

Sunday 22nd August, 2021

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo

**Assistant Priests:** Fr. Dixon George & Fr. Tao Pham

**Pastoral Associates:** Jacinta Bright and Sr. Margaret Sapsford

Sacred Heart, St. Mary's & St. Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery. [www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au); Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne: [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

<b><u>St. Mary's</u></b>	<b><u>Sacred Heart</u></b>	<b><u>St. Thomas the Apostle</u></b>
204 Grimshaw St., Greensborough, 3088 <b>Parish:</b> 9435 1543 <b>Email:</b> Greensborough@cam.org.au <b>Website:</b> www.cam.org.au/greensborough <b>Secretaries:</b> Francesca Olofsson and Sharon Prosser <b>Communications Officer:</b> Denise Chang-Faux <b>Parish School Principal</b> Mrs. Marisa Matthys <b>Ph:</b> 9433 4000 <b>or Email</b> principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au	25 Gipson Street, Diamond Creek 3089 <b>Parish:</b> 9401 6361 <b>Email:</b> DiamondCreek@cam.org.au <b>Website:</b> www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek <b>Secretary:</b> Pat Guatta <b>Parish School Principal</b> Mr. Jim O'Sullivan <b>Ph:</b> 9438 1590 <b>or Email</b> principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au	251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough Nth 3088 <b>Parish:</b> 9434 7373 <b>Email:</b> greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au <b>Website:</b> www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth <b>Secretary:</b> Lisa Leahy <b>Parish School Principal</b> Mr. David Delaney <b>Ph:</b> 9434 4565 <b>or Email</b> Principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

**The celebration of Masses in our parish**

Unfortunately during this time of lockdown, because of the Coronavirus, we cannot have Mass as usual. The Government has listed churches as among the venues that must remain closed. You can find Fr Steven's Masses on our website at <https://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough> or Facebook page - St Mary's Catholic Parish Greensborough. Various other information is uploaded frequently so feel free to browse at any time.

The Cathedral Mass online <https://www.cam.org.au/cathedral>. Daily Mass is streamed at 1pm Monday to Friday and 8am on Saturday. Sunday Mass is streamed at 11am and is also available on demand.

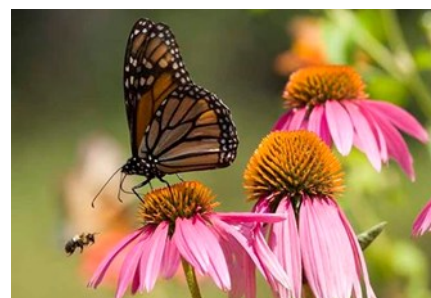
**MASS AT HOME: St. Patrick's Cathedral:** on Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass at 11am. This is free to air.

**Gospel Focus – Peter's faith**

Having laid out a fairly difficult teaching to the crowd, Jesus is faced with the fact that many of those who were following him couldn't cope with what he was saying and they walked away from him. Jesus turns on the Twelve and demands of them, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' One can almost hear the frustration and weariness in his voice. Peter's response must have been a great relief to Jesus. Peter declares that Jesus has the message of eternal life and is the Holy One of God. He still hasn't quite got the full picture but it's something Jesus can continue to work with!

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Scripture reflection: 'You have the message of Eternal Life.'



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*Our Partner Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.*

# What's Happening in St Mary's Parish?

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

**MASSES**—Unfortunately during this time of lockdown, because of the Coronavirus, we cannot have Mass as usual. The Government has listed churches as among the venues that must remain closed:

"PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES: No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians"

You can find Fr Steven's Masses on our website at <https://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough> or Facebook page - St Mary's Catholic Parish Greensborough. We shall update you all as we are informed.

**The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor**, is released for Social Justice Sunday August 29th, to help us shape our efforts in this next year, to care for creation whilst having compassion for disadvantaged and excluded people. [Social-Justice-Statement-2021-22.pdf \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/social-justice-statement-2021-22.pdf)

We pray: 'That government, business, and community policies and practices at the local, national, and international level honour, reflect and protect the sacredness of all places, creatures and people. - St Mary's Social Justice Group

**RECORDED MASSES – HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.** Every week since March last year, St Mary's parishioners Troy and Trevor have shared the recording and uploading of the Saturday evening Mass from one of our partnered parishes and Masses during lockdowns. We thank them for their faithful commitment to our communities. However, **to continue to offer recorded Masses on a regular basis, help is urgently needed.** Troy was married recently and will soon be moving from the parish, and Trevor has an ongoing commitment as projectionist at a Sunday Mass. 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.

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A 10 WEEK MEDITATION PROGRAM**—A local lady, Marie Lee-Conway, has approached Jacinta Bright, after completing a qualification in Meditation at Catholic Theological College, seeking to run a 10 week centering prayer experience as part of her study. If you are interested, please email [Jacinta.bright@cam.org.a](mailto:Jacinta.bright@cam.org.a). Here are Marie's reflections on Centering Prayer: a method designed to locate a sacred inner space for personal thoughts and feelings held and expressed in deep relationship with the living Christ through the soul's intention to be present before God. Centering Prayer is for anyone and everyone who desires greater intimacy with God. It is a prayer posture that opens one's heart to God without words, images, or expectations. One lovingly and solicitously presents oneself before God and trusts that God will reveal himself in his own way and time. Further information around Centering Prayer can be found <http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/>. The program is due to begin the first week in September and will run until the last week in October. Participants will meet for one hour per week. A venue will be identified as the lockdown restrictions dictate. EG St Mary's Gathering Space, environmentally friendly Outdoor Garden setting, Zoom.

**NEW**

God of all Life

May your love and light shine in and through me today in a way that no mask can hide.

May my eyes dance with the laughter and joy replacing my hidden smile.

May my actions of care and concern speak louder than my muffled voice ever could.

And may the generosity of my heart radiate out through who I am

And how I respond to the world around me so that others may not see my mask

But your image shining out moving in and through me today.

Amen Br Michael Herry fms

**NEW**



## Fan the Flame

Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

**'The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'**

*John 6:60-69*

Through appropriate faith formation, God can shape us into deepening our spirituality within the life of the Church, engaging with scripture, encountering God in worship and prayerfully developing our living relationship with Jesus Christ.

*(Prayerful and Eucharistic – Discernment Paper p. 5)*

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/)

**NEW**



**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** 4pm Wednesday. Unfortunately anything received after deadline will be included in following week's bulletin.

# What's Happening in St Mary's Parish?

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK. August 23-29

Tracking Fertility: Tracking Health Would you like to discover a way of tracking your cycles and understand a method of family planning in which both members of the couple share this awesome responsibility? This knowledge is something every woman should have and every man can learn!

**NEW**

The Billings Ovulation Method® is based on sound science and has been proven an effective Method to achieve or postpone a pregnancy and to monitor reproductive health. More info can be found: website <https://billings.life/en/> OR Contact Billings LIFE via email: [enquiries@thebillingsovulationmethod.org](mailto:enquiries@thebillingsovulationmethod.org) for a teacher nearest to you.



### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

**An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.**

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. **Please check our website for more details.** We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: **10 -12**

**September 2021** or a non –residential weekend: **16 - 17 October 2021** in west Gippsland. (Book early to avoid disappointment) Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Web-site: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

**NEW**



### MAJOR EARTHQUAKE HITS HAITI

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a **7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died**, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that **more than 30,000 families have been left homeless**. The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. **There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.** To provide support, you can donate to **Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal. Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.**

**NEW**



St Mary's Parish is in the process of updating our data base, with parishioners' contact details. We comply with Australian Privacy Principles in our collection, storage, use and disposal of private information.

It is our intention that the information provided via your Trybooking registration for Masses, be used to update our records. If you prefer that we do not use the contact details you have provided when you have registered for a Mass, please notify the parish office 9435 1543

# What's Happening in St Mary's Parish?

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS CONT'D

### PANDEMIC ENQUIRY

On 1 June 2021, the Australian Young Christian Students (AYCS) launched its Pandemic Enquiry for secondary students in schools and parish youth groups throughout Australia. There are five-sessions, and it has been designed to engage as many students and young people as possible, whether they are in the YCS or not.

**NEW** The Pandemic Enquiry explores "How the Covid-19 Pandemic has affected me, my country and our world; why it should concern me; and what I might be able to do about its consequences".

Fr Michael O'Connell (Parish Priest of St Martin of Tours Parish) is a part of the YCS as the Diocesan Chaplain and has been supporting the Pandemic Enquiry.

You are invited to join with Fr. Michael, Sr. Maria (Pastoral Associate) and a few young people, who will be meeting for the second session on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7pm via zoom. (See zoom link below). We had a fantastic with the first session last Sunday.

Topic: Youth Meeting - Sundays at 7pm

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82058300330?pwd=SmE5WXMxRic0RIRXaWw3R1pMUW96QT09>

Meeting ID: 820 5830 0330

Passcode: 569179

If you want to receive 'enquiry material' please send an email to Maria.Bui@cam.org.au, or to your local parish secretary and then the enquiry material will be sent to you.

### JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AS WE EXPLORE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FAITH.

Presented by Dr Janina Hiebel, Dr Rosemary Canavan, Dr Carmel Posa SGS and Dr Claire Renkin, the series will be held over four sessions.

Each session involves all four speakers who will explore three women around a common theme – Old Testament, New Testament, Monastic Women, and the Artwork around them. A Q&A will follow each session

**NEW**



Called to be  
Dangerous Women  
Virtual Scripture Series

### EVENT DETAILS

**WHEN:** September 1, 8, 22 & 29

**TIME:** 7.00pm – 8.00pm (AEST)

**WHERE:** Via Zoom Meeting. Zoom link will be emailed after you have registered.

**REGISTRATION:** [Click here to register](#) or use the button below.

Online registration is essential.

### FREE COMMUNITY TRAINING SESSION MANAGING VOLUNTEERS AND THE LAW

**When:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Where:** Virtual

**Bookings:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-volunteers-and-the-law-tickets-150839636413>

**NEW**



For more information and to see a full list of the training sessions on offer visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-training-calendar](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/community-training-calendar) or contact Aimee Catterall on 0428 797 844 or [aimee.catterall@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:aimee.catterall@nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



**First Reading Jos 24:1-2, 15-18**

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9**

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from  
the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be  
condemned. (R.)

**Second Reading Eph 5:21-32**

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and

sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation See Jn 6:63. 68**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!**

**Gospel Jn 6:60-69**

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'



**Reflection by Fr Michael Tate**

I remember seeing a James Bond film in which the Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence.

There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their life.

But *our* ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a different destiny, a different reality. We have heard a voice which speaks the truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful reality. That voice says that you and I, individually, personally, are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy.

The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We hear that voice from within the Church, which has transmitted the tradition of 'The Voice' for twenty centuries.

Heeding that Voice, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death. I am no longer a 'Dead Man Walking' but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

That is why when I hear the challenge: 'Do you also wish to go away?' I enter into that tradition and answer with St Peter, I answer in the company of billions of others over twenty centuries: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'

We could pause for a moment and pray that, living in the tradition of the Church, I may hear the Word in the Gospel and take that Word within myself in Holy Communion so that I might be no longer a 'Dead Man Walking', but a human being alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

mtate@bigpond.com

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# What's Happening in St Mary's Parish?

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



## LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

Dear Parishioner,

In mid-2020 I formed an Establishment Committee for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People of our Partnered Parishes of Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek, St. Mary's, Greensborough and St. Thomas the Apostle, Greensborough North. This Committee's work centred on developing policies and practices in order for us to be compliant with both Government and Archdiocese of Melbourne requirements around protecting children and young people.

The Establishment Committee, which has done a monumental task, has been coordinated by Helen Anderson, whom I seconded immediately after her retirement from her principalship at St. Mary's, and has consisted of Jacinta Bright and Sr. Margaret Sapsford, Parish Pastoral Associates, Leon Kempen (St. Mary's), Chris Aicher (St. Thomas the Apostle), Wendy and Ray McEvoy (Sacred Heart). I have also been an active member over the past year. I also wrote two letters to you on behalf of the Establishment Committee in September and November to communicate to you the progress of their work. This Establishment Committee has now completed its task of developing policies and practices for our parishes which are all available to be viewed on the Parish Websites.

Now a Committee for the Safeguarding of Children and Young People with representatives from each of the three Parishes, has been formed to implement, monitor and review these policies and practices, and to develop a culture among all of us that actively provides for the safety of children and young people. This Safeguarding Committee currently consists of Moira Willits, Jim Kelly-Viney, Tim Hamilton (St. Mary's), Ray Belli, Ronan McIlroy (Sacred Heart), Tim Holland, Michael Bates (St. Thomas'). Sr. Margaret Sapsford, Jacinta Bright and I will continue to be members of the Committee. I thank all of them for their generosity. I would welcome more members onto this Committee so that the tasks required by its members might be distributed more widely. You will be hearing from the members of the Committee as they seek to assist you to ensure the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our parishes. Complying with and living out our commitment to protecting our young people will require new expectations of us all and this Committee will assist us to do so.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the members of the Establishment Committee, now that it has completed its task, for their dedication and hard work, and especially to Helen Anderson for her committed leadership and professional guidance, ensuring that the work is completed.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven Rigo'.

Fr. Steven Rigo  
(Parish Priest)

# What's Happening in St Mary's Parish?

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



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

## #44 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Information Updated: 16 August 2021, 5.00pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The restrictions in place are compulsory as issued under lawful direction of the Chief Health Officer of Victoria, where a State of Emergency remains in place until **16 December 2021**.

- **Curfew:** As of 11.59pm Monday 16 August, a Curfew will be in place from 9pm to 5am, whereby a person is not permitted to leave their home except for limited reasons.
- **Face Coverings:** Must be carried at all times. Must be worn indoors and outdoors except if at home or if an exception applies. Exception for food and drink limited so that face coverings can only be removed to eat and to drink non-alcoholic beverages (in reference to hotels and bars).
- **There will be 5 Reasons to leave home: (NOTE CURFEW INFORMATION ABOVE)**
  - shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required; within 5km);
  - caregiving or compassionate reasons;
  - authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate (if you can work from home, you must work from home);
  - exercise (up to two hours, with one other person or members of your household; within 5km);
  - receive a vaccination.
- **Private gatherings are not be permitted:** except for partner and single person bubbles.
- **Public Gatherings (park, beach etc):** Not Permitted.
- **PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES:** No in-person gatherings permitted. Broadcast is permitted for up to 5 people. These must be the same 5 people each time.
- **FUNERALS:** (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.
- **WEDDINGS:** (indoor and outdoor): Not permitted unless end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons (including the two persons being married, celebrant, two witnesses).
- **CARE FACILITY VISITORS:** For permitted purposes only. (refer Govt Guidelines)
- **HOSPITALS VISITORS:** For permitted purposes only. (refer Govt Guidelines)
- **WORK:** If you can work from home, you must work from home. Authorised workers are permitted to travel to and from work even when curfew is in place. a permit is required when leaving the home for authorised work
- **QR Contact tracing:** 15 minute threshold removed. All venue attendees must register.

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting a COVID-19 test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

For the time being, all Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully watching an online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.



204-210 Grimshaw St., Greensborough, 3088

**Parish:** 9435 1543

**Email:** Greensborough@cam.org.au

**Website:** www.cam.org.au/greensborough

13 August 2021

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and St. Thomas the Apostle,

As you are well aware, we are now in our 6<sup>th</sup> Lockdown in Victoria and there does not appear to be a clear indication as to when all will return to some type of new normal. Unfortunately, as a consequence all religious services have been again temporarily suspended. This is a particularly sad and anxious time for the many in our parishes who have had to suspend and postpone yet again Marriages, Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations without any clarity and surety of when these can be celebrated. Of course, it is a particularly stressful time for the many who have lost their paid employment or whose businesses have been irreparably damaged for some time to come. Please know that I hold you in my thoughts and prayers as I, together with those in leadership with me, have been making every effort to maintain communication with you and provide pastoral care and sacramental ministry in whatever way we can. I am grateful to our Baptism teams and school leadership for their patient and determined efforts to reschedule our Sacramental celebrations in a time when it's extremely difficult to plan anything.

These past 18 months have also been particularly difficult financially for our Partnered parishes. For much of that time Masses have not been able to be celebrated with a congregation, and when they have, it has been with limited numbers able to come to Mass. We are not permitted to have collections which involves the passing of the plate or bag from one person to another. As such, baskets for the First and Second Collections as well as the various annual appeals have been made available at the entrance to the churches, but the donations have been minimal over this period of time. The larger sources of income from annual celebrations such as First Communions and Confirmations just haven't happened over these last 2 years. I am grateful for parishioners who have decided to contribute through Credit Card or Direct Debit, as well as to those who have faithfully and consistently made their contributions of cash by placing them in envelopes in the boxes near the doors of the parish houses or offices.

During this period our Parishes still require your ongoing financial support if you can find it possible. This will assist us with the maintenance of our churches, Utility Bills and payment of Parish staff who still perform essential services for us. The Jobkeeper funding by the Government has enabled us to continue to employ Parish staff, but this has now ceased. Also, we have been fortunate that the Government eventually considered pastors as eligible for the Jobkeeper assistance. However, only I have been eligible to be paid the Jobkeeper assistance. While Lenin was also eligible, Tao, because he is not yet an Australian citizen and Dixon, because he was not employed by us since March of 2020, have not been eligible. The Jobkeeper assistance and donations to the First Collection as well as stipends for sacramental celebrations from each parish all go into the St. Thomas' Presbytery account which provides for the maintenance of the 3 priests. It provides for the running and maintenance of one vehicle per priest, house-keeping expenses and our stipends paid quarterly. We have come to a point where at the end of this quarter, it appears that there will not be enough funding to pay the stipend of each priest.

The purpose of this letter is to let you all know how you can continue with your weekly contributions to our Parishes should you be able to. Please be assured that when this suspension of services ends and we return to normal Church services you can cancel these arrangements at any time, should you choose to do so.

We understand that these are difficult times for all families as we are all financially impacted in many ways. During these unusual and difficult times, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued support of our Parishes. Should you require any further information please feel free to contact our Parish Secretaries, Lisa Leahy at St. Thomas (9434-7373); Pat Guatta at Sacred Heart (9401-6361) and Francesca Olofsson or Sharon Prosser at St. Mary's (9435-1543) during office hours.

Take care and keep safe.

Kind Regards

Fr. Steven Rigo  
Parish Priest



**Second Collection: For the Support of the Parish**

If you are a Thanksgiving Envelope contributor or you simply contribute loose cash and you would like to continue supporting the Parish at this time, you can choose one of the following options:

**Option A: Direct Transfer to Church Account  
(Internet Banking - Preferred option as there are no costs involved)**

Make funds payable to St Mary's Parish Greensborough, please use your Name and/or Thanksgiving Number as your reference

**Contact Parish Office for bank account details**

**Option B: Debit Credit Card making payments on a monthly/quarterly/yearly basis  
(Return completed authorisation to Parish Office)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My Pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month/quarter/year (please circle one)

MasterCard/VISA Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

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Expiry Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Option C: Cash or cheque can be placed in your current Thanksgiving envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'Second Collection – St Mary's Parish Greensborough'. These can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the letter box at the front door of the Presbytery (Not the Front Letter box at driveway entrance.)**

**First Collection: For the Support of our Priests**

**Option A: Direct Transfer to Presbytery Account  
(Internet Banking – The preferred option as there are no costs involved)**

Make Funds payable to St Mary's Parish Greensborough, please use your Name as your reference

**Contact Parish Office for bank account details.**

**Option B: Debit Credit Card making payments on a monthly/quarterly/yearly basis  
(Return completed authorisation to Parish Office)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My Pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month/quarter/year (please circle one)

Mastercard/VISA Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

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Expiry Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Option C: Contribution cash or cheque can be placed in an envelope marked:**

**'First Collection - St Mary's Parish Greensborough'**

These can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the letter box at the front door of the Presbytery (Not the Front Letterbox at driveway entrance)