



Sunday 24th May 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Lenin Thenamirtham

Pastoral Associate: Jacinta Bright

Pastoral Associate: Sr. Margaret Sapsford

Pastoral Worker: Christina O'Connor

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088
Parish: 9435 1543
Presbytery: 9432 2515
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
1st & 3rd Saturday of the month: Vigil Mass at
St. Peter's Hurstbridge 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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

SACRED HEART 9:00am:

Special Ministers:

Reader: Commentator: Welcoming:
Set-Up: Counters: Cleaners:

ST. PETER'S 7:15pm: Next Mass Saturday 2020

Special Ministers:

Reader: Commentator: Set-Up:

ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE Vigil 6.00pm & 10:30am:

Special Ministers 6.00pm:

Special Ministers 10:30am:

6.00pm: Reader: Commentator: Set-Up:

10.30am: Reader: Commentator: Set-up:

Counters: Cleaners: 11th April:

MASSES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

Martin Leonard, Bridie Burke, Rose Hegarty, Nicole Bisticic, Bernice Burke, Linda Bisticic, Joan Moran, Marilyn Manison,
Alan McCarthy, Shirley Bourke, Annette Hyland, Catherine Leonard, Ted Sheenan, Haylie Adams-Vivanxay, Mark Quipp,
Giovanna Ng, Petronilla De Leo

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

Dorothy Pittle, Alan Bentley, Glenn Hurley, Michael Berriman, Helen McCrohan Steve Molnar, Domenica Picollo, Kath Mumford,
Theodora Ellul, Maura McGauran, Stephen Ruzic, Marg Watson, Ray Money, Gaetano Palazzolo, Peter Beaumont, Frank Perversi,
Noela Atkinson

WORSHIP & PRAYER

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS: With the suspension of all Religious Services at this time there are a number of opportunities for you to Live Stream daily mass. These are:

- **St. Patrick's Cathedral:** Monday - Friday, 1:00pm, Saturday 8:00am & Sunday 11:00am, you can access these by the following Link <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or on Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass
- **St. Mary's Greensborough:** Mass is uploaded to all of our Websites for viewing late Saturday or Sunday., access via following Link <http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth> or <http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek>

DIAMOND VALLEY COVID-19 HOME STORIES

Stories from the Partnered Parishes of Diamond Creek, Greensborough and Greensborough North about a time of pandemic.

Good stories capture our imaginations, inspire us to be better, teach us, define us and help us bear witness to our own humanity and those of our neighbours. We weave our stories with other people's stories on a common loom. Let's weave together and see our tapestry.

Jesus was not only a healer, a teacher and prophet—he was a storyteller. He used his stories to illuminate the minds and souls of those who heard his voice. His voice can still be heard in the written form through the scripture, through the Mass, through the art and music that artists across the world are inspired to create and our very own voices (if we allow it to be).

Pope Francis' 2020 Message for World Day of Social Communication is an inspirational piece about the value and need for our stories to be told. The text of his Message follows and is an inspiration for us to be story-tellers, especially at this crucial time in history. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we live in the short term and we are yet to see the changes that will occur in the future.

We would love to hear your story about staying home to stay safe. Some inspiration questions may include:

- What has changed in your outside world?
- What has changed in you?
- What new skills have you been required to learn?
- What have you grown to appreciate?
- What has died in you during this time ?
- What time has been given life at this time?
- What has been your biggest challenge?
- What has been your biggest success?
- What do you want to remember from this?
- What lessons will you let live or let die?
- What made you see the humorous side of life
- What made you shed a tear or re-evaluate your heart's desire?
- With all that you have learnt and gained and lost—Where do you want to go from here?

We would LOVE to hear your stories and anecdotes to collate into a book. Over the next few weeks, think of what story you would like to pass on; perhaps something you want others to know, or perhaps your children, your grandchildren or even those who will walk the paths we walk now.

Say a prayer, muster your courage, get planning & write! Your piece does not need to be long, a paragraph or two or three, would suffice. If you would like to contribute your story please email it to us at Diamondcreek@cam.org.au or greensborough@cam.org.au or greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au including your name & age (if you are game enough) with a note giving us permission to publish your work.

Submissions close on 31st July 2020. The collection of stories will be published in an e-book on the feast of the Birth of Mary. Mother of Jesus - 8th September 2020.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES & SUPPORT FOR OUR PRIESTS

If you would like to continue to support the Parishes financially, you can drop Thanksgiving envelopes or money to support the Priests (in an envelope clearly marked)to either Parish offices or alternatively placed in the letter box beside the front door of the Presbytery at St Thomas. **(Not the Front Gate) Diamond Valley Deanery Refugee envelopes may be also left in the Parish Offices.**

Alternatively if you would like to change to Direct Debit or Credit Card please contact Pat or Lisa to make these arrangements.

Thankyou to everyone who have already taken it upon themselves to continue to support our Parishes and Priests.

We thank you all for your continued support through these trying times.

Fr Steven, Fr Tao & Fr Lenin

Lisa & Pat.

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.

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Pope Francis releases his annual message for the Word Day of Social Communication, a reflection on the Biblical text Exodus 10:2: "That you may tell your children and grandchildren".

Life becomes history

I would like to devote this year's Message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.

1. Weaving stories

Human beings are storytellers. From childhood we hunger for stories just as we hunger for food. Stories influence our lives, whether in the form of fairy tales, novels, films, songs, news, even if we do not always realize it. Often we decide what is right or wrong based on characters and stories we have made our own. Stories leave their mark on us; they shape our convictions and our behaviour. They can help us understand and communicate who we are.

We are not just the only beings who need clothing to cover our vulnerability (cf. Gen 3: 21); we are also the only ones who need to be "clothed" with stories to protect our lives. We weave not only clothing, but also stories: indeed, the human capacity to "weave" (Latin *texere*) gives us not only the word textile but also text. The stories of different ages all have a common "loom": the thread of their narrative involves "heroes", including everyday heroes, who in following a dream confront difficult situations and combat evil, driven by a force that makes them courageous, the force of love. By immersing ourselves in stories, we can find reasons to heroically face the challenges of life.

Human beings are storytellers because we are engaged in a process of constant growth, discovering ourselves and becoming enriched in the tapestry of the days of our life. Yet since the very beginning, our story has been threatened: evil snakes its way through history.

2. Not all stories are good stories

"When you eat of it ... you will be like God" (cf. Gen 3:4): the temptation of the serpent introduces into the fabric of history a knot difficult to undo. "If you possess, you will become, you will achieve..." This is the message whispered by those who even today use storytelling for purposes of exploitation. How many stories serve to lull us, convincing us that to be happy we continually need to gain, possess and consume. We may not even realize how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming. Often on communication platforms, instead of constructive stories which serve to strengthen social ties and the cultural fabric, we find destructive and provocative stories that wear down and break the fragile threads binding us together as a society. By patching together bits of unverified information, repeating banal and deceptively persuasive arguments, sending strident and hateful messages, we do not help to weave human history, but instead strip others of their dignity.

But whereas the stories employed for exploitation and power have a short lifespan, a good story can transcend the confines of space and time. Centuries later, it remains timely, for it nourishes life.

In an age when falsification is increasingly sophisticated, reaching exponential levels (as in deepfake), we need wisdom to be able to welcome and create beautiful, true and good stories. We need courage to reject false and evil stories. We need patience and discernment to rediscover stories that help us not to lose the thread amid today's many troubles. We need stories that reveal who we truly are, also in the untold heroism of everyday life.

3. The Story of stories

Sacred Scripture is a Story of stories. How many events, peoples and individuals it sets before us! It shows us from the very beginning a God who is both creator and narrator. Indeed, God speaks his word and things come into existence (cf. Gen 1). As narrator, God calls things into life, culminating in the creation of man and woman as his free dialogue partners, who make history alongside him. In one of the Psalms, the creature tells the creator: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth" (139:13-15). We are not born complete, but need to be constantly "woven", "knitted together". Life is given to us as an invitation to continue to weave the "wonderful" mystery that we are.

The Bible is thus the great love story between God and humanity. At its center stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God. Henceforth, in every generation, men and women are called to recount and commit to memory the most significant episodes of this Story of stories, those that best communicate its meaning.

The title of this year's Message is drawn from the Book of Exodus, a primordial biblical story in which God intervenes in the history of his people. When the enslaved children of Israel cry out to Him, God listens and remembers: "God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel – and God knew" (Ex 2: 24-25). God's memory brings liberation from oppression through a series of signs and wonders. The Lord then reveals to Moses the meaning of all these signs: "that you may tell in the hearing of your children and grandchildren... what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord" (Ex 10:2).

The Exodus experience teaches us that knowledge of the Lord is handed down from generation to generation mainly by telling the story of how he continues to make himself present. The God of life communicates with us through the story of life. Jesus spoke of God not with abstract concepts, but with parables, brief stories taken from everyday life. At this point life becomes story and then, for the listener, story becomes life: the story becomes part of the life of those who listen to it, and it changes them. The Gospels are also stories, and not by chance. While they tell us about Jesus, they are “performative” [1]; they conform us to Jesus. The Gospel asks the reader to share in the same faith in order to share in the same life. The Gospel of John tells us that the quintessential storyteller – the Word – himself becomes the story: “God’s only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known” (Jn 1: 18). The original verb, *exegésato*, can be translated both as “revealed” and “recounted”. God has become personally woven into our humanity, and so has given us a new way of weaving our stories.

4. An ever-renewed story

The history of Christ is not a legacy from the past; it is our story, and always timely. It shows us that God was so deeply concerned for mankind, for our flesh and our history, to the point that he became man, flesh and history. It also tells us that no human stories are insignificant or paltry. Since God became story, every human story is, in a certain sense, a divine story. In the history of every person, the Father sees again the story of his Son who came down to earth. Every human story has an irrepressible dignity. Consequently, humanity deserves stories that are worthy of it, worthy of that dizzying and fascinating height to which Jesus elevated it. “You” Saint Paul wrote – “are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Cor 3:3). The Holy Spirit, the love of God, writes within us. And as he writes within us, he establishes goodness in us and constantly reminds us of it. Indeed, to “re-mind” means to bring to mind, to “write” on the heart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, every story, even the most forgotten one, even the one that seems to be written with the most crooked lines, can become inspired, can be reborn as a masterpiece, and become an appendix to the Gospel. Like the Confessions of Augustine. Like A Pilgrim’s Journey of Ignatius. Like The Story of a Soul of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Like The Betrothed, like The Brothers Karamazov. Like countless other stories, which have admirably scripted the encounter between God’s freedom and that of man. Each of us knows different stories that have the fragrance of the Gospel, that have borne witness to the Love that transforms life. These stories cry out to be shared, recounted and brought to life in every age, in every language, in every medium.

5. A story that renews us

Our own story becomes part of every great story. As we read the Scriptures, the stories of the saints, and also those texts that have shed light on the human heart and its beauty, the Holy Spirit is free to write in our hearts, reviving our memory of what we are in God’s eyes. When we remember the love that created and saved us, when we make love a part of our daily stories, when we weave the tapestry of our days with mercy, we are turning another page. We no longer remain tied to regrets and sadness, bound to an unhealthy memory that burdens our hearts; rather, by opening ourselves to others, we open ourselves to the same vision of the great storyteller. Telling God our story is never useless: even if the record of events remains the same, the meaning and perspective are always changing. To tell our story to the Lord is to enter into his gaze of compassionate love for us and for others. We can recount to him the stories we live, bringing to him the people and the situations that fill our lives. With him we can re-weave the fabric of life, darning its rips and tears. How much we, all of us, need to do exactly this!

With the gaze of the great storyteller – the only one who has the ultimate point of view – we can then approach the other characters, our brothers and sisters, who are with us as actors in today’s story. For no one is an extra on the world stage, and everyone’s story is open to possible change. Even when we tell of evil, we can learn to leave room for redemption; in the midst of evil, we can also recognize the working of goodness and give it space.

So it is not a matter of simply telling stories as such, or of advertising ourselves, but rather of remembering who and what we are in God’s eyes, bearing witness to what the Spirit writes in our hearts and revealing to everyone that his or her story contains marvelous things. In order to do this, let us entrust ourselves to a woman who knit together in her womb the humanity of God and, the Gospel tells us, wove together the events of her life. For the Virgin Mary “treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Lk 2: 19). Let us ask for help from her, who knew how to untie the knots of life with the gentle strength of love: O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 24 January 2020, the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales

[1] Cf. Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi*, 2: “The Christian message was not only ‘informative’ but ‘performative’. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing”.

The Great Realisation : Published on the 2nd May a You Tube Video “ Tell me about the Virus again...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1XtWlpNjts>

The Message Board

Fr Tao's Message 21st May.

Last Sunday I rang to talk with my brother in Vietnam. I asked him about the coronavirus pandemic crisis and he let me know that, Vietnam has handled of the coronavirus very well. The total number of covid19 as of May 15th 2020 was estimated at 312, and the country has not reported a single death. The lives of the people in Vietnam are back to normal. I told him that, I do not believe the report from Vietnamese government but if it is true, we thank God for that. He asked me about the coronavirus pandemic crisis in Australia. I told him that, the coronavirus lockdown in Australia started in March 2020. These weeks all Catholic churches in Victoria have been suspended. However, the Archbishop of Archdiocese of Melbourne has encouraged his priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. Therefore, I celebrate daily Mass privately in my room.

Hearing about that he was concerned about me. He asked me, "Are there any priests' in the house with you?" I answered, "There is a young priest who is staying with me in the presbytery. He asked me, "How do you cope with this difficult time?" It is fine with me because the parishioners in these parishes look after me very well. Do not worry at all! The parishioners could not see me face to face, however, we keep in touch with each other in spirit by phones, by emails and by letters. With their care, I feel that I am at home.

Continuing the conversation, I let my brother know that, we have had good news this week. The recent easing of restrictions for community gatherings for religious purpose by the Victorian Government has offered the opportunity for public Masses to be celebrated with very strict limitations of 10 people every time. With this strict condition, our Parish Priest has made a decision to keep our churches closed and wait for the next stage of easing of restrictions. We all hope the coronavirus pandemic is over soon and all the churches in Australia will be opened soon.

My dear Parishioners, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your help and your support. Thank you very much for the people who rang me from the supermarket, "Fr Tao, we are in the supermarket now. Would you need some fish or meat on anything else, we will buy for you?" Thank you very much for the people who called me from home, "Fr Tao, we have some fresh vegetables. Would you like some? We will bring them and put them at your door."

Thank you very much to the people who rang me from Preston market, "Fr Tao, we are in Preston market now. Would you like some fresh fish? I will buy some for you?" Thank you very much for those who phoned me from the Pharmacy, "Fr Tao, would you need some Vitamin C?"

I am at the Pharmacy now. Would you like me to buy some for you?" Thank you very much for our secretaries who ring and ask me, "How are you today? Are you coping with the weather today? They do that almost every day. Thank you very much for the parishioners who have sent emails to encourage me. For example, the persons who let me know, "Fr Tao, we have read you homily this weekend. It inspires us very much and gave us hope in this time." Thank you very much for those who have sent to my very beautiful cards with best wishes and prayers. Thank you very much for everyone in our Parishes who pray for me every day.

As you know, I have no siblings, no relatives in this country, I am here alone. However, your pay attention, your support and your care make me feel I belong to these Parishes, my second home. I am grateful for your kindness, your care and support for me. I could do nothing but offer daily Mass and pray for you and your family. I pray that the Risen Lord will pay you a lot of merit for you. May almighty God bless you and your family always.

We keep going, we pray and ask God to help the world to stop the coronavirus pandemic soon and we will be able to see each other physically at our churches.

Have a good week to all!

Fr Tao Pham



Thank You!

A Big Thank You to everyone who has contributed to our Message Board so far.

If you would like to post a message next week or even share some news or a joke, please feel free to email

greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au before 12.00pm each Wednesday.

The Message Board

Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue

Lovely Lady dresses in blue
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
Tell me what to say!
Did you lift him up, sometimes,
Gently, on your knee?
Did you sing to him the way
Mother does to me?
Did you hold his hand at night?
Did you ever try
Telling stories of the world?
O! And did he ever cry!
Do you really think he cares
If I tell him things
Little things that happen? And
Do the angels' wings
Make a noise? And he can hear
Me if I speak low?
Does he understand me now?
Tell me, for you know.
Lovely Lady dressed in blue
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
And you know the way.



A special greeting to all our pensioners out there. I guess you were as pleased as I was to get the \$750 from the government, with another one promised later. I decided it needed to be put back into the economy to be fair to everyone who had lost their jobs. Little was I to know that spending it was not as much fun as I thought it would be. With an excessive water bill in the Dec to March account it was discovered my pipes has developed a leak. Plumbers need work so that was one of the ways I could spread my good fortune. Unfortunately a leak under a concrete drive proved difficult to locate so after many hours with three searching and a follow up the next day I ended \$1400 out of pocket. So there goes the second allowance too if it arrives.

Good luck with spreading the love with yours.

Pat Frisby



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The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

24 May 2020

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v. 6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
or**

(R.) Alleluia.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

**I am with you always, until the end
of the world.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.