



Sunday 3rd July 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

PLEASE NOTE: MORNING MASS ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY AT ST MARY'S WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 9.00AM



The Church is essentially missionary in nature: its supreme task is to proclaim the onset of the Kingdom of God.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,

3 July 2022

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/homily-notes--14th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-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.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

The Partnered Parishes THINK AND BREATHE Child Safety – KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.

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.

From time to time, behaviour management strategies may be required to:

ensure a safe, positive and effective environment, ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, manage disruptive behaviour.

Clergy, employees and volunteers must use fair, respectful and age and developmentally appropriate strategies. The child or young person is to be provided with clear direction and be given an opportunity to redirect their behaviour in a positive manner.

A MESSAGE FROM Fr STEVEN RIGO

Dear Parishioners,

As you may be aware, I have been away on vacation and travelling quite near, through Western Victoria and South Australia and have spent some time on Kangaroo Island with friends. I have also spent some time with family and have completed my vacation with a week at Bright with my mother. I am due back for the first weekend of July.

Earlier in June I also participated in the annual Melbourne Clergy Conference at Cape Schanck together with Martin Tanti and over 145 priests, deacons and diocesan staff.

The title of the Conference for this year was: "Exploring the Dimensions of Mission - Understanding Our Call".

Several interesting presenters and workshop leaders engaged us in exploring the central point that our reason for being Church is to continue the mission of Jesus Christ who liberates us to extend the love of God for the world. We are all called by our baptism to work collaboratively with one another to go out and make disciples, remembering that Christ remains with us to empower us for this task.

I look forward to exploring the ways we can do this together.

Steven.

GREENSBOROUGH CONFERENCE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 2022 WINTER APPEAL

This year's Appeal will be officially launched on the weekend of **2/3 July**. As the price of food increases and we have to watch what we buy, we are mindful of those in our community who always have to watch what they spend on food as their income is so limited. That is where we at the Greensborough Vinnies Conference come in, providing food vouchers to tide our families over until their next pay day. We are therefore seeking the kind assistance of the St Mary's and St. Thomas' Community to give what you can afford to enable us to purchase these vouchers and other basic essentials.

- Appeal envelopes will be provided on the ends of the seats and at the back of the Church - they can then be placed in the 2nd Collection on the above weekend or soon after.
- Credit card donations can be arranged by calling 03 9895 5959 and stating you are donating to the [Greensborough](#) Conference
- Donations can be made online via vinnies.org.au – please make sure you include [Greensborough](#) in the 'Comments/Conference Name' section



UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES 22nd APRIL

IT IS NOT MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IT IS ONLY RECOMMENDED.

Close contacts of positive cases are to wear face coverings indoors, and to avoid "sensitive" or group settings. It is still recommended to wear a Face Covering when social distancing cannot be maintained over a period of time.

It is recommended that those who distribute Holy Communion continue to wear a Face Covering and sanitise their hands before doing so.

In accordance with the guidelines from the Archdiocese, Hand Sanitiser is still available in our Churches.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

TODAY IS ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY AND THE START OF NAIDOC WEEK



National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday 3 July to Sunday 10 July), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

Message from NATSICC (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council):

*“Every year on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, Catholics from across Australia come together to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia’s First Peoples. This year our theme challenges us all into action. The Harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. **Get up! Stand up! Show up!** As you help us celebrate this special day on the Liturgical Calendar, we ask you to listen to us, stand with us and walk with us on our journey for change. Your support is vital to help us in amplifying our messages to our leaders to generate meaningful change! It is our dream that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Catholics come together in every Catholic Parish and School in this great Southern land as one people in Christ.”*



PLENARY COUNCIL

The 4 year journey of the Plenary Council will culminate next week when the 277 members gather in Sydney. We’re invited to continue to surround the members with prayer.

“The key document that will guide the work of the second assembly is the Framework for Motions, which was published in early June. It contains about 30 motions that all Council Members will discern and vote on.

The outcome of the votes will be announced during the assembly. See www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Livestream: All Masses during the second assembly will be livestreamed. The Opening Mass on Sunday 3rd July will be at 5pm. Monday 4th–Thursday 6th July Masses will be celebrated at 6.00 pm. Friday 8 July Mass will be at 7.30 am.

The Closing of the Plenary Council Mass will be on July 9 at 10.30 am.

“The opening session each day will also be livestreamed” beginning each morning at 8.30 am on Monday 4th–Thursday 7th July.

On Friday 8 July the opening session will begin about 9.10 am.

“The livestream will be accessible on the Plenary Council website’s home page www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au and the [Plenary Council YouTube channel](#)

In addition to watching the livestreamed Masses, parishes and other Catholic communities around the country can celebrate Masses and other liturgies using the same prayers, readings and hymns as those being used at the Plenary Council.

Share Your Prayer and Hopes

Visit www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au to send a message of prayer and support to the Plenary Council members.

Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories
and speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.*

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.



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.

PLEASE NOTE: MORNING MASS ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 9.00AM

ST MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY *If there is no-one in attendance in the Library, it can be opened and you can record which books you take on the sheet.*



COMMUNION ROUND MINISTERS: Copies of the Communion Round Roster for July to December are available on the table at the back of the Church. You will also find blank Code of Conduct forms for Ministers to fill in and return to the Parish Office. Thank you.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS:

DIAMOND VALLEY REFUGEE SUPPORT FOR THE BRIGIDINES' ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY ST MARY'S.

The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) is a Melbourne-based initiative of the Brigidine Sisters which aims to provide hospitality and practical support for asylum seekers; actively network with like-minded individuals and groups who are working for justice for asylum seekers; promote advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers; engage in education about asylum seekers issues.

The Project works with, and for, asylum seekers both in detention and in the community. Concerned and compassionate women and men across cultures and generations contribute to the work of the Project.

Anyone interested in helping, either with a one-off or a monthly donation given in provided envelopes, and placed in the church collection basket. Contact Ellen Smiddy 9435 5145

REPAIR CAFÉ Notices are available on the bench at the front door of the Gathering Space of the Church at St Mary's about the Repair Café.

The nearest Repair Café is at 14 Church St Greensborough (All Saints Anglican Church in Greensborough) You may get something repaired OR register to volunteer as a repairer. Repairs to – garden tools, bikes, mowers, furniture, toys, sewing/mending of clothing, problems with setting up mobile phones etc. Have a look on their website or Facebook page for further details.



[Greensborough Repair Cafe - Home](#) | [Facebook](#) [Greensborough Repair Café VIC](#) | [Repaircafe](#). TOSS IT? NO WAY

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Help is needed for us to recommence Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10.00 Mass. Education & support will be provided. Working with Children accreditation is a prerequisite to be one of the team. We work in 2s each session. At the moment we only have support for twice a month. If you are interested please contact Geraldine Conroy 0438 148 896.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament :-First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

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

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 .

DONATION OF USED HEARING AIDS AND GLASSES: Box available in the Gathering Space.

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: In 2021 alone, 565,000 religious books were produced and distributed with the help of ACN. Often in poor countries, the child's Bible is the first book that children receive in their own language and frequently it is the only picture book that the little ones can get hold of in their entire lives.

Can you help us continue this important work in distributing religious books throughout the world?

Visit: www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject



HEART OF LIFE: Is offering an “At-home Retreat: Held in Hope” – over five weeks, beginning Monday, 1st August and concluding 29th August. This at-home retreat, invites you to spend some time in prayer at home each day pondering your experiences of the day, and to be accompanied by a retreat-companion weekly, via Zoom for 45 minutes, on how God might have been present for you. A small donation will be welcome. To register your interest, please call 9890 1101 or email info@heartoflife.melbourne, no later than 18th July 2022.

ENLIVEN YOUR SPIRIT through these potentially life-changing seminars starting 18/7/22 - available in-person or via Zoom. Deepen your spirituality and increase your understanding by participating in one of Heart of Life's seminars occurring approx 2 hours per week for 14 weeks. Each explores in some depth the topics covered in the following: 'Discernment', 'Spirituality of Human Life Stages', 'Grace & Conversion', 'Ecological Spirituality', 'The Human Experience of God' and 'Professional Standards in Ministry'. Presented by qualified and experienced lecturers, the teaching approach incorporates the mind, the heart and the spirit. To read more and book, go to our webpage: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/seminars-courses/seminars-and-courses-2022/> Cost \$475 per seminar. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC, tel (03) 9890 1101.

'SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT DAYS', Thursdays 21 July and 25 August 2022, 1pm-4pm AEST, attend via Zoom or in-person, according to personal circumstances. Those in caring roles live with profound beauty amidst the challenges of daily life. We offer these reflection/retreat days for those who frequently serve others, who may need support, a place of welcome and some nurturing. Take some time out for yourself, if you are able, and join us for one or both of these reflection days. Each day is offered as an oasis. You will have the space and time to be silent, reflect, with the opportunity to share if you wish. We invite you to re-energise your mind and replenish your spirit. Led by Heart of Life spiritual directors, Carole Carmody rsm and Cathy Beaton. Cost \$30 per session. Enquiries to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC, email office@heartoflife.melbourne, or tel (03) 9890 1101 or book and pay at www.heartoflife.melbourne



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



Sacred Heart School refurbishment: Temporary scaffolding has been erected at the front of the school. Please allow extra time for parking prior to Mass. Updates will be provided.

Baptisms: we pray for Charlie, Matilda, Violet, Reid, Tomi, Finn, Sophie, Madison and Lachlan who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in July.

Senior Moments: Wednesday 6th July Pie and Cakes 12pm in Parish Centre. Please contact Margaret with your orders. Wednesday 20th July Lunch & Games 12pm in Parish Centre

Working with Children Check: Thank you to the many parishioners who have recently renewed their WWC. The Parish Office is automatically notified.

Parish Pastoral Council: PPC Suggestion Box at back of Church. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

RCIA Sacred Heart and St Thomas: If anyone is interested in becoming a Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith please contact either of our Parish offices. A new group will begin soon.

Diamond Creek Conference annual St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal: There is a leaving collection after Masses this weekend 2nd/3rd July. Envelopes are also available for cash or credit card donations, which can be placed in collection bags or left at the Parish Centre during July. Donations will be distributed locally in our Parish, where assistance is provided with food, paying gas/electricity bills, chemist expenses, delivering firewood etc. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, blankets or cash would be most appreciated. Thank you.



Rosters for Weekend 10th July

Sunday 10th July 9am Sacred Heart

Reader: T. Jenkins **Commentator:** F. Ledda

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Jenkins, J. Bruce

Saturday 16th July 7.15pm St Peters

Reader: Amindha **Commentator:** J. Robinson

Eucharistic Ministers: E. Gittins

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

Mario Molinaro, Lina Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Bernadette Hobbs, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, John Downey,

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of July that they may enter

Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Mary Keenan, Salvatore, Basil, Maria & Fortunato Caccetta, David Phillips, Kevin Jose, Caterina Borgolotto

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

INFORMATION UPDATED: 23 JUNE 2022, 12.00PM

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith.

Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship, workplaces, primary schools, early childhood or retail settings.

There are no longer vaccination requirements at Places of Worship nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status for attendee, workers or volunteers at Places of Worship and for associated parish activities.

It should be noted that the Archdiocese and each parish must continue to have an up-to-date COVIDSafe Plan.

Sanitising hands before distribution of Holy Communion is still recommended.

Holy Water stoups may be filled, but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly.

Holy Communion may be distributed to the faithful under both species (i.e., the Sacred Host and Precious Blood).

It is an essential requirement to isolate for seven days following a COVID-19 diagnosis.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Contactless Payments: We are now able to allow electronic transfer of funds through the purchase of a Square Tap Machine.

☑ Square



Parishioners will be able to 'tap and go' for the Presbytery and Parish collections. There are instructions in the Church or you can ask for help.

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

Next meeting Wednesday 20th July, 7.00pm **St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council:** Email address: stthomasppc@gmail.com

Rosters for Weekend 9th & 10th July

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: E. Sacchetta

Commentator: P. Carty

Eucharistic Ministers: D. Haesler, M. Bedford, L. Carty

Set Up: M. Mc Kenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: S. Millar

Commentator: J. Kerr

Eucharistic Ministers: F. Landy, M. Tipping

Set Up: J. Kerr

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 including Domenico Di Giandomenico and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of July that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Kevin Jose, Pat Gannon, Anna de Gier, Michael Pham, Hopetoun Chapman, Edwin Ray, Shannon Risson, Nunzuio Napoleone, Mary Kenny, Eileen Mc Inerney, Guido Paciocco, Jack Sutherland, Domenico & Elidia Paliotta, Jack O'Brien, Salvatore De Bartolo

ST THOMAS FEAST DAY 3rd July

Thomas the Apostle also known as Didymus ("twin"), was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. Thomas is commonly known as "Doubting Thomas" because he initially doubted the resurrection of Jesus Christ .

At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells his disciples that he is about to leave them and that they know the way where he is going,

Thomas cries out, ***"Lord we do not know where you are going; and how can we know the way? Jesus replies "I am the way...No one goes to the Father save through me."***

Thomas who had not died with Jesus after all, was away when Jesus appeared to the rest .

'Unless I see in his hands the mark of nails, and put my finger in the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side I will not believe.'

Only Jesus could convince him, and he came specially to give him the proof he demanded: ***'Bring your finger here and see my hands; and put forth your hand and place it in my side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.'*** Thomas needed no more and burst into great cry: ***'My Lord and my God.'*** Thomas would not be left out again.

Jesus said to Thomas: ***'have you believed because you have seen? Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe.'***

St Thomas doubt helps us more than the faith of others. Faith is above reason, but reason leads to faith, for the things men see and touch point beyond themselves.

When the feast of Saint Thomas was inserted in the Roman calendar in the 9th century, it was assigned to 21 December.

St Jerome mentioned the apostle on 3 July, the date to which the Roman celebration was transferred in 1969, so that it would no longer interfere with Advent.



LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE.

The 'Lord of the harvest' sends out disciples to spread the good news of the Kingdom in this reading from Luke's gospel. The yield of his harvest is high, but there are problems recruiting workers to bring in the crop. Perhaps this is because the work of a disciple is demanding and ultimately dangerous.



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

3 July 2022

First Reading Is 66:10-14

I will send toward Jerusalem peace like a river.

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
be glad for her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice for her,
all you who mourned her!

That you may be suckled, filled,
from her consoling breast,
that you may savour with delight
her glorious breasts.
For thus says the Lord:

Now towards her I send flowing
peace, like a river,
and like a stream in spate
the glory of the nations.

At her breast will her nurslings be carried
and fondled in her lap.
Like a son comforted by his mother
will I comfort you.
And by Jerusalem you will be comforted.

At the sight your heart will rejoice,
and your bones flourish like the grass.
To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading Gal 6:14-18

The marks I carry on my body are those of Jesus Christ.

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.*

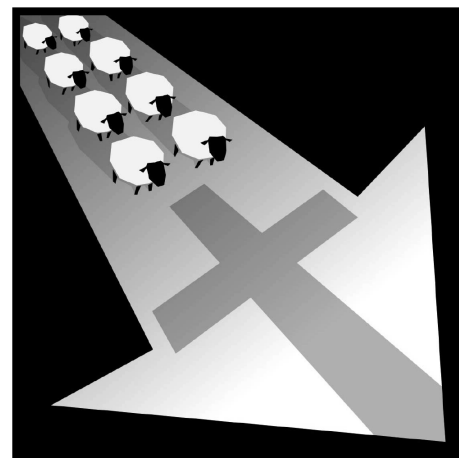
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 (or shorter form Lk 10:1-9)

Your peace will rest upon him.

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, that on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Although the gospel is a report of ministerial commissioning, it contains elements of discipleship in general. Most obvious is the disciples' dependence on Jesus. They are not independent missionaries; they are followers. Furthermore, there is a communal dimension of discipleship. While there is certainly a personal relationship between Jesus and each disciple, discipleship itself is not a singular privilege that one hugs to oneself to the exclusion of others.

Disciples minister to the needs of others, whatever those needs may be and with whatever abilities the disciple may possess. There are various kinds of healing: a friendly smile, a word of gratitude, a soothing touch. We can teach the lessons of life in classrooms, in playrooms, in kitchens, in boardrooms. There are many ways that we can cast out the demons that hold our world by the throat; demons of poverty and oppression, demons of addiction and slavery, demons of disdain and neglect, demons of hatred and violence. If they are not cast out by us, then by whom?

The life of discipleship is not an unmixed blessing. Because disciples are marked by the sign of the cross, they must expect suffering. Because they do not live according to the standards of the world, disciples will be judged as fools. Some of them will be subjected to even greater suffering. Still, the disciple proclaims that true fulfilment is only found in God! In reality, it is the world that is upside down, not the life of discipleship. And it is the cross that sets things right.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the **Lectionary for the Mass** ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
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