



Sunday 6th December 2020

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: 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

WORSHIP & PRAYER

The celebration of Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes. 75 People Sacred Heart/ 80 St Thomas/ 100 St Mary's Indoor

Tuesday-Friday 9.15am St Mary's

Tuesday/Thursday 9.15am St Thomas

Wednesday/Friday 9.15am Sacred Heart

Saturday: 6.00pm St Thomas 6.30pm St Mary's

Sunday: 8.00am/10.00am /5.00pm St Mary's

Sunday: 9.00am Sacred Heart

Sunday: 1030am St Thomas

Bookings are essential for Weekend Mass via Trybooking:

The collection plate will not be passed around could you please leave your contributions in the baskets provided.

You can search Trybooking without the link: Sacred Heart Diamond Creek or St Thomas Greensborough Mass.

Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our websites.

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

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, Shirley Bourke, Annette Hyland, Catherine Leonard, Haylie Adams-Vivanxay, Giovanna Ng, Petronilla De Leo, Elaine Chapman, Jim Goodge, Tony Ledda, Fr Owen Doyle, Lyn Corcoran, Faye Bowkett

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of December that they enter Joyfully into

God's Kingdom

Adam Hilbert, Des Vincent, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Gwen Dalwood, Kevin Hewitt, Frank Orders, Emilia Micomonaco, Adrian DeGier, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Julian Federico, Nancy Marzella, Giovanni Marzella, Leo Glennon

ADVENT

The season of Advent begins today. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival, for the birth of the Saviour. It is also a time for reflection about the coming of Jesus into our lives through grace and the sacraments, and a time to keep in mind that He will come again.

The theme for Advent this year is **Awaken the Light of Hope**. This theme is a call for all Christian people to nurture hope and joy in our lives and is so appropriate and meaningful in the world today. As we approach the end of a year which has overturned and redrawn the way we live our lives, we remind ourselves that Jesus is with us; that in times when hope may be hard to find and when fear, confusion and uncertainty may destabilise our confidence in what we know and expect, He is there alongside us. His love never changes. We draw strength from His commitment to us. He is our rock and our salvation. We are able to look forward with courage and optimism. If we hold Him in our hearts, we are filled with hope and happiness and we are able to reach out to our community to share this love and faith.

LETTERS TO GRADE 6 STUDENTS

St Thomas the Apostle are writing letters to Grade 6 students who will be leaving the Parish School this year. We would like all parishioners to sign one letter each as a representative of all parishioners. Letters will be in the foyer for you to sign after Mass today.

TIME TO BREAK OUT THE BEST CHINA.

Join us for Morning Tea with Fr Steven & Jacinta Bright & parishioners & friends, over Zoom every Friday from 10.00am -11.00am*

We will make sure the conversation flows well and if we have a big enough number we can break up into small groups to allow you to have quieter conversations.

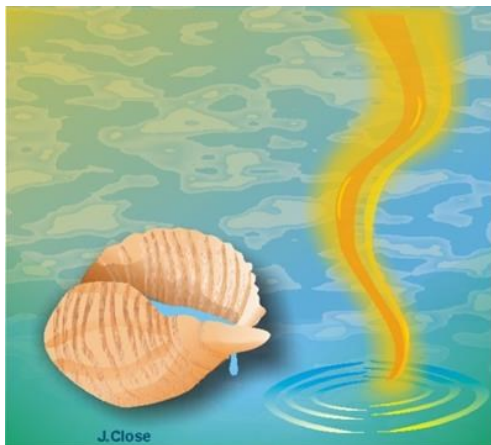
If you are interested, please contact Jacinta via the Greensborough parish office on 9435 1543 or Email

jacinta.bright@cam.org.au



Each week Archbishop Peter Comensoli records a video, which is available on www.melbournecatholic.org.au. I recommend this as a way of linking with the wider Church. The Archbishop concludes last week's Advent message with his prayer for each of us:

'That the Lord may come into your life and He might fill you with His tenderness and goodness. And that this time ahead will be a time of opening and coming to the Lord who comes to us through His Son Jesus Christ. May the Lord Bless you all. Until next week.'



LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION by Jenny Close

2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

Mark's Gospel begins with a narrative about baptism with water and the Holy Spirit. The earthly water washes away the detritus of sin and the Holy Spirit regenerates: the water is ours to use, but the Holy Spirit is pure gift. The focus on repentance and grace is part of our Advent task – to prepare ourselves by reflecting on our lives and seeking forgiveness while we watch and wait.

Dr Jennifer Close has qualifications in Fine Arts and education. She gained here PhD in Theology from Griffith University. She has extensive experience creating liturgical art, and teaching theology. Her particular interests are in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology.

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.

Personal information is collected, stored, used and disclosed by all Partner Parishes in conformity with Commonwealth & Victorian Legislation of 2001.

A copy of all Parishes Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner at the Parish Office and on our Websites.

HELP NEEDED

With the easing of restrictions we are now able to perform Baptisms in our Parishes. As there have been no Baptisms since February we have quite a backlog. If anyone is available to help on a Saturday (11.15am) or Sunday (10.45am Sacred Heart) or (11.45am St Thomas) for approximately an hour could you please contact the Parish Offices.

RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST AT MASS

I have noticed that some parishioners who have come to the Masses this last weekend have not received the Eucharist, and only asked for blessings. I would like to reassure everyone that over the last several months, because of the extraordinary circumstances, the normal obligations of Sunday Mass and celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to receive communion do not apply. When we are permitted to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we will offer opportunities to do so with individual and communal rites, but in the meantime, please make use of the opportunity to receive communion when you come to Mass.

Fr. Steven Rigo

St VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Greensborough Conference

The theme for this year's Annual Christmas Appeal is "A Christmas Like No Other" clearly the Christmas of the Covid year 2020. Now that congregations as large as 100 people are permitted, a third collection basket has been added at the entrance, for cash donations to the Christmas Appeal. You can still donate on line at vinnies.org.au or by phone on **13 18 12**, just as you did for our Winter appeal. Please direct your contribution to the Greensborough Conference if you donate on line. If you donate by phone, please tell the operator that you are donating to the Greensborough Conference. Also, Fr Steven has agreed that we can make our usual appeals at all Masses on the weekend of 12th/13th December. We in the Greensborough Conference hope and pray that you will be able to donate to our Christmas Appeal, despite the economic challenges 2020 has thrown into our paths.

Thank you.

Ian Fraser, President.

Diamond Creek Conference

Diamond Creek St Vincent de Paul is hoping to bring some Christmas joy to the families that we help out through the year. If you can donate in any way by giving gift cards, cash or vouchers, it would be very much appreciated. Envelopes can be placed in the collection bags in the churches, or left at the Parish Office by Tuesday 15th December.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Our Priests & liturgy teams are preparing for the Christmas Masses.

The timetable is as follows:

Thursday 24th December

- * 5.00pm St Thomas (Additional Mass)
- * 6.00pm Sacred Heart
- * 6.30pm St Mary's
- * 7.30pm St Thomas
- * 9.00pm Sacred Heart
- * 10.30pm St Mary's



Friday 25th December

- * 8.00am St Mary's
- * 9.00am Sacred Heart
- * 10.00am St Mary's
- * 10.30am St Thomas
- * No 5.00pm Mass at St Mary's

2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

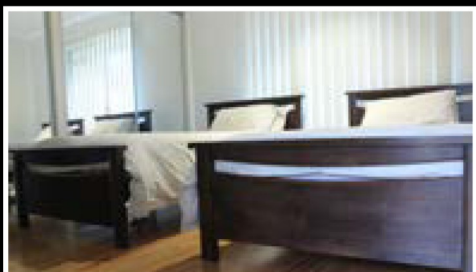
The 2021 Columban Art Calendar is now available for purchase.

As our Churches are still closed if you would like to purchase a Calendar you can contact Lisa 9434 7373 greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au or Pat 9401 6361 diamondcreek@cam.org.au to reserve your Calendar.

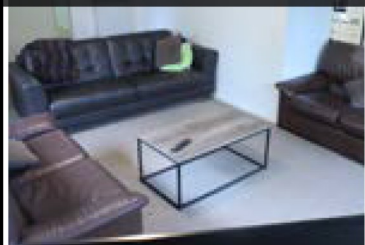
We only have limited stock at \$10.00 each.



ACCOMMODATION



ARRUPE HOUSE



**Accommodation available
in a shared or private living
environment.**

Features:

- 3 single private bedrooms
- 4 double private bedroom with ensuite
- Shared bathroom facilities
- Shared lounge area with TV
- Shared dining area & kitchen facilities
- Shared laundry facilities

For more information please see the application on our website or contact the Community Liaison Officer.



MANRESA COTTAGE



**Accommodation suitable for
one person or a couple**

Features:

- 1 Single Bedroom
(fold out bed available)
- Self contained Kitchen/Dining area & Bathroom
- Lounge area with TV
- Laundry facilities available from Arrupe House on site
- Fully furnished rooms with linen & towels provided



LOYOLA COLLEGE

A Catholic co-educational College in the Ignatian tradition

A: 325 Grimshaw Street, Watsonia VIC 3087
P: 03 9433 0228 or 0409 941 779
E: alonsod@loyola.vic.edu.au

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

6 December 2020

First Reading Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

***(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.***

1. I will hear what the Lord God has
to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from
heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

***Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:***

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

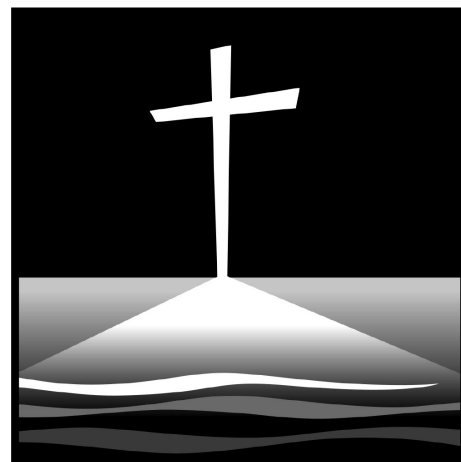
Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

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.