



Sunday 14th March 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
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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 20th & 21st March

SACRED HEART 9.00am

Special Minister: T. Sirianni, R. Belli

Reader: A. Pieper

ST THOMAS VIGIL 6.00pm & 10.30am

Special Minister 6.00pm: L. Carty, T. Holland, S. Bishop

Special Minister 10.30am: A. Kerr, J. Millar, M. Tipping

6.00pm: Reader: S. McMahon **Commentator:** J. Bohan **Set Up:** C. Leahy

10.30am: Reader: M. Bates **Commentator:** T. Williamson **Set Up:** C. O'Brien

Counters: B. Tipping, B. Smiddy, J. De Carlo **Cleaners:** N. Mefflin, B. Murray (10th April)

Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our Websites

*******NO MASSES AT ST PETER'S UNTIL DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS ARE REMOVED*******

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Elaine Chapman, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherin Leonard,
Tony Ledda, Sarah Drummond, Wimal Piyumsiri,

We pray for those who have died including Annette Hyland and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom

Les Ginnivan, Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens

COMMUNITY LIFE

SENIOR MOMENTS: Senior Moments meeting 12pm Wednesday 17th March "Lunch and Scrabble" in the Parish Centre. Please BYO lunch and cup.

Next meeting 7th April in the Parish Centre at 12.00pm.

MORNING TEA VIA ZOOM: These Zoom catch ups for morning tea for members of our partnered parishes, have been such a great initiative. Now that we are venturing out and about, the need is not so great for us to be finding ways to see and speak with others. However, the group who has been gathering doesn't want it to simply stop, so we have decided to meet on the first Friday of each month at 10.30. This gives people who go to morning mass, time to get back home and settle in for morning tea. This is a great way to get together with old friends and meet new people. If you are interested please contact Jacinta Bright at Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au or call the parish office at St Mary's on 9435 1543.

MORING TEA DATE FOR APRIL WILL BE ON FRIDAY THE 9TH APRIL.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: We wish to advise all community groups that should you wish to have an event listed in our Weekly Newsletter the deadline is the 2.00pm on the Wednesday prior. Should you have any queries please contact Lisa in the Parish Office.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS: Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart at 9.15am.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK WITHIN OUR PARISHES: It is time again to update those who we have been praying for within our Parishes. If you wish to have anyone added to the prayer list could you please notify Pat **9401 6361** or Lisa **9434 7373** or email greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: Our monthly Charismatic Masses have resumed at St Thomas the Apostle parish, 251 Diamond Creek Road, Nth Greensborough, the next Mass being on Thursday, 18th March in the parish hall. The evening will commence with praise and worship at 7.30pm followed by Mass. Please note, bookings are required via TryBooking. For any assistance with bookings or any further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BPNXR>

RCIA: A small group, for adults, is commencing for those interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith. We warmly welcome anyone who is interested in joining this group to contact either the Sacred Heart or St Thomas parish office.

REMEMBERING HOLY SATURDAY: This retreat will be made available during the Holy Week. It explores the mystery of Holy Saturday, on what it means to live in "in-between" times, liminal times. There will be video talk everyday starting from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This retreat will be given by an oblate of Jamberoo Abbey, Rev Catherine Eaton.

For more information, go to our website: <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats/holy-week-retreat/>
<https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats/holy-week-retreat/>

PATRICK ORATION On the evening of 17th March, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli will deliver the Patrick Oration for 2021. The broadcast begins at 7.30pm and can be viewed on community TV channel C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and via www.youtube.com/archmelb. The Archbishop explains, 'Once again, I will take the opportunity to set a sense of where I see us at this moment, and how we move forward. We might call it the Patrick Oration: COVID edition.'

POPE FRANCIS' WORLDWIDE PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH: The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Francis asks, 'Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God.' He continues: 'Let us pray that God may give his Church merciful priests and not torturers.'



Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. She was forced to flee the armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and her eight-month-old baby.

With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support, and learnt sewing skills to help her earn an income.

Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family. "Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia," Jamila says.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.

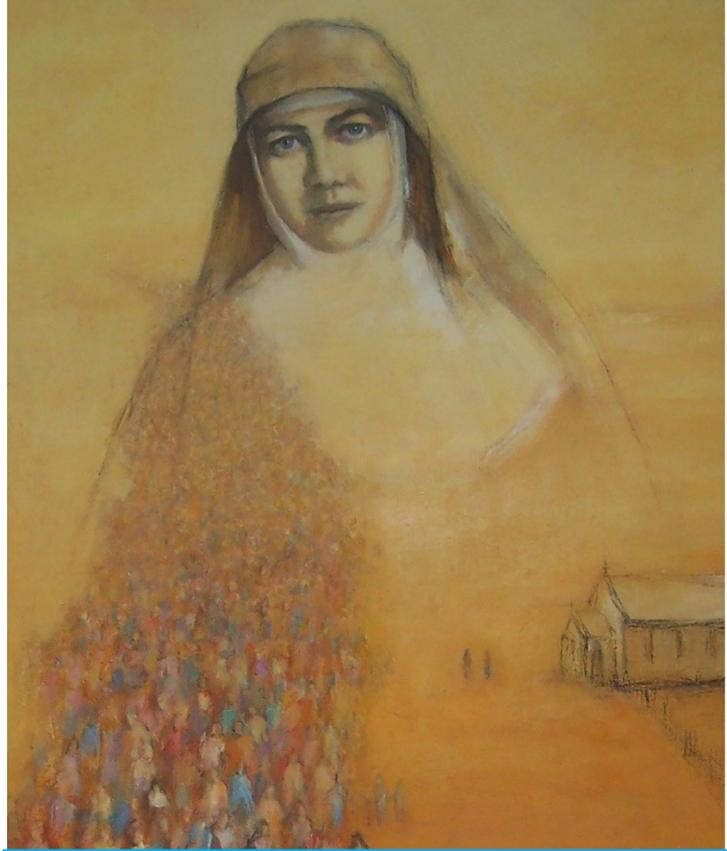
You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

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.



In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to

“Take fresh courage.”

This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary’s canonisation.

During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross.

For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit marymackilloptoday.org.au

MARY MACKILLOP
today

Mary MacKillop Today would like to offer you and your parishioners a FREE copy of a very special Mary MacKillop Prayer Book. This commemorative Prayer Book celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Registrations for our April mailing close on 7 April. If you would like to receive your own copy of the Prayer Book please register your details on our Website: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book
Thank you for your support and help in carrying on the good works of Saint Mary MacKillop.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

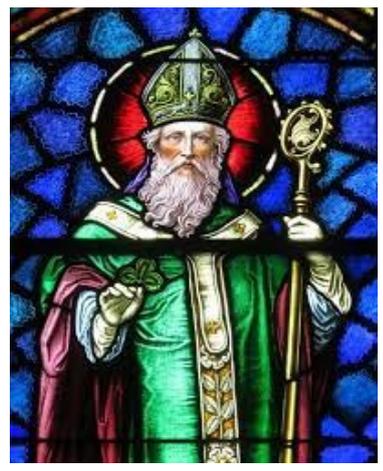
It is now 205 days to the commencement of Assembly One of the Plenary Council. The Working Document (Instrumentum Laboris) which 'draws heavily on the voices heard during the Listening and Dialogue and the Listening and Discernment phases and other key sources.' It is available to download at www.plenarycouncil.org.au/Instrumentum-Laboris/. Two podcasts are available also.

CALLING EDITORS OR BUDDING EDITORS!

We need help with the e-book. Amanda Grieg the IT leader at St Mary’s School, has begun work on editing and formatting the famous e-book, to which Fr Steven invited parishioners to contribute, describing their experiences, large or small, of COVID lockdown. We have a number of contributions and Amanda has completed some work in getting this e-book ready, but she needs help. If you are interested please contact your parish office and your details will be passed on to Amanda. If you want to know more before committing, please contact Jacinta Bright at St Mary’s Parish on 9435 1543 or via email Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au

FEAST OF ST PATRICK 17TH MARCH

St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne is dedicated to St Patrick the pioneering Irish Bishop who faithfully and courageously led the Church in Ireland and who initiated many changes to that society.
Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron **saint** of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.
He was a missionary bishop and is remembered for his simplicity, his humble trust in God, and his fearless preaching of the Gospel and care of his people.



Mass we be celebrated at Sacred Heart at 9.15am on Wednesday 17th March

LENTEN THEME 2021– ‘God has come near’

Lent is the liturgical season for prayer, reflection and contrition for any wrongdoing we have made in our lives as we prepare for the joyous season of Easter. The theme for Lent 2021 has been taken from the Gospel of Mark. In chapter 1, Jesus came into Galilee after spending 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, and there He uttered His first words in public ministry:

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near; repent and believe in the gospel.”

The world has experienced a great upheaval because of the coronavirus which has shaken our sense of certainty and expectations of the future; all of our lives have been disrupted and changed; our livelihoods may have been adversely affected, our health and those we love may have been compromised; we may have suffered loss and grief, periods of time filled with fear, anxiety and uncertainty; we may have been challenged to find hope and peace in our lives. This theme reaches out of each of us, to remind us that God is always with us, offering us a way back from the wilderness into God’s love and care and a way to live, through the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel. Let us embrace God and each other and allow the love and peace of God to fill our hearts.

LENTEN WEEKLY REFLECTION.

Week 4 Beauty in Truth

In a world where truth has lost its virtue and is used and abused by many for their own ends, the value and beauty of truth cannot be overstated. In our daily lives we may live the truth of being a parent, son or daughter, relative, friend, work mate, support person, parishioner, activist, hobbyist and so on. Being truthful to ourselves and our moral code and to those around us provides a solid foundation for a good life. As Catholics we state our truth through the words of the Creed: we believe in the Holy Trinity; we believe in Jesus as the Son of God who was born, died and was buried and rose again; we believe in the dignity of each person, made in the image of God; we believe in the Church as the body of Christ of which we are members. There is beauty in this truth which brings peace and contentment.



ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT: A lovely caring Christian woman and her daughter (aged 30) came to Australia from Cairo after the death of the husband/father, in January 2020. This was to be a time of healing for them. They were to stay with family for three months and then return, but COVID meant that they could not return. In order to be allowed to stay the daughter had to study so she could be on a student visa. So the daughter is studying and working 20 hours and the mother is working two half days a week in a \$2 shop. Wanting to have some independence, after relying on family for over 12 months, they are looking for some accommodation, a room, or two rooms, or a bungalow. They cannot afford to pay rent but would willingly contribute to the household by providing cleaning, ironing, cooking and driving people to appointments of shopping. The woman’s sister and a friend are trying to assist them financially, including finding a car for them to use whilst here. Would you be interested in such an arrangement? The two women come with high recommendation as wonderful caring women, who would be very competent in whatever they provide for the household, as mentioned. Of course, this would need to be an arrangement where goodwill and generosity prevail from all involved. If you are interested please contact Jacinta Bright at Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au or 9435 1543.

VICTORIA’S HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SAVING PACKAGE

The Victorian Government is investing \$797 million to help Victorians reduce cost of their power bills and make homes more energy efficient. This includes the biggest household energy efficiency package in any state’s history in Australia, creating thousands of jobs, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. **Announced in the Victorian Budget 2020/21**

- \$335 million to deliver new high efficiency heating and cooling systems for low income households
- \$112 million for energy upgrades of social housing properties
- \$128 million for one-off \$250 Power Saving Bonus payments to help concession card holders with their bills.

The Victorian Energy Upgrades program is also being expanded so that all Victorian households can continue to access discounted energy efficient products and services that will help save money on bills, including for emerging energy saving technologies.

The government is also introducing minimum efficiency standards for rental properties, benefitting renters living in around 350,000 homes, and working to establish 7-star efficiency standards for new homes.

This package will create jobs, lower energy bills, increase Victoria’s renewable energy supply and improve the living standards of vulnerable households – ensuring that no Victorians are left behind in the state’s energy transition.

<https://www.victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/victorias-household-energy-savings-package>

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

**(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us.

'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.'

Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended!

Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter.

Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light.

Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

mtate@bigpond.com

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. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.