



Sunday 17th 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: 9.00am-10.00am & 5.45pm-6.15pm
before evening Mass

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



The 'disciple whom Jesus loved', who enters the empty tomb of Jesus and believes, is the representative for all of us - believers of subsequent generations.

Easter Sunday, Year C

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/homily-notes--easter-sunday--year-c>

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.

The Full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, Loyola

My name is Steve Nash. I am one of the RE Learning Consultants in the Eastern Region of Melbourne.

Alongside my work, I am in a process/course to become a spiritual director. As part of the course there is a practical element which involves doing the Exercises of St Ignatius with two people. Hence, I am looking for two people who would like to go through the process of the exercises with me.

There will be a cost only in order to help allay the cost of the supervisor (\$25.00 per session but if that is too much we can work something out). I am looking for people who are interested in doing the exercises but people I don't have any formal professional contact with: so teachers or staff in schools that I work in would be OK, REL's would not. REL's in schools I don't work in would be OK. If you or someone you know would be interested pass my details on to them:

Steve Nash

snash@macs.vic.edu.au

0416 137 890

The Spiritual Exercises are a compilation of meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices developed by St. Ignatius Loyola to help people deepen their relationship with God. For centuries the Exercises were most commonly given as a "long retreat" of about 30 days in solitude and silence. In recent years, there has been a renewed emphasis on the Spiritual Exercises as a program for laypeople. The most common way of going through the Exercises now is a "retreat in daily life," which involves program of daily prayer and meetings with a spiritual director. The Exercises have also been adapted in many other ways to meet the needs of modern people.

The Full Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius is a Retreat in Daily Life over 30-35 weeks. The prayer for the Exercises asks an hour of you each day and a 45 minute visit to your spiritual director once a week (which could be in person or online).

As your spiritual director, I am in a process of formation as a Giver of the full Spiritual Exercises in the Heart Wisdom Program at Kardia Formation P/L, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA, and therefore I will be supervised. That simply means I will discuss the process with a supervising spiritual director.

Best regards

Steve

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 foyer of the Church on Good Friday.

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. 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 intent 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.

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.

TIME AND TALENT – HELP NEEDED Dear parishioners, please consider volunteering some time towards one of our parish ministries. COVID, ageing and illness have left our ministries quite depleted. A Time and Talent Sheet outlining the various ministries is once again attached to St Mary's newsletter.

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.

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.

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.

Part 2: The Eucharist, The Source and Summit of Catholic Spirituality -Rev. Dr Elio Capra

What is the meaning of the words and actions of the Eucharist? What are the links between the Eucharist and everyday life.

By popular demand Fr. Elio will return on **Wednesday 27th April at 7:00 pm** to complete this 2 part series. Please attend in person as this event will not be recorded.

To view Part 1 of this series please click on the link <https://youtu.be/yD8apJsNUb4>

For registration and booking please call Jo on 0411 045 572 or Michelle on 0432316777.

Scripture Study: Would you like to join our weekly scripture group on Zoom?

We are commencing a 6 week study on **The Letters to the Hebrews**, starting from **Thursday 19th May 2022.**

This study reviews the history of Israel and points us to Jesus Christ who fulfils and surpasses all the hopes expressed in the Old Testament. This study reminds us of the great heroes of faith found in the Old Testament and urges us to imitate their faithful endurance. For more information and enrolling please contact Michelle on 0432316777 mtdsouza@optusnet.com.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED

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.

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.

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



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

Thank you to Family Groups and other parishioners who contributed to the success of last Sunday's cuppa after Mass. Please contact Pat if you, or your group would like to host anytime.

Working Bee: **Thank you** to Marg, Terry, Moya, Wendy and Frank for their time and incredible effort cleaning the Parish Hall.

Joan Chittister osb. Joan is an American Benedictine, a Practical Theologian, and she embodies the voice of wisdom and experience. A parishioner has donated **2 free tickets** to hear Joan speak on Thursday 12th May 7pm-9pm at Melbourne Town Hall. Contact the Parish Office.

ANZAC Day: Diamond Creek RSL will hold a Service at the Cenotaph 10.30am on Monday 25th April, where Combined Churches of Diamond Creek (St John's Anglican, Wensley Street Uniting Church and Sacred Heart) will lay a wreath.

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

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

Wednesday 4th May Lunch 12pm at Diamond Creek Tavern

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.

Funeral Ministry: Please consider joining our Funeral Ministry Team Roster. Participants assist our Priests when meeting with families to organize funerals. They also help to set up the church, support and welcome the family on the day of the Funeral. Please talk to Frank Ledda or contact the Office for more information.

Parish Pastoral Council: discussions at the recent meeting:

1. Charlie Garzia talked about his role with the St Thomas/Sacred Heart Social Justice Group, and possible ways our Parish can be more involved.
2. School Advisory Council member Colleen tabled a School Report which explained the structure of the SAC and their Vision Statement Review process. Stage 2 school refurbishments. 60th Anniversary preparations. Issues regarding the school oval/railway land border.
3. Resumption of Morning Tea roster following 9am Sunday Masses.
4. Working bees to be arranged in May at St Peter's, and possible combined school and parish working bee at Sacred Heart.
5. Parish to run a Thanksgiving Renewal Campaign in the near future.

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:

Sunday 24th April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: Y. O'Brien Commentator: F. Ledda Eucharistic Ministers: P. Keenan, M. Jenkins

PROJECT COMPASSION 2022

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

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.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2022 Lenten appeal.

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 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.

Parish Pastoral Council: Our next meeting is Wednesday 20th April, 7.00pm in the Parish House.

Mothers Day Slideshow: I am looking for photos you might like to have included in the slideshow at the Mother's Day Masses on the 7th & 8th May.

If you have any you would like to share, please email to me at sueandkevinmcmahon@bigpond.com

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, Rosa Alvaro

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, Maria del Popolo

Rosters for Weekend 23rd & 24th April

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: P. Carty

Commentator: D. Haesler

Eucharistic Ministers: M. McKenzie, K. Salm, L. Leahy

Set Up: C. Leahy

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: T. Williamson

Commentator: L. Hobson

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, E. Sutherland, A. Letzia

Set Up: J. Kerr



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

The Way Prayer Group: You are invited to come and join us in celebrating the next Charismatic Mass on Thursday 21st April at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, Nth Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship followed by Mass.

For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902



ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY

The ACU Centre for Liturgy is offering a new online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Classes start April 27. For further information see our website:

<http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training> or contact the Centre on (02)9701 4751 or CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au

LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE.

It was very early in the morning when Mary Magdalene went among the graves to find Jesus: 'it was still dark'. It must have been unnerving to find an empty space where a stone and a body should have been. The resurrection took everybody by surprise, even those who had heard Jesus say, 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up' (Jn 2:19).

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

17 April 2022

First Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself; and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

or: 1 Cor 5:6-8

Throw away the old yeast, that you may be new dough.

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the

linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

or: Mk 16:1-7

Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

or at Evening Mass: Lk 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

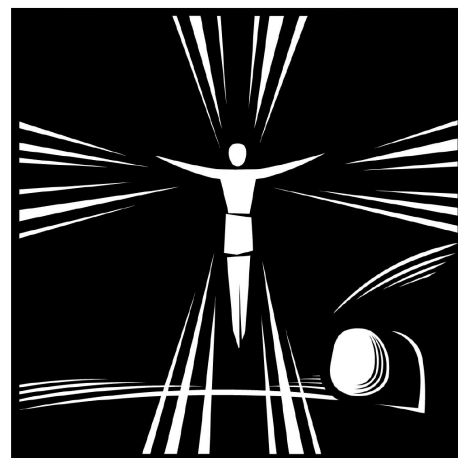
Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

On this, the most important celebration in the Christian calendar, it is a shame that the reading chosen for the Lectionary is something of a let down. Certainly, within the gospel reading we have the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala; the disbelieving disciples running to find things exactly as Mary had described; and the dawning realisation of what Jesus had meant when he so frequently spoke about rising from the dead. However, if the editors of the Lectionary had chosen to also include the next nine verses of the gospel we would have also heard the magnificent encounter between Mary and the risen Lord, confirming that it was a woman, Mary Magdala, who was the first witness to Christ's resurrection. As it is, we never hear this account as part of the cycle of Sunday readings.

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe.

Happy Easter from Fr Steven, Fr Tao and Fr Martin



HOLY WEEK

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