees' loaded question about divorce is fascinating. Jesus answers a deliberately provocative legal question by referring to two data points: law and creation. When the two appear at odds in this instance Jesus prioritises creation.

With this in mind, we would do well to remember this episode's wider import as this Season of Creation draws to a close. The weight which Jesus gave to creation's divine purpose is surely significant. In that light we should perhaps revisit the spirit of Moses' law, especially that section in chapter 23 of Exodus which commands the people to let the land lie fallow every seventh year. This was for the benefit of the poor and the wild animals. Even the idea of everyone resting on the sabbath every week was partly and explicitly so that the community's oxen and donkeys could have a rest. In the long view, therefore, protecting creation is an ancient part of our faith's tradition. The question is: do we still live up to its spirit?

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
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