



Sunday 13th March 2022

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

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.cam1.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

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 & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3088

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Parish School Principal

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**
principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road,
Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Secretary: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Parish School Principal

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

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

This weekend will be the final time Mass will be videoed and available on the Parish websites, Facebook and YouTube channel. It is very encouraging to see that attendance numbers are increasing, and very few people are now watching the videoed Mass. Information on how to watch Mass from the Cathedral and Mass for You at Home is on the front page of our newsletter, and Fr Steven's homilies will still be available on our websites. Please note that all Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We sincerely thank our videographers, our readers and our priests for their generous commitment to this valuable ministry over the last 2 years.

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

Mass for You at Home - Diocese of Wollongong: Sundays on Channel 10 at 6am, Foxtel Channel 173 at 10am, and online at www.massforyou.com.au



For the Twelve, following Jesus will mean taking up one's own cross daily and laying down one's life in order to find it.

2nd Sunday of Lent
Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

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

Diamond Valley Deanery

www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au



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.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

LENTEN THEME 2022 - COURAGE TO HOPE

Lent is the liturgical season for prayer, reflection and contrition for any wrongdoing we have made in our lives as we prepare for the joyous season of Easter. The theme for this year is particularly timely as the world has suffered greatly over the past two years through the pandemic, and the temptation to lose hope and fall into despair may be strong. With political turmoil at home and abroad, a climate that needs nurturing and our communities that have suffered fear, uncertainty, restrictions and profound loss and grief, we need the courage to hope more than ever and we look to our God to sustain us.

This is the time to find our courage, to turn in hope to our loving God. It is through challenges and hard times that we find the strength within and draw on our faith to persevere and look with confidence to the future. Without courage we dare not hope. Without faith and hope, life is empty. During this Lenten time of reflection and prayer, let us remember that our God is always present, to hold us, to love us, to lead us forward to the Kingdom.

“May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” **Romans 15: 13**

WEEK 2 GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today is the second weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today, while Jesus is praying, he is transfigured before the apostles, Peter, James and John. This experience enabled them to see Jesus in glory and proclaimed the Son of God. They were told to listen to him and their faith was strengthened. We do not see Jesus 'in real life' but we are called through faith to believe in his kingdom and the hope of eternal life with him. Let us have courage to see what is important in life, living the teachings of Christ, meeting him in prayer and listening for his words.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. **Psalms 130:5**

UPDATE FROM THE PARTNERED PARISHES PLENARY FACILITATORS' GROUP

Currently, as an action that we can take up locally, the Group is exploring ways of acknowledging the pain caused by sexual abuse perpetrated by Church personnel. There are three projects underway. One is a plaque to be placed in a prominent place outside each church, acknowledging the pain caused and expressing sorrow. Another is a ritual of lament, or something similar, for each of our parishes and the third is a letter to the Archbishop with a request for a sculpture and plaque to be installed in the Cathedral garden, facing Albert Street.

When our three parishes gathered for the Plenary Listening and Discussion - and Discernment sessions, one major focus for most groups that emerged, was the sexual abuse of children perpetrated by Church personnel. You may recall that we have two avenues of response proposed to us by the Plenary Council. One was to consider what God was asking the Church of Australia at a national level and the other was to consider what God is asking of us locally. We have been working together to respond as best we can as Partnered Parishes, addressing those local issues. So far relationships have been strengthened or developed with our local Catholic secondary schools, we have written to the Plenary Council in response to their document outlining the fruits of their discussions last year, we have established a Faith Circles Group, we have developed a PowerPoint welcoming all to our churches, from St Mary's - a response to the desire expressed for the parish to have a focus on mental ill health and we are liaising with our Liturgy Teams with your feedback. We hope that our parishes continue to be a sign of the Spirit active in the world, as we find ways to respond to the desires that you, our parishioners, have voiced during those Plenary times. **Any feedback from you is welcome.**

PROJECT COMPASSION 2022 Second Sunday of Lent

Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way For All Future Generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS CONTINUED

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR PRESBYTERIES.

The St Thomas and St Mary's Parish houses are looking for a reliable house cleaner.

St Thomas requires a cleaner on a weekly basis for 3-4 hours. St Mary's requires a cleaner fortnightly for approximately 2-3 hours.

Duties include vacuuming, dusting mopping, cleaning of bathrooms washing sheets and towels, possibly ironing.

You will need a current Working with Children Check and also a Police check.

For further information please contact Lisa at St Thomas on 9434 7373.



COMPUTER DONATION SOUGHT?

Sacred Heart community is seeking a desktop computer for use in its Children's Ministry. Perhaps you know of someone who is

replacing a desktop with a newer model or you may have a functioning desktop waiting to be recycled.

Please contact Sr Margaret Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au or the Sacred Heart Parish Office (Ph. 9401 6361) if a donation is Available for the children.



VIDEOED MASSES

This weekend will be the final time Mass will be videoed and available on the Parish websites, Facebook and YouTube channel.

It is very encouraging to see that attendance numbers are increasing, and very few people are now watching the videoed Mass.

Information on how to watch Mass from the Cathedral and Mass for You at Home is on the front page of our newsletter, and Fr Steven's homilies will still be available on our websites. Please note that all Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop.

We sincerely thank our videographers, our readers and our priests for their generous commitment to this valuable ministry over the last 2 years.

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Have you ever doubted the true presence of Jesus, Body, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist ???

HEAVEN

Does your heart burn with a desire to better understand the amazing mystery of the Eucharist ???

God's Salvation Plan in Old Testament

God's Salvation Plan in New Testament

IHS

Do you need Equipment to defend the Real Presence of the Eucharist ???

EARTH

3 nights
23, 30 Mar, 6 Apr

7.30-9.30pm
ZOOM

book before 11am Tue 22 March

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXUAJ>

Presented by Catholic School of Evangelisation

VALE Fr. OWEN DOYLE

Fr. Owen Doyle has been a resident at St. Thomas' Retirement Village next to St. Thomas parish site since he retired from priestly ministry in the Diocese of Sandhurst in September 2013 at the age of 89. In these last almost 8 years he has celebrated or concelebrated Mass with one of the priests most weekdays and one of the weekend Masses. He has been a wonderful inspiration to us as priests in our Deanery and parishioners for the continued vitality of his mind, his prayerfulness, great sense of humour and generosity of heart. After a few months struggling with a broken neck (2020), and later, hip(2021), he died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Monday 7th of March at the age of 97 at Justin Villa, the priests' retirement home where he went after his hospitalisation.

Fr. Owen lived a remarkably full life. He grew up on the family farm in Quambatook; studied to be a teacher and enlisted into the RAAF during World War II. After the War he continued his studies for teaching and then married Margot in 1949. During their married life they had 9 children. They moved to Watsonia in 1958 and became actively involved in many aspects of St. Mary's parish life, and during this time Owen continued teaching in Government High Schools. Sadly, Margot died in 1982 after a long battle with cancer. It was later, as Deputy Principal at Heidelberg High that as a 58 year old widower with just two years before his retirement that he seriously contemplated how he would spend the rest of his life with his children leaving home and setting up their own lives and families. So, in 1985 he entered the seminary to train for the priesthood. He was ordained at St. Mary's, Greensborough in 1988 for the Bendigo (Sandhurst) Diocese. He served in Beechworth, Numurkah, St. Kilian's Bendigo and finally as parish priest of Rushworth where he ministered till his retirement from active ministry. He has celebrated the weddings and baptisms of numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, the latest only a few weeks ago.

Certainly Owen's was a very full, active and generous life. I will miss him as one who has become my friend.

His Funeral is scheduled for Thursday March 17th in the parish where he spent much of his life as a husband and father and where he was ordained a priest – St. Mary's Greensborough. May he rest in peace, united to his beloved wife, Margot, and the numerous people he has loved and have gone before him.

Fr. Steven Rigo

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2112-fr-owen-doyle-rip-30-may-1924-7-march-2022>

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND HOPE

And once again, in the seeming blink of an eye,
Our world spins wildly on its axis.
Everything is uncertain, unknown, unnerving.
And fear, once more, breathes its icy trail down
The spine of people.
It seems we must expect the unexpected these
days...



Excerpted from Donna Ashworth's poem "In Times of War"

We have been through so much in the last couple of years as a community, as the world and personally.

Our faith tells us that transformation, beauty and newness come out of darkness, which, if we believe it, tells us that even in the darkest time God's Spirit is active.

This is an invitation to a journey of discovery and hope, where we find that little things mean a lot and that the smallest actions have the power to change us.

Come and join us as we have the opportunity to share and listen. These gatherings will take the form of guided spiritual conversations and will take place for the next five weeks, as we approach Holy Week. Your facilitators and Terry Fanning and Jacinta Bright. Dates: 15, 22 & 29 March and 5 & 12 April, from 1.00pm until 2.30 pm in St Mary's Gathering Space.

Please contact Jacinta at the St Mary's Parish office on 9435 1543 or via her email Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au to book in.

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MEDITATION AT ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH: Are offering Meditation on Saturday's from 10.00am-10.30am, at 1 Monckton Road, Bundoora. No cost involved. For further details contact: Ranjit 0403 654549.

ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, RESERVOIR: invites you to a spiritual afternoon with St Joseph, 2-5pm Sunday 20 March 2022. The afternoon will include two talks given by Anna Krohn and Sr Mary Sarah OP on different aspects of the life of St Joseph, Litany of St Joseph, Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, and afternoon tea. All welcome! Entry by donation. For more information and to register go to : www.sapientiaproject.com or call St Gabriel's Parish Office on 9460 6036.

WALK WITH MARY: It has been 3 years since we have been able to hold the Walk With Mary. The walk will take place on Sunday 20th March at St Patrick's Cathedral commencing at 2.00pm, Prayers Holy Mass, and City Street Procession. Main Celebrant is Rev Bishop Tony Ireland.

For more information contact www.thecombinedsocietiesofmary.com or Joy Hunt 9509 2207.

HEART OF LIFE CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL FORMATION : 'Windows onto God', Saturday 26/3/22, 10am-3pm (in-person event). In this reflection day, we invite you to explore the windows of incarnation, darkness, abundance and self-acceptance. Incarnation, seen in the broad sense of God being in the world, takes in the joy of being alive. With this joy, there is the experience of darkness, which is also part of our human reality. Abundance picks up the theme of incarnation. It reminds us that God is lavish with her/his gifts and wants us to enjoy them. Self-acceptance is linked to these themes since it means accepting both the darkness and the light in ourselves. This day will be interactive and will allow time for reflection and sharing. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch) Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne or email info@heartoflife.melbourne tel 9890 1101.

INFORMATION SESSION - PERMANENT DIACONATE: The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 2 April 2022, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne. For more information: A new Vocations website is under development, however the links below (copy, then paste) are working.

Watch: Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTSO> Watch: Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY> Read More: [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au

GARDENING FOR LENT

First plant five rows of peas:

Preparedness
Promptness
Perseverance
Politeness
Prayer

Next to them plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Squash indifference

Then plant five rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful
Let us be loyal
Let us be unselfish
Let us love one another
Let us be truthful

No garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for Worships
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with a new idea
Turn up with real determination

Then see what a wonderful garden you can grow.

®Have a meaningful LENT®

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



Sacred Heart Rosters: We aim to restart our Rosters by the end of April. Please contact the Parish Office or let Pat know if you are available to join the Setting up, Counting or Church Cleaning Roster. Thank you.

Parish Pastoral Council Discussed: Safeguarding Children, Sacred Heart School report, Mercy Cottage, World Day of Prayer, Proposed Combined Parish Mission

Senior Moments: Wednesday March 16th Lunch and Games in Parish Centre.

Wednesday 6th April, 12.00pm lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

Volunteer work: Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email ray.belli57@gmail.com

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

Mario Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan

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

Les Ginnivan, Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle

Roster for Weekend 19th & 20th March

Saturday St Peter's	7.15pm	Reader: R. Nicolaisen	Eucharistic Minister: Y. O'Brien, P.Keenan
Sunday Sacred Heart	9.00am	Reader: A. Pieper	Eucharistic Minister: P. Leonard, C. Bell

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Safeguarding Children: All volunteers in all of our Ministries are required to fill out a new Code of Conduct Declaration. Copies of the Combined Parishes Code of Conduct and the declaration form will be available in the foyer at Mass this weekend.

Could you please read the Code of Conduct and return the signed declaration to the Parish Office or drop it in the tray provided.

Parental Supervision: With the return of families at our Masses and as our toilets are out of view, parental supervision of your children is required while using the facilities.

St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council: Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm in the Parish House meeting room.

CORPUS CHRISTI SEMINARIANS: We welcome two Corpus Christi seminarians who will be at the 10.30 Mass 2 or 3 times a month as part of their formation. Please make them welcome and you might use the opportunity to invite them for Sunday lunch in your homes. Their names are Greg Lewis and Dominic Lawes.

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: You are most welcome to join us on Thursday, 17th March at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, Nth Greensborough commencing at 7.30pm with praise & worship. Bookings are not required. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

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 March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahan

Rosters for Weekend 19th & 20th March

Saturday 6.00pm:

Reader: D. Haesler **Commentator:** K. Salm **Eucharistic Ministers:** SJ. Bohan, T. Holland, L. Leahy

Set Up: C. Leahy

Sunday 10.30am:

Reader: M. Bates **Commentator:** T. Williamson **Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Tipping, C. O'Brien, F. Landy

Set Up: J. Kerr

Counters B. Bedford, L. Hobson

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PLEASE NOTE NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Francesca and Sharon will provide for our **secretarial needs on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm** and Jacinta's **days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm.**

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.

St Mary's Prayer Shawl Group Meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enq: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

Communion to the Sick at St. Mary's— If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to illness and would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office on 9435 1543.

OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT During Lent, our Masses and worshiping space are simplified representing the desert where Jesus fasted for 40 day and 40 nights. This is in keeping with the Lenten season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty. Only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change. For this reason, there will be no music at Masses during Lent, except on the weekends when children are receiving their First Eucharist, and no flowers or greenery in the Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Two Stations services will be available on our parish website during Lent – one based on the Gospel of St Luke and the other Mary's Stations. There will be no Stations in the church on Friday evenings during Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place on Fridays in St. Mary's Church at 7.30pm.

HELP WITH TRANSPORT TO MASS: A parishioner who is unable to get to Mass would greatly appreciate if anyone would be available to take them to 10.00am Mass on Sundays. If you are able to help could you please contact the Parish Office 94351543.

ST MARY'S FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM is urgently seeking new members capable of preparing and/or running the audio-visual presentations at funerals. Please contact the parish office for more information 9435 1543 or greensborough@cam.org.au

Thank you

SUMMARY OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, 1ST OF MARCH 2022

Our meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by Lorenzo, involving reflection upon the Virgin Mary and looking at scripture from her perspective. Following this, Mark provided an update on the most recent School Advisory Council meeting. The main points were; the general faith night (for parents with children undertaking one the three sacraments this year) which took place on the 15th of February, Led by Fr Steve, Fr Martin and Jacinta, First Holy Communion taking place in final two weekends of March, as well as discussion about student wellbeing and leadership. We then discussed our Partnered Parishes PPC Formation Day which took place on Saturday the 12th of February. This was a great opportunity to reflect upon the discussions we had and also to consider the action we need to take in order to move forward as a Parish community. After this, Fr Steve and Lorenzo provided some information regarding the induction night for the Safeguarding of Children & Young People which took place on 22nd of February 2022. This induction night provided information about the requirements and steps required in order to effectively protect young people in the Parish community. Furthermore, Steve Hodgson provided an update from the finance committee in which he thanked the community for their support and also acknowledged the communities' desire for transparency regarding the Parish finances. Jacinta discussed the Prep Parent Connection Nights occurring at the end of March to facilitate connection between new families entering the community as well the Plenary report and Synod on synodality. The Plenary voiced some ideas for initiatives surrounding recognition and acknowledgement of sexual abuse. Synod on synodality is well underway, with responses due on the 13th of March.



LADIES AUXILIARY: On Wednesday 16th March, our St. Patrick's Day morning tea will be held in the Gathering Space at 10.30am. All are very welcome. Cost is \$10 per person. Enquiries: Maureen 9435 5906; Lucy 9435 6990

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS

PROJECT COMPASSION. Project Compassion boxes can be found in the Gathering Space.

For newcomers to our parish: The boxes give us the opportunity to make a donation each week during Lent. They are to be returned at Easter.

Messiah in the Passover Presentation



Proposed Date: Saturday 9th April

Time: 11.00am- 1.00pm

Venue: Gathering Space, St. Marys' Church, Greensborough.

Cost: \$20/- per person Or \$35/- per couple payable on registration

Contact Jo Giudice on 0411045572 or Michelle D'Souza on 0432316777 to register or for further information. Please register before 1st April.

As we prepare for Holy week, the St Mary's Scripture Study group invites you to celebrate
The Messiah in the Passover.

This presentation explores how "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14) at Passover, and deepens our understanding of Jesus' life and ministry. It will help us gain a deeper appreciation for the intimate connection between the Old and New Testaments, the Torah and the Gospel, thus shedding a new light on the believer's rich inheritance found in the Jewish roots of our faith.

A beautiful table will be set up in front of the congregation, displaying traditional items used in Jewish Passovers, including symbolic foods, which will be explained.

A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: Aid to the Church in Need has launched a national emergency appeal for Ukraine. ACN is committed to strengthening and supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine, as we have done for the past 70 years. The immediate emergency help will support the work of the Church in Ukraine by assisting priests, brothers, and religious sisters to continue their pastoral and outreach programs. We will continue to stand by our brothers and sisters in faith as they undergo trying times and seek to bring peace to a country that is surrounded by turmoil and unrest. Can you provide aid to the Catholic people in Ukraine?

They need your help! Visit www.aidtochurch.org/ukraine



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Luke's version of the Transfiguration story is rich with images of light and darkness. While bright light seems to emanate from Jesus and his two companions, the disciples are in the dark in more ways than one. It is from within their darkness, however, that they hear the voice of God.

Second Sunday of Lent, Year C 13 March 2022

First Reading Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

- The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
- O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' (R.)
- It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. (R.)
- I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading Phil 3:17 – 4:1 or Phil 3:20 – 4:1 (shorter form)

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 9:28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're half asleep and we're told Peter doesn't know what he's saying when he starts talking about building tents. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is. What a great reading for the season of Lent!

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