



Sunday 14th 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

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & **5.00pm**
(Unknown Vaccination Status)

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: By Appointment only please call the Parish Office

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 us pray that we will forever keep the Lord
in our sight and that we be living signs of
Christ's love and forgiveness in our world.
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B,
14th November 2021
© Australian Catholics*

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 Partnered 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parishioners offer their prayers and support to our candidates who will be confirmed in Sacred Heart church this Tuesday: Honor, Riley, Lachlan, Cooper, Thomas, Patrick, Nicole, Isabelle, Noah, Hugo, Isabelle, Lana, Tadhg, Kieran, Evelyn, Xavier, Christian, Harrison, Will, Ayush, Sneha, Xavier, Rachel, Claire and Sophie.

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

Roster for Weekend 21st November

Reader: M. Walsh

Eucharist Minister: Dharshanie, Aminda

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

As you may be aware there is an Archdiocesan project that is proposed for the implementation of restructuring parishes in the Archdiocese. This project is called Take the Way of the Gospel.

A group has formed with representatives from each of our three parishes to plan the way forward including ways of consulting and discerning with our communities. The group has met this week.

A video presentation will be prepared and available during Advent and further information will follow in the new year.

For further information: <https://melbournecatholic.org/about/take-the-way-of-the-gospel>

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: You are invited to join us in celebrating a Healing Mass (with Sacrament of Anointing) on Thursday 18th November at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass.

Please book your attendance via the following Trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVHSU>

For further details, please contact Emilia 0418120902 or Rose 0411650339.

ALL THINGS NEW 2022 - IGNATIAN GATHERING FOR YOUNG ADULT (18-30YRS)

The Society of Jesus (Australian Jesuits) invites you to its Ignatian Gathering for Young Adults (18-30 years), to take place in Melbourne on 17 – 21 January 2022, at Newman College. This gathering is a chance for young people to 'reset, reconnect and re-engage' through building friendships, sharing values, celebrating gratitude, offering service.

To register go to : <https://www.trybooking.com/BUNRC>

Cost: \$320 + Trybooking fee (\$8.50) - (includes all meals, individual rooms and all program activities). For any questions, please



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Establishment Team



For several months now a small team along with our three Priests have been exploring the foundation work to establish a Parish Pastoral Council, or PPC. The establishment team have discussed the role, function and composition of the PCC. Now, with this vital work done, we invite people from our St Thomas the Apostle community to consider putting their hand up themselves or recommending someone they consider having a lot to offer.

As we emerge from COVID restrictions and begin to interact face-to-face it is important to consider the fundamentals of what our community is about; people and relationships. This includes the responsibility of looking out for and engaging actively with the world around us in all that we do, where we live, work and play as well as the important issues that face our community, and communicating the love and values of Christ.

How can we rebuild or strengthen our community in a more unified approach? Angela McCarthy, Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Theology at Notre Dame University WA, reinforces this concept of 'the whole story around our parishes is about relationships, and so many of those relationships have broken down' and 'we must become missionary to each other, to restore all those relationships'.

It is really important for our school and school families to continue to maintain strong connections and seek to expand those relationships with the Parish and church and bring about more unity in what we do and how we can do things together.

This is important because this is our identity, our vision, needs and aspirations of St Thomas The Apostle community and the mutual benefit of everyone within our community.

Over the next few weeks we will be explaining more about the PPC, the role and functions and to answer any 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 the children from Sacred Heart who will celebrate Confirmation on Tuesday the 16th November.

Please pray for the children from St Thomas' School who will celebrate First Reconciliation on the 18th November.

Please pray for the children from St Thomas' School who will celebrate First Eucharist at 6pm Mass and the 10.30am Mass on the 20th and 21st November.

Congratulations to the children from St Thomas' Catechist classes who are celebrating Confirmation and First Eucharist this weekend.

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:

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

Rosters for Weekend 20th & 21st November

Saturday 6.00pm Mass

Reader: K. Salm. **Commentator:** J. Bohan. **Special Ministers:** T. Holland, M. McKenzie, K. Salm

Set Up: J. De Carlo

Sunday 10.30am Mass

Reader: R. Rendina **Commentator:** F. Landy **Special Minister:** R. Piccolo, E. Sutherland, A. Letzia

Set Up: C. O'Brien

Counters: K. Irvine, S. King

Cleaners: B. Guldon, G. Kilkenny

Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued support with the smooth running of our Parish.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



ST MARY'S PARISH OFFICE HOURS—Monday 1.00pm-3.00pm and Thursday and Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. 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 by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. **Thank You**

Vaccination Status and 5.00pm Mass at St Mary's—As you will realise, the 5.00pm Mass at St Mary's is provided for *people of unknown vaccination status*. The provision of such a Mass is our pastoral response for those, who for various reasons have either not been vaccinated, or do not disclose their vaccination status. Although all are welcome to the 5.00pm Mass regardless of vaccination status, please remember that as we can only have 30 people at that Mass, we need to make sure that we have enough room there for people of unknown vaccination status. So, this notice is to encourage those of you, who have been doubly vaccinated, to come to one of our other Masses, instead.

In consideration for our people needing to go to 5.00pm Mass, which is set aside for people of unknown vaccination status – if you have booked into a Mass, especially the 5.00pm Mass, given that we can only have 30 people attend, if you change your mind – please cancel your booking. We had some people arrive who hadn't booked but because we kept spaces for people who booked and that took us to 30, we couldn't let these other people in. You can cancel your booking by going to the confirmation email that you received upon booking and following instructions.

MASSES—Tuesdays to Fridays at 9.15am and Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 5.00pm. **Bookings are essential for admission FOR WEEKEND MASSES ONLY. See Links below.**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Space</u>	<u>Max #</u>	<u>Booking Link</u>
Saturday	13 Nov	6.30pm	Church	120	https://www.trybooking.com/BVGKO
Sunday	14 Nov	8am	Church	120	https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZL
Sunday	14 Nov	10am	Church	120	https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZM
Sunday	14 Nov	5pm	Church	25	https://www.trybooking.com/BVHZP

Please note children over 12 months must have a ticket booked for weekends and will be included in the total count for both weekend and weekday masses.

PLEASE NOTE: It is essential that if you are booking via TryBooking, for more than one member in your family or for a friend for a mass, that each name **MUST** be booked for and entered separately.

CATCHING UP ON THE FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY – after much preparation, the Australian Plenary Council was on 3-10 October 2021. If you are wanting to catch up on what happened see <https://www.cam1.org.au/Portals/83/Plenary%20Council%20Session%20online%20summary%20final.pdf> on our Parish website which has some suggested links to the Plenary Council website and other online commentaries. **Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group.**



STAY TUNED - Thank you to all who participated in last month's session – *The Whole Story of Mental Health*. The feedback indicated that what Ros presented was very helpful and provided much fruit for reflection. A second session will be held in late February. Based on the feedback received, we have decided that this next session will delve deeper into this whole area of spirituality and mental ill health, perhaps with some exploration around listening skills. We will keep you posted. Also, keep an eye on our website www.cam1.org.au/greensborough We are updating our resources page with a number of helpful resources, to support people in every aspect of life, including mental ill health. We will also be uploading a great video of a talk hosted by the Uniting Church Vic/Tas, Mental health: *Does Religion/Spirituality support or hinder?* with John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology, University of Aberdeen. This video is highly recommended. John Swinton is very easy to listen to and engaging.

Support Group for people experiencing anxiety during this COVID transition time Whilst, as a society, we navigate coming out of lockdown, anxiety seems heightened, for various reasons. Whether we are vaccinated or not, and for whatever reasons we make our choices, we are all human and we are all made in the dignity and likeness of God. At a time when there is a danger of judging, let us be a community of compassion. This is an invitation for anyone feeling anxious at the moment, to come along to a small support group in the parish. It isn't a therapy group. It's a support group. There will be some ground-rules, such as confidentiality and listening, but also no discussion about politics or conspiracy theories. Whilst some who are anxious hold certain beliefs about the vaccine, that others don't, this needs to be a space where we find compassion and care and support and respect – and perhaps a sense that we are not alone, and that all will be well. If you are interested, even just to find out more, please contact Jacinta Bright at Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au or by calling the parish office on 9435 1543. I am thinking that we might gather as a group of a Wednesday morning at 9.15.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS The Ladies' Auxiliary are holding a plant sale on the weekend of 13th and 14th November. Plants from \$5-\$10 each, with a few over \$10. Enquiries: Maureen: 9435 5906, Judy: 9435 4506

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

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.

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.

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.



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor.23

9 November 2021

Dear People and Clergy of the Archdiocese,

Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

It is with grave concern that I write to you about proposed new legislation, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* from the State Government, which will impact on all faith-based organisations in Victoria.

The Victorian Government is depicting this Bill as merely a protection against discrimination in religious settings. Sadly, however, this is a seriously far-reaching law that will limit faith-based organisations from managing employment matters according to their faith, conscience and values. The legalisation is a serious overreach of the Government into the rightful freedoms of Victorian faith-based organisations.

Across all areas of society, Catholics run organisations with an open and inclusive commitment to people in their care. Our excellence in the provision of services is recognised by many – evident in the large numbers of students attending Catholic schools and educational institutions.

Currently, Catholic organisations, including our schools can freely employ those who share our religious beliefs, values and ethos. However, the Victorian Government has introduced legislation seeking to change this. If it passes, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* will affect religious organisations all across Victoria, who will be limited in their ability to employ staff, run their schools and provide other services that adhere to their faith, values and ethos.

Under the new legislation, religious bodies and educational institutes will no longer be able to employ staff who hold the same religious beliefs and values unless they can prove that it is an 'inherent requirement' of the job. It would grant power to a government appointed commissioner or a court to ultimately determine whether particular staffing roles carried an 'inherent' religious requirement or not. This means that in places like schools, and especially where government funding is attached, employers will have an extra burden of administration placed on them, and leave them vulnerable to a decrease in the role and importance of faith in the work they do.

The example has been given that in a religious school, the only roles where religious beliefs might be an 'inherent requirement' of the job include positions of senior leadership (e.g., a principal) or religious education teachers. However, what the Government fails to understand is that faith is holistic – it affects the way we see the world and conduct our lives. Faith is part of the very make-up and fabric of each school. It is entirely reasonable and fair that religious bodies should be able to preference those who share their beliefs and values in their own private employment matters.

I do not believe it is in anyone's interest in the long term for a secular power to make such a determination for religious organisations. The role or importance of faith in a faith-based organisation cannot be relegated to a bureaucrat or a secular court. This is another sad example of people of faith and the freedom of religious organisations being unfairly targeted.

Other organisations like political parties will not have the same restrictions placed on them. In other words, the Government will impose on the staffing of faith organisations but not on the staffing of political organisations. We rightly ask, why the imbalance?

Unfortunately, we can expect the Bill to be debated in Parliament next week and the Government has given its full support to these proposals without adequate consultation in which we could have negotiated a fair and equitable outcome.

We live in a diverse and pluralistic society, and it is our democratic right and responsibility to respectfully challenge legislative proposals which are unfair and unreasonable. I encourage all people of faith and goodwill to stand up for religious freedom and ask our parliamentarians to oppose the Bill, particularly the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test.

Attached you will find some suggestions on how to raise concerns about this important issue and I also encourage you to share this message widely.

Please continue to pray for a spirit of fairness to people of faith by our parliamentary representatives, and for good sense to prevail.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A Comensoli', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

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.



How to stand up for religious freedom

In light of the Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021

1. Contact your local Members of Parliament in Victoria

Writing to Members of Parliament (MPs) is an effective way to communicate with them about this Bill. A short letter (emailed or mailed) respectfully expressing concerns with the legislation will help them understand what is important to people of faith.

Each Victorian has one MP representing their local **district** and six MPs who represent their wider **region**. If you're unsure who to write to, you can find out which district/region you are part of and the contact details of the MPs representing you here: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/electorates

2. Contact your federal Members of Parliament

Writing to federal Members of Parliament to tell them about what is happening here in Victoria is also vitally important, because religious freedom legislation is potentially being considered on a federal level. You can write to them to share your concern and ask them to act to protect the religious freedom of all Australians.

Each Victorian has one local MP representing their geographic **area** and twelve Senators who represent their **state**.

Details of your local federal Member of Parliament can be found here: www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members

Simply scroll down to 'Search Members' and type in your postcode to find your MP.

Details of Victorian Senators can be found here: www.bit.ly/3BNVYAI

3. Share your concerns with others

You are also encouraged to tell your family, friends and those in your local community about your concerns and ask them to become active too.

4. Get active on Social Media

You may also like to share your concerns with your Members of Parliament via their Social Media pages.

5. Find out more

Keep up to date about this issue at: www.melbournecatholic.org/religiousfreedom

LECTIONARY ART AND REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE Recent experiences in Europe and North America have shown how life can be disrupted and endangered by blackouts in cities. Power failures can be seriously scary! Jesus describes the beginning of the end times in terms of a vast blackout: the sun and moon are darkened and the stars have fallen from the sky. But this threatening situation is also full of promise because the changes herald the coming of the kingdom, of God's basileia, and the arrival of a new order. It is up to us to read the signs of the times and be prepared.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

14 November 2021

First Reading Dn 12:1-3

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

*(R.) Keep me safe, O God:
you are my hope.*

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:11-14, 18

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of

all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Be watchful, and pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand
before the Son of Man.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:24-32

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Although this is not the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the major theme found in the readings is the end of time. The events that will usher in and will take place during this time are described in apocalyptic terms. The struggles of life will culminate in a massive cosmic confrontation between the forces of good and those of evil. This last battle will be universal in scope, just like the first primordial conflict between chaos and God.

In some way, all of today's readings state that good will finally prevail over evil. In the last days Michael, the angelic warrior of God, will rise up. In the epistle, Christ is pictured seated triumphantly at the right hand of God with his enemies under his foot, a sign of conquest. Finally, in the gospel, the Son of Man, the mysterious figure from apocalyptic literature, comes in the clouds with great power and glory. All of these images are apocalyptic; each of them is quite hopeful.

We read these stories at the close of the liturgical year, because we are coming to the conclusion of our yearly telling of the story of salvation. However, apocalyptic images are timely whenever we find ourselves in the throes of the battle with evil and it appears that we will succumb. These forms will remind us that good will be able to withstand evil. From this we will conclude that we need only trust in God.

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, ©1983 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.