



Sunday 7th November 2021

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Dixon George

Parish Pastoral Associates: Jacinta Bright & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

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**
(Unknown Vaccination Status)

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

Saturday: **6.00pm (Unknown Vaccination Status)**

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

Wednesday: **9.15am (Unknown Vaccination Status)**

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Parish School Principal

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

Weekday Masses has resumed in our 3 Parishes.

Sacred Heart: 9.15am Monday & Friday. St Mary's: 9.15am Tuesday-Friday. St Thomas: 9.15am Tuesday & Thursday.
6.00pm Mass on Saturday at Sacred Heart & 5.00 pm Mass on Sundays at St Mary's & 9.15am at St Thomas has been set aside for people of unknown vaccination status.

Mass is recorded each weekend and uploaded onto our Websites for you to view.

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

St Thomas: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Mass at Home: St Patrick's Cathedral: On Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass at 11.00am



Let our loving actions show our care for the outcasts and the marginalised.

*32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B,
7 November 2021.*

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Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.



www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



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 SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



Senior Moments

Wednesday 17th November 12pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre. BYO lunch. Restrictions permitting.

Wednesday 1st December 12pm Christmas Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

Thank you to parishioners for their patience while Diamond Creek is experiencing ongoing Internet issues which also affect the Parish Office phone.

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Executive Committee met on 28th October and discussed a number of items which will be put to members at our next meeting on Thursday 11th November.

Parishioners input is important and welcome so there is a suggestion box in the back of the church, along with a photo board of our new PPC. Feel free to approach a member.

Confirmation: Our prayers and support are with our candidates who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 16th November.

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

Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherine Leonard,

Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Thomas Keenan, Maureen Roberts

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

Jack Ridley, Ros Thomas, Geraldine Nihill, Bev Camilleri, Kevin Doherty, Rebekah Weston, Vincent Atkinson, James Burke,

Kathleen Hudson, Derek Lyons, Lena Finlayson, Grace Jones, Lena Anderson, Haydn Chapman, John Prendergast

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Establishment Team

During the week you will have received a letter via email from the St Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Establishment Team seeking your support in the formation of a Parish Pastoral Council. A small team has come together to start this important foundation work along with Fr Steve, Fr Dixon and Fr Tao. We believe that our clergy and lay people can work together constructively in leadership and responsibility, for the mutual benefit of our school and parish, in fulfilling our common goals as a faith community.

We have not had an effective, operating PPC for some time now and we believe it is time to foster and develop a new leadership team which will form a vision and respond to the needs of our parish community. This is incredibly important in preparation for outcomes from the Plenary Council, along with the ongoing shortage of priests, declining numbers actively participating in the Church community and the desire to keep people connected in our community, especially coming out of COVID restrictions.

Over the next few weeks we will be explaining more about the PPC, the role and functions and to answer and queries you may have.

Sacrament Celebrations

Throughout this year and last year, we have had many children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. After many months of postponements and much patience, we are now in a position to actually plan for these special occasions with more confidence.

Please pray for 10 children from St Thomas' Catechist classes who will celebrate Confirmation on Friday 12th November and 4 children who will celebrate First Eucharist at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday the 14th November.

May God bless them and their families on their special day and continue to bless them as they continue on their faith journey.

Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia, Solomon and Cora who are awaiting Baptism at St Thomas.

We look forward to the restrictions easing and welcoming these families into the St Thomas Parish community.

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

Sarah Drummond, Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo

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

Nick Piccolo, Maura Coyle, Lena Brullo, Ray Tipping, Lawrence Meilak, Theresa Meilak, Marcel Bishara, Frank Mercieca, Thomas Iacobucci, Fr Kelvin Kenny, Christopher Kenny, Joan Campbell, Serge Teychency, Joan Chadzynska, Rocco Di Pierro, Haydn Chapman, Francis Mc Mennemin



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Unfortunately due to current financial situation the hours of employment have been cut.

We regret not being able to offer you any further clarity regarding the future however, Francesca and Sharon will provide for our secretarial needs on Monday 1.00pm-3.00pm and Thursday and Friday 10.00am-2.00pm

And Jacinta's days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

All messages and emails will be attended to as soon as we can.

Please continue to send any bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at greensborough@cam.org.au to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

We will keep you updated with any further changes. **Thank You**

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

Contactless Payments

At St Mary's over the coming weeks we will be introducing terminals to allow electronic transfer of funds.

Parishioners will be able to 'tap and go' for the Presbytery and Parish collections.

This will enable those who want to have less reliance on cash to be able to keep supporting the Parish.

Finance Committee

THANKSGIVING RENEWAL PROGRAM 2022

St Mary's is due to run a stewardship campaign as it is three years since our last update.

We are looking for parishioners to be involved in a short term project for the new campaign.

Please contact Fr Steve or a member of the Finance Committee for more details.

Paul Girolami

Finance Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Through the Climate meeting in Glasgow, we are becoming more aware of the environmental problems facing us.

An online Forum for parishes is being held on **Tuesday 16th November at 7.30pm.**

It is on Pope Francis' encyclical letter Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home'. The purpose of the forum is to help strengthen support for taking action to care for the Earth and the Poor.

The forum will be presented by the Care for our Common Home Group of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham and St Agnes' Parish, Highett, together with the Justice and Peace Group of St Dominic's Parish, Camberwell. Two excellent speakers, Anne Boyd csb and Jacqui Remond will join us for the forum.

For more information and to register for the forum, see <https://www.trybooking.com/BUWFP>

Social Justice Group

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED REMEMBERING ST. MARY'S PARISH IN YOUR WILL?

As a measure of your appreciation of the life of the Parish, in your life, it can be a way of leaving a legacy with St Mary's. There is no compulsion to do so, but you may feel this is a way of showing your appreciation to St Mary's. We understand that including a charity in your Will is a very personal decision and one be carefully considered. We appreciate that your family and loved ones should always come first, and believe it is important to talk with them about your intentions and why leaving a gift to St Mary's Greensborough is important to you. Philanthropy Australia is the national peak body for philanthropy and it defines a Bequest as the following: "A gift made available upon the donor's death by provision in their Will. A Bequest can be a specific sum of money, an item or piece of property or a percentage of an Estate". If you would like to explore this more please consider taking a brochure from the Gathering Space and for further information please visit the Parish website.

TAKE PART IN THE SYNOD CONSULTATION PROCESS

Weekend 6th & 7th November



In dioceses around the world, a period of local consultation has begun as part of a two-year process culminating in the Synod of Bishops gathering in Rome in October 2023. The Church in Melbourne join the rest of the world in embarking on an intentional process of mutual listening that will span two years and engage people in a journey of communion, participation and mission. Please join in the diocesan consultation sessions being held in the coming week:

DISCERNMENT FOCUS: COMMUNION

Tuesday 9 November, 7.30-9pm OR Wednesday 10 November, 11am-12.30pm (repeated sessions)

Sessions will be hosted online (via zoom) and registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVEVZ>

Visit the [Melbourne Catholic Website](https://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au) to learn more or provide an individual submission.

Weekend 13th & 14th November



In dioceses around the world, a period of local consultation has begun as part of a two-year process culminating in the Synod of Bishops gathering in Rome in October 2023. The Church in Melbourne join the rest of the world in embarking on an intentional process of mutual listening that will span two years and engage people in a journey of communion, participation and mission. Please join in the diocesan consultation sessions being held in the coming week:

DISCERNMENT FOCUS: PARTICIPATION

Wednesday November 17th, 7.30 – 9pm & Thursday November 18th, 2pm – 3.30pm (repeated sessions)

Sessions will be hosted online (via zoom) and registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVEXV>

Visit the [Melbourne Catholic Website](https://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au) to learn more or provide an individual submission.

Weekend 20th & 21st November



In dioceses around the world, a period of local consultation has begun as part of a two-year process culminating in the Synod of Bishops gathering in Rome in October 2023. The Church in Melbourne join the rest of the world in embarking on an intentional process of mutual listening that will span two years and engage people in a journey of communion, participation and mission. Please join in the diocesan consultation sessions being held in the coming week:

DISCERNMENT FOCUS: MISSION

Tuesday November 23rd, 2pm – 3.30pm & Thursday November 25th, 7.30 – 9pm (repeated sessions)

Sessions will be hosted online (via zoom) and registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVEXX>

Visit the [Melbourne Catholic Website](https://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au) to learn more or provide an individual submission.

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.

PRAYER, WORSHIP & WELLBEING

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK WITHIN OUR PARISHES: If you wish to have someone added or removed from the sick or Anniversaries list for our newsletter could you please notify **Sacred Heart Pat: 9401 6361 St Mary's Sharon /Francesca:9435 1543**

St Thomas Lisa 9434 7373

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

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

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

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

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR VILLA MARIA-BUNDOORA

Volunteering at VMCH Bundoora Aged Care is a truly rewarding way to make a difference to people living in aged care in your community. Every moment spent volunteering at VMCH Bundoora has a positive impact on the person you spend time with.

- ◆ Resident activities - assisting residents to attend and take part in leisure and lifestyle activities
- ◆ Companionship - regularly visiting residents and developing friendships
- ◆ Pastoral Care activities, including assisting residents to attend Chapel or Mass and assisting with Communion
- ◆ Playing board games or cards with residents
- ◆ Gardening activities – assisting residents to continue their love of gardening
- ◆ Pet and animal therapy sessions
- ◆ Music therapy - concerts at facilities by visiting performers, music and memory sessions, dance sessions
- ◆ Art therapy and classes



To start your volunteer experience at VMCH please complete the online volunteer registration at:

<https://vmch.com.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/> or contact Anita at volunteer services on 0476 675271.

MARY MacKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

'Çuppa with Mary' - MMHC is reopening for parishioners on Mon 8th Nov from 9 am – 5 pm. Come visit the Museum that tells Mary and the SOSJ's story, do a walking tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and Mary's place of birth. Special times have been set aside for Parish groups to have a 'Çuppa with Mary' which includes a presentation, tour and prayer reflection in the Chapel where Mary prayed, at a cost of \$20 per person. Contact Kate on 9926 9300 for a group booking.



'Advent with Mary MacKillop' - The Education Team at MMHC will be delivering an online Advent reflection program consisting of 4 one-hour sessions that will be held on Wednesdays from 7 - 8pm on 24th November and the 1st, 8th and 15th December. The sessions will be based on the Advent readings and will be combined with reflections on St Mary of the Cross. Each session will incorporate aspects of the program Blessed. To register click [here](#) Access to sessions will be via a Teams link provided by MMHC after registering, where participants would be able to join using a computer, tablet or smart phone. It would be much appreciated if you would consider donating \$7.50 per session or \$25 for the 4 sessions.



Mary MacKillop Gift shop & SOSJ Calendar 2021 – With Christmas coming up, please consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a 2022 Josephite Calendar (\$8) and or a present from the Museum Gift Shop (communion & confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican Library collection, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books and Peruvian handmade items).



Accommodation Specials - With Melbourne opening up again, events like the Boxing Day Test and Australian Open will be big draw cards! Book your next stay at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Please contact Kate on 9926 9300.

CATCHING UP ON THE FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 3 -10 2021

Just some of the information available from the Plenary Council website

[Masses and Livestreams – Plenary Council \(catholic.org.au\)](#) [First-Assembly-Concluding-Statement-FINAL.pdf \(catholic.org.au\)](#)

[In the Media – Plenary Council \(catholic.org.au\)](#)

[Plenary Council - YouTube](#)



Other online commentaries available

- ◆ Plenary Matters - podcast by Geraldine Doogue
- ◆ Plenary Tracker from Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn

Plenary Matters 2021 Podcast by Geraldine Doogue

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 1 \(google.com\)](#) Oct 2: **Lana Turvey-Collins** (Plenary Council Facilitator) and **Br Ian Cribb SJ** about the emphasis on Spiritual Conversations

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 3: Fr Frank Brennan \(google.com\)](#) Oct 3: **Fr Frank Brennan** (Jesuit priest & Plenary Council peritus/advisor)

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 4: Lay Women At The Council \(google.com\)](#) Oct 4: **Angela McCarthy** (Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Theology at Notre Dame University WA and **Dr Maeve Heaney**, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at Brisbane's ACU).

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 5: The Council in Session \(google.com\)](#) Oct 5: three Plenary Council members - **Virginia Bourke** (chair of Mercy Health and St John Ambulance Victoria), **Fr Peter Williams**, former Anglican priest; Vicar-General Parramatta Diocese; director of Liturgy for 2008 World Youth Day) and **Francine Pirola** (Catholic family groups and the Marriage Resource Centre in Sydney).

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 6: Diagnosis & Change \(google.com\)](#) Oct 6: **Fr Gerry Gleeson** (Vicar-General Archdiocese of Sydney, PP Our Lady Star Of The Sea, Watson's Bay); and **Raj Rajasingam**, Diocese of Broken Bay (National Mission Director Couples For Christ movement).

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Council Ep 7: John Warhurst \(google.com\)](#) Oct 7: Emeritus Professor of Political Science ANU; chair Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn; & Plenary Council member)

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 8: Looking To The Future \(google.com\)](#) Oct 8: **Sr Clare Condon** (former leader Good Samaritan Sisters; advised bishops on professional standards after the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse) and **Dr Francis Campbell** (former advisor to Tony Blair & UK ambassador to Vatican; now Vice-Chancellor of Perth's Notre Dame University)

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 9: Greg Craven \(google.com\)](#) Oct 9 **Risks and possibilities of the Plenary Council process - Greg Craven** (Catholic layman, constitutional law specialist and former Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University)

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 10: Archbishop Mark Coleridge \(google.com\)](#) Oct 10: **Archbishop Mark Coleridge** (President Australian Catholic Bishops Council) and **Susan Pascoe** (chair Australian Council for International Development; board member Mercy Health; Trustee of St John of God Health Care; the only person from the Australian Church in Rome for the launch of the 2023 Synod on Synodality).

Plenary Tracker a daily Zoom event during the Plenary Council with news, insights, and panel discussions hosted by former ABC presenter Genevieve Jacobs AM. Daily insights also available. (available at [Program — Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn](#)).

[Plenary Matters - Plenary Matters Ep 10: Archbishop Mark Coleridge \(google.com\)](#) Oct 10: **Archbishop Mark Coleridge** (President Australian Catholic Bishops Council) and **Susan Pascoe** (chair Australian Council for International Development; board member Mercy Health; Trustee of St John of God Health Care; the only person from the Australian Church in Rome for the launch of the 2023 Synod on Synodality).

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CATCHING UP ON THE FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 3 -10 2021

DAY 1 EXPECTATIONS SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **John Warhurst** (Chair of Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn, a Plenary Council Member and Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University); **Eleanor Flynn** (co-founded Women's Wisdom in the Church (WWITCH) and is the co-convenor of ACCCR); **Terry Fewtrell** (long-term Canberra resident and published author). **MODERATOR Tracy McEwan** (vice president of WATAC).

DAY 2 SPIRITUALITY AND THE EARTH MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **Toni Janke** (PC Member, Wuthathi and Meriam woman, works for Centacare Family & Relationship Services in Brisbane); **Shirley Quaresimin** (PC Member, Nyikina person, NATSICC Deputy Chairperson); **Patricia Hindmarsh** (Catholic educator from Tasmania). **MODERATOR Jacqui Remond** (Co-Founder Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) and former Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia).

DAY 3 THE ROYAL COMMISSION TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **Francis Sullivan** (PC Member, Chair of Catholic Social Services Australia and the Mater Group of hospitals, previously CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council); **Anne Walker** (National Executive Director of Catholic Religious Australia and former Chancellor of the Diocese of Broken Bay) **Kathleen McPhillips** (sociologist of religion at the University of Newcastle with research expertise in the sociology of religious institutions, child sexual abuse and the Royal Commission). **MODERATOR Danielle Lynch** (teacher and musician, Catholic secondary school Head of Religion, and sessional lecturer in theology at ACU).

DAY 4 GOVERNANCE WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **Helen Belcher** (PC Member, Co-chair Council for Mission and member of the Synod Working Party in the Diocese Maitland-Newcastle; retired academic and former councillor Council for Australian Catholic women); **Mary Coloe** (Presentation sister, doctorate in theology and Professor University of Divinity. For 7 years she worked on a Dialogue for the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity); **Peter Johnstone** (Co-Convenor of ACCCR; gave public evidence on Church governance to the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse) **MODERATOR Andrea Dean** (president of WATAC, Women and the Australian Church, and formerly worked in national offices for Lay Pastoral Ministry and the Participation of Women).

DAY 5 THE CHURCH AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **Nimmi Candappa** (PC Member; Melbourne writer and Academic); **Fatima Measham** (Filipino Catholic writer based in Wadawurrung Country: formerly a consulting editor, columnist and podcast producer for Eureka Street); **Fr Frank Brennan** (Jesuit priest and Rector of Newman College at the University of Melbourne. He is a peritus at the plenary council and has published widely on Indigenous rights and the rights of asylum seekers and refugees). **MODERATOR Danielle Lynch**

DAY 6 INCLUSION – WOMEN FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **Virginia Bourke** (PC Member, lawyer and consultant, Chair of Mercy Health and a Director of Caritas Australia, the Mater Group and Catholic Health Australia); **Andrea Dean** (president of WATAC, Women and the Australian Church, and formerly worked in national offices for Lay Pastoral Ministry and the Participation of Women); **Pip McIlroy** Pip was a (participant in the Young Catholic Women's Interfaith in 2014 and has completed a Master of Theology. She works for St Vincent's Health Australia). **MODERATOR Tracy McEwan**

DAY 7 INCLUSION - LGBTIQ+ SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **Claire Victory** (PC Member, National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society); **Benjamin Oh** (founder and Co-Chair of Rainbow Catholics InterAgency Australia (the umbrella body for Catholic LGBTIQ Ministries in Australia), he was the founding secretary of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics); **Dr Judith Norris** (lecturer/researcher at Australian Catholic University. She identifies as LGTBQI+ with a support role for students and staff within this community, across the university sector in ACT). **MODERATOR Tracy McEwan**

DAY 8 WRAP-UP SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 2021

PANEL: **John Warhurst** (PC Member and see above); **Paul Collins** (church historian, writer and broadcaster, involved in church renewal for 45 years); **Geraldine Doogue** (ABC journalist and broadcaster; awarded an AO for service on issues involving ethics, values, religion and social change). **MODERATOR Tracy McEwan**



LECTIONARY ART AND REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE

The story of the widow's mite is about the generosity of a woman who is down on her uppers. Jesus admires this woman of substance because, despite her material poverty, she has the inner resource to maintain an open-hearted approach to life.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

7 November 2021

First Reading 1 Kgs 17:10-16

The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

*"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."*

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 9:24-28

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;

the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Alleluia!

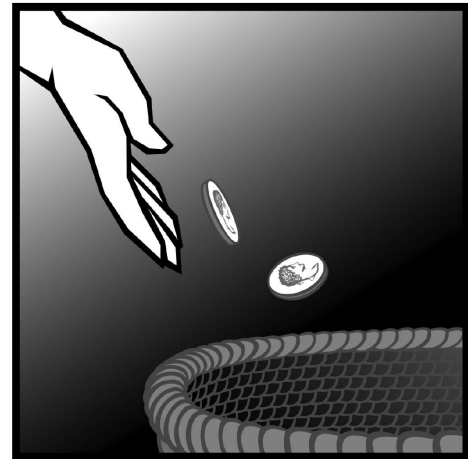
Gospel Mk 12:38-44

or (shorter form Mk 12:41-44)

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This is the most commonly misunderstood passage in the Gospels. It is usually read in a 'pat on the back' tone of voice, commending the widow for her generosity. But it should be read with the tone of white hot anger which Jesus had displayed against the money dealers whom he expelled from the temple only days earlier.

This vulnerable widow was exploited and brainwashed by the scribes and temple authorities so that she gave 'all she had to live on'. She was left destitute, unable to afford the necessities of life.

On the contrary, Jesus wanted to create a band of followers who would look after widows and orphans. Look at Acts 4:32-37 to see that in operation. In fact, deacons were created in the early Church precisely to care for non-Jewish widows.

The message for the Church from this Gospel story is that it must never exploit the religious fervour of the poor to build up its own resources. Pope Francis is emphasising that the flow must be the other way if we are to be authentic Christians.

We could pause a moment to pray that, imitating the earliest Christian communities, our parish practises true concern for the marginalised and vulnerable, ensuring that they have all the necessities of life in all its dimensions.

mtate@bigpond.com

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