

Sunday 10th April 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 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

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

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



We pray for true contrition in the face of the sufferings of Jesus.

Palm Sunday Year C, 10th April 2022.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection--into-your-hands-i-commit-my-spirit>

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

LENT/HOLY WEEK

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION



Sacred Heart: Wednesday 13th April , 7.30pm-8.30pm

St Thomas: Monday 11th April, 8.00pm-9.00pm

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY—9th/10th APRIL (Please bring own foliage)

Sacred Heart: Sunday 10th April, 9.00am

St Mary's: Saturday 9th April, 6.30pm Sunday 10th April, 8.00am, 10.00am, 5.00pm

St Thomas: Saturday 9th April, 6.00pm Sunday 10th April 10.30am

HOLY THURSDAY-14th APRIL : **No morning Mass**

St Mary's: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

St Thomas: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm

Prayer before the Altar of Repose after Mass concluding with Night Prayer at 9.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY-15th APRIL :**No Morning Mass**

Stations of the Cross: St Mary's 11.00am

Sacred Heart, St Mary's and St Thomas: 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY-16th APRIL: **No Morning Mass /No Individual Reconciliation**

St Mary's: 10.00am Morning Prayer

EASTER VIGIL-16TH APRIL

Sacred Heart: 7.30pm Service will start outside

St Mary's: 6.30pm Service of Light Outside

EASTER SUNDAY-17th APRIL

Sacred Heart: 9.00am

St Mary's: 8.00am, 10.00am **No 5.00pm Mass**

St Thomas: 10.30am



Psst... I'm Paul, I have a secret!

Discover how God used Paul's background & passion to spread the Gospel. A noon day encounter resulted in a radical re-set for the former Pharisee. Paul took off like an athlete running a marathon, it soon became an obstacle course and then required a relay team to reach the finishing line, where we will find...

THE SECRET OF PAUL

It will be revealed on ZOOM over 6 Tuesdays

19 & 26 April, 3, 10, 17, 24 May

7.30 - 9.30pm Aus EST

Book before Mon 18 April at:

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

Overseas participants use code: OVASEA

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS CONTINUED

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 6-PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today is the sixth weekend of Lent and we pause and reflect.

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem, moving towards his passion, death and resurrection. God is near and we draw close and pray:

Psalm 33:20-22 We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need is conducting an urgent appeal to support the Church in Ukraine. An initial package of \$2 million dollars was sent in the days following the invasion and we are appealing to the Catholic people to further assist.

The financial aid so far has been distributed to both the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches, to religious orders and social projects run by priests and religious all over the country. Focus has been on the East, where fighting has been most serious, but also in parts of the west that are dealing with an influx of refugees fleeing the combat zone. In the capital of Kiev, which has been under bombardment, the Church is also receiving financial support to help those most at need.

In a recent interview, Bishop Stanislav Szyrokoradiuk of Odessa in Southern Ukraine, stated, “I am very grateful for all the political support and solidarity. I would especially like to thank Aid to the Church in Need. It was the first organisations which asked me: “What should we do? How can we help? ACN has been working to keep the faith alive in Ukraine since the 1950’s and we do not intend to stop now.

In our Churches this weekend there will be prayer cards and donation forms.

Please visit www.aidtochurch.org/ukraine or phone 1800 101 201.



PROJECT COMPASSION 2022 Sixth Sunday of Lent

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

It’s through the generous support of people like you, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, that we are able to continue to help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty – support that is needed now more than ever. Thousands of schools and Parishes in Australia have supported Project Compassion over the past year alone.

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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.



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.

PARISH BULLETIN NOTICES—DUE TO A SHORTER WEEK, THE DEADLINE FOR THE EASTER BULLETIN NOTICES WILL BE TUESDAY APRIL 12TH 2.00PM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. PARISH OFFICE.

PALM SUNDAY 9/10 April This year we can once again commence our Palm Sunday Masses outside (weather permitting) with the blessing of branches and procession into the church. **Please bring your own branches to this service.**

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK A blessing service will be held **on Holy Thursday 14 April at 9.30am** for Ministers who are taking Communion to the sick and housebound of our parish. No Communion will be available on Good Friday.

HOLY THURSDAY MASS 14 April 7.30pm This year we can include the **Washing of the Feet** at Mass on Holy Thursday evening. If you would like to be involved in commemorating this act of service, please contact Marian at mariantacey@optusnet.com.au. A mask should be worn as you will be in close proximity to the Celebrant.

GOOD FRIDAY – Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm on 15 April.

Veneration of the Cross will be by bowing or genuflecting. Please do not touch or kiss the cross.

Parishioners who have mobility difficulties are invited to sit in the front rows and Communion and the Veneration cross will be brought to them. If the front row is not suitable, please sit at the end of a row down the centre aisle and ask the person sitting beside you to stand after others have received Communion so that the Ministers are aware of your presence. Similarly, after the Celebrant has venerated the cross, he will bring the cross to you.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM is one continuing liturgy over 3 days which marks the end of the forty days of Lent. It begins with the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (instituting the celebration of the Eucharist), continues through the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday and culminates with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations of Christ's resurrection. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council reminded us of the extraordinary significance of the Triduum: "Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore, the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year." (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, # 18)

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th April at 10.15am in the Gathering Space.

WINTER WARMERS SALE will be on **30th April/1st May** in the Gathering Space after masses. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990.

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION will recommence at St Mary's on Saturday mornings from 9.00 to 10.00am and evenings from 5.45 to 6.15pm from 23 April.

THE ANNUAL HOLY LAND COLLECTION will take place on Good Friday 15th April. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. This year the Holy Land will continue facing an income shortfall due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and so we again ask Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

A designated basket for this collection will be available in the Gathering Space on Good Friday for your kind donations.

MEMORIAL MASS Saturday 23rd April at 10.30am. The Bainbridge family extend an invitation to join them in the first family gathering allowed since Noanee's death in October 2020.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

FACE MASKS Whilst not mandatory, the Chief Health Officer currently recommends masks to be worn indoors, and the Archdiocese reminds parishes that this is especially applicable to larger gatherings.

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 .

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place on Fridays in St. Mary's Church at 7.00pm.

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 on 9435 1543 or email greensborough@cam.org.au Thank you

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! For many years a group of volunteers have catered after funerals at St Mary's. We would like to re-organise this group. If you would like to help and need details please contact Judy Newell 9435 4506.

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

CARITAS APPEAL FOR UKRAINE: Caritas is having an emergency appeal for Ukraine, if you wish to donate please use this link: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine>



AID TO CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: ALPHA COURSE AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH: Alpha is an exciting refresher Course in the Christian faith. The course will start on Thursday, 5th May, 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm, at St Francis Hall, 290 Childs Road Mill Park. Alpha runs for ten Thursdays. Explore questions of life and faith and make new friendships at Alpha! Enquiries – Contact Ruth: 9407 6700. Email: Ruth.Lees@cam.org.au

'PONDERING GRIEF': Saturday 30 April 2022, 10am-3.30pm. Facilitated by qualified Counsellor/ Supervisor/ Educator Linda Espie this reflection day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern.



Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch).

Book and pay via www.heartoflife.melbourne, or email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: Is offering a series of short sessions: online via Zoom Engaging Your Faith Choose one, choose all, choose what interests you and all for just \$25 per session, running from 3rd to 28th May 2022 Booking, payment and further information: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

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



Bulletin Notices: Please note the deadline for next week's Easter Newsletter notices is 2pm Tuesday 12th April.

Thank you

Morning Tea Roster: Sacred Heart Family Groups will host the cuppa after 9am Mass this Sunday.

Individual Reconciliation: Fr Martin will be available for Individual Reconciliation at Sacred Heart 7.30pm on

Wednesday 13th April.

Baptisms: we pray for Harper, Jack, Willow, Jobe, George, Darcy, Tyler and Darcy who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in April.

Working Bee: The Parish Hall has been unused for two years, so is in need of a clean and tidy up prior to the Federal Election in May. If anyone can spare an hour between 10am and 12pm on Tuesday, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you

Working with Children Checks: some parishioners WWC are about to expire. Please renew online, or contact the Parish Office for assistance.

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.

Senior Moments: Wednesday 20th April 12pm Lunch and games in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 4th May Lunch 12pm at Diamond Creek Tavern

Parish Pastoral Council: Email address: ppcdiamondcreek@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, Bernadette Hobbs, Mervyn Bourke, John Downey

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

Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy, Alan Ridsdale, Jane Coyle, Elaine Chapman.

Rosters:

10th April Sacred Heart 9am Reader: B. Greaves Eucharistic Ministers: R. Belli, R. Padget

Thank you to all our volunteers for participating in the **Good Friday** and **Easter Vigil Ceremonies.**

Easter Sunday 17th April Sacred Heart 9am: Reader: C. Fernando Commentator: M. Walsh

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Bell, T. Sirianni

Please note: There will be no 7.15pm Mass at St Peter's on Saturday 16th April

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

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.

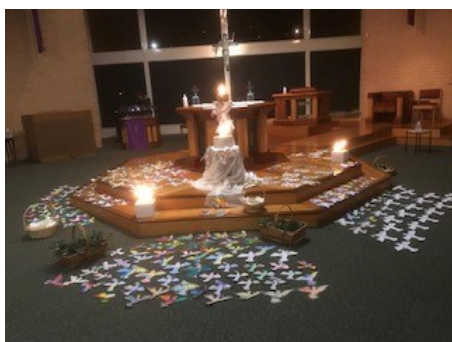
Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time: Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo,

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

Mary Cho Nguyen, Prisca Rosario, Osvaldo Porcaro, Lina Betuna, Margaret Mc Carthy, Dino Bianchin, Bill Schultz, Brian Brown, Alessandro Sacchetta, Reg Cummins, Pat Hart, Iris Hartley, Joy Joseph, Roy Kilkenny, Anastasis Rendina, Sylvester Ellul, Rod Nettleton, Kathleen Jordan, Maria de Bartolo, Elaine Chapman, Shirley Bourke

Rosters for Weekend 16th & 17th April

EASTER ROSTER



I would just like to extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone for putting our liturgy together.

A small congregation gathered together in a meaningful setting with special thanks to the children of St Thomas, Fr Martin and school staff on Monday was a testament to what the children bring to our community, to us as adults and to our prayer and our lives. They showed us the how difficult times in our world sometimes impose of them no matter how hard we try to shelter and protect them. On Monday there was vulnerability, kindness and compassion for all to see.

What was great to see was the connection between school and parish community.

Tim Holland

Chairperson St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council





LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE. For Jesus, his entry into Jerusalem was a triumph that had a seriously sinister side: this was the city in which he was both totally defeated and yet utterly triumphant. Jerusalem was a hub of trade and political intrigue. It was a sophisticated city and Herod's grand Temple was not only a religious and cultural symbol, it was also political. Its stones spoke of permanence, power and dignity. Even so, its destruction overshadowed it, just as the cross overshadowed Jesus. Watch for the temple motif recurring in the drawings for the Triduum.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year C

10 April 2022

Gospel Lk 19:28-40

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village opposite, whereon entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this, "The Lord has need of it"'. So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it'. And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples'. He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out'.

First Reading Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
- Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
- They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
- I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Lk 22:14 - 23:56

N When the hour came Jesus took his place at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them,
J I have longed to eat this passover with you before I suffer; because, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.
N Then, taking a cup, he gave thanks and said,
J Take this and share it among you, because from now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes.
N Then he took some bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying,
J This is my body which will be given for you; do this as a memorial of me.
N He did the same with the cup after supper, and said,
J This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be poured out for you.
 And yet, here with me on the table is the hand of the man who betrays me. The Son of Man does indeed go to his fate even as it has been decreed, but alas for that man by whom he is betrayed!
N And they began to ask one another which of them it could be who was to do this thing.
A dispute arose also between them about which should be reckoned the greatest, but he said to them,
J Among pagans it is the kings who lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are given the title Benefactor. This must not happen with you. No; the greatest among you must behave as if he were the youngest, the leader as if he were the one who serves. For who is the greater: the one at table or the one who serves? The one at the table, surely? Yet here I am among you as one who serves! You are the men who have stood by me faithfully in my trials; and now I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father conferred one on me: you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on the thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.
 Simon, Simon! Satan, you must know, has got his wish to sift you all like wheat; but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail, and once you have recovered, you in your turn must strengthen your brothers.
N He answered,

O Lord, I would be ready to go to prison with you, and to death.
N Jesus replied,
J I tell you, Peter, by the time the cock crows today you will have denied three times that you know me.
N He said to them,
J When I sent you out without purse or haversack or sandals, were you short of anything?
N They answered,
C No.
N He said to them,
J But now if you have a purse, take it: if you have a haversack, do the same; if you have no sword, sell your cloak and buy one, because I tell you these words of scripture have to be fulfilled in me: He let himself be taken for a criminal. Yes, what scripture says about me is even now reaching its fulfilment.
N They said,
C Lord, there are two swords here now.
N He said to them,
J That is enough!
N He then left the upper room to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When they reached the place he said to them,
J Pray not to be put to the test.
N Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed, saying,
J Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.
N Then an angel appeared to him coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. He said to them,
J Why are you asleep? Get up and pray not to be put to the test.
N He was still speaking when a number of men appeared, and at the head of them the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, who went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said,
J Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?
N His followers, seeing what was happening, said,
C Lord, shall we use our swords?
N And one of them struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. But at this Jesus spoke,
J Leave off! That will do!
N And touching the man's ear he healed him. Then Jesus spoke to the chief priests and captains of the Temple guard and elders who had come for him. He said,
J Am I a brigand that you had to set out with swords and clubs? When I was among you in the Temple day after day you never moved to lay hands on me. But this is your hour; this is the reign of darkness.
N They seized him then and led him away, and they took him to the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance. They had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and Peter sat down among them, and as he was sitting there by the blaze a servant-girl saw him, peered at him, and said,
O This person was with him too.
N But he denied it, saying,
O Woman, I do not know him.
N Shortly afterwards someone else saw him and said,

O You are another of them.
N But Peter replied,
O I am not, my friend.
N About an hour later another man insisted, saying,
O This fellow was certainly with him. Why, he is a Galilean.
N Peter said,
O My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.
N At that instant, while he was still speaking, the cock crew, and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.
 Meanwhile the men who guarded Jesus were mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,
C Play the prophet. Who hit you then?
N And they continued heaping insults on him.
 When day broke there was a meeting of the elders of the people, attended by the chief priests and scribes. He was brought before their council, and they said to him,
C If you are the Christ, tell us,
N He replied,
J If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God.
N Then they all said,
C So you are the Son of God then?
N He answered,
J It is you who say I am.
N They said,
C What need of witnesses have we now? We have heard it for ourselves from his own lips.
N The whole assembly then rose, and they brought him before Pilate. They began their accusation by saying,
C We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.
N Pilate put to him this question,
O Are you the king of the Jews?
N He replied,
J It is you who say it.
N Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd,
O I find no case against this man.
N But they persisted,
C He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.
N When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.
 Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day.
 Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. He said,
O You brought this man before me as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.
N But as one man they howled,
C Away with him! Give us Barabbas!
N This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.
 Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back.
C Crucify him! Crucify him!
N And for the third time he spoke to them,
O Why? What harm has this man done? I have found

no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and let him go.

N But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified, and their shouts were growing louder.

Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

J Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, 'Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!'; to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?

N Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said,

J Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.

N Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him, saying,

C He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.

N The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said,
C If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.

N Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him, saying,

O Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us as well.

N But the other spoke up and rebuked him,

O Have you no fear of God at all? You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

N He replied

J Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise.

N It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said,

J Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

N With these words he breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment

N When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said,

O This was a great and good man.

N And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts.

All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph. He had not consented to what the others had planned and carried out. He came from Arimathaea, a Jewish town, and he lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day and the sabbath was imminent.

Meanwhile the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus were following behind. They took note of the tomb and of the position of the body.

Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. And on the sabbath day they rested, as the law required.



Reflection by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

In this final Lenten Sunday we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. We recognise him as our saviour, but we look more closely in order to discover just what kind of saviour he is. He has taken the form of a slave; he has been glorified with a name above all other names; he continues to suffer with us.

We have not been saved through military power, but through the self-offering humility of Jesus. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. In the face of this, we must ask a fundamental question: Why does God love us with such abandon?

We have a savior who was lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine prerogatives. He became one of us in order to show us how we are to live. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down.

We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others.