



Sunday 24th 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

The Chief Health Officer has strongly recommended the use of face coverings in indoor and crowd settings during this winter period (from July 2022 onwards).

Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. However, parishioners should be encouraged (via signage and bulletin reminders) to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity.

Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings for the distribution of communion. Face coverings should also be worn when visiting parishioners.



Jesus encourages us to believe that we can ask God for anything, and that our faith will be rewarded simply because of the immensity of God's love. Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, 24 July 2022.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection--ask--and-it-will-be-given-to-you>

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.

Parents/guardians are to supervise children at all times when at our parishes.

Photographs/videos of children or young people

It is important to ensure that photographs or videos of children, young people and parishioners are taken for a parish purpose. As part of a consent process, parents or guardians are to be informed about how photographs or video are likely to be used (e.g. website, noticeboard, newsletter).

Verbal consent is no longer acceptable. For any photographs to be used in our Parishes a Permission for Photographs and Videos form needs to be filled out and returned to the Parish offices.

***** Alpha begins 26 July – Register now *****



SCAN ME

Ever wanted to pause and consider the big questions about **life, meaning and faith?**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions in a safe, welcoming and honest space. Participants share their insights and points of view on a range of topics about the basics of the Christian faith and its impact in our lives. All are invited and there is no fee.



We share a meal

We watch a video

We engage in discussion

Register using the above QR code or by clicking this link <https://tinyurl.com/y87kzhj3>

TO ST. MARYS AND ST. THOMAS - THANK YOU FROM VINNIES!

On behalf of the Greensborough Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, I wish to sincerely thank the parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Thomas for their tremendous support of our recent Winter Appeal. Even though the final figure is still being processed, it is heading towards \$10,000! With the cost of living rising, there has been an upsurge in callers these last few weeks needing our assistance. Therefore your donations will set us up well to continue to look after our local families through the Winter and the rest of the year. When there are many demands on your generosity during the year, we really appreciate that you have once again seen fit to donate to Vinnies at this time. God Bless you all!



Maureen Lonsdale, President – Greensborough SVDP

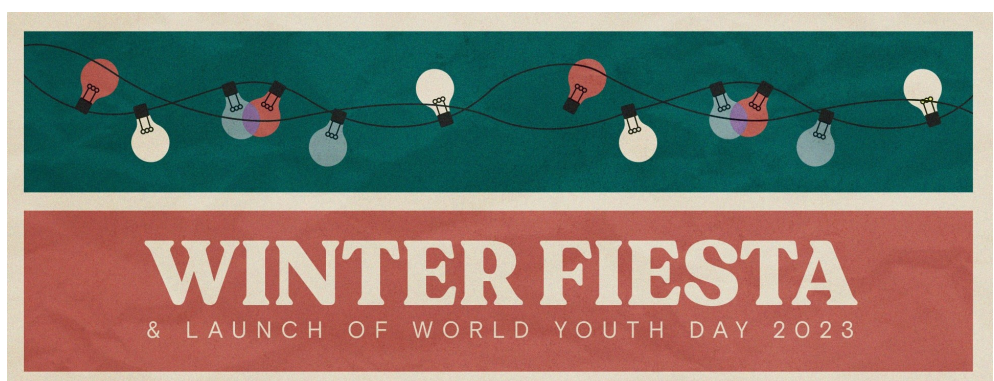
WINTER FIESTA

On Thursday 4th August from 6.30pm-8.30pm, Archbishop Peter will be leading an evening of prayer and celebrations for the young people of Melbourne. The evening will include a time of prayer and reflection in our beautiful Cathedral which this year celebrates its 125th anniversary. Following our time of prayer, there will be a Winter Fiesta, held in the grounds of the cathedral. With live music and great food, it will be a wonderful opportunity for the young people of the Archdiocese to come together and celebrate.

During the event, the Archbishop will launch the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Lisbon in 2023. At the same time, we also look forward to sharing some of the other exciting activities and initiatives on offer for young people.

More information:

<https://udisciple.melbournecatholic.org/events/winter-fiesta>



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PLEASE NOTE TEMPORARY NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

From the week beginning 26th July, the office will not be attended on Mondays and Thursdays. Sharon will provide for our secretarial needs on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and Jacinta's days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm. This will continue until the week beginning 30th August, when Francesca returns from annual leave.



During this time, please send any bulletin contributions to Lisa Leahy at St. Thomas parish on greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

CONFIRMATION AT ST MARY'S We welcome Confirmation candidates and their families at our Masses this weekend as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our prayers and support are with you all. May they always remember that they can turn to Jesus who is their true friend, and who will always lovingly care for them.



FUNDRAISER CONCERT Saturday 20th August at 2pm. Cost \$20.00. Tickets on sale after masses on weekend 6th/7th August. Bookings Maria 9432 6462 Judy 9435 4506.



FOR SALE Piano—Petroe, Upright, in very good condition, with a beautiful even tone and pitch. Comes with a Certificate of Service and includes the serial number. As we are downsizing to a smaller home, the price is just \$400. Ring Phyllis Coffey on 0451 937 457. Thank you



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.

NEW SACRIFICIAL GIVING ENVELOPES AND NUMBERS— THANK YOU for your Sacrificial Giving contribution over the last financial year and for your support over the years, without which the work of the parish could not be maintained. New envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space from this weekend. In the past, many receipts have not been collected or are not required, so in our continued endeavors to save paper, a printed tax receipt will be supplied upon request. Soft copies are also available. **PLEASE NOTE: For administration purposes, we are updating our database. As a result some contributors will find that they have been allocated new envelope numbers. Envelopes will be sorted alphabetically, so locating them in the crates will be as normal. We ask that you please begin to use the new envelopes from 7th August.** If your envelopes are missing or you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you

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 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.

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.*



MANAGER CALVARY RETIREMENT VILLAGE.

Calvary Retirement Village is looking for a Manager or Management Couple for their village at 1 Odstead rRad Greensborough. The position is for 25 hours per week, Level 2 (Lay Worker Structure) You would report to the Committee of Management.

For more information go to their website: www.calvaryretirement.com.au

Our Purpose

Calvary Retirement Village consists of 20 Independent Living Units. We aim to provide a safe and caring environment for retired people where friendship and wellbeing are based on a Christian ethos. Calvary provides a community where love comes to life in a very practical sense. Our goal is to ensure our residents enjoy Independence, Care and Support, Safety, a genuine Community, Friendship, Freedom .

Calvary Retirement Village operates in conjunction with the Calvary Lutheran Church to deliver on our vision of an intergenerational place of friendship and community.

Applications in writing

Please forward your resume together with an application addressing Duties and Personal Characteristics as described above, and stating why you believe you would be suitable for this position.

Closing Date: Friday, 5th August, 2022

Calvary Lutheran Church, Retirement Village-Chair Committee of Management

1 Oldstead Road, Greensborough 3088

UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES 20TH JULY 2022

HOLY COMMUNION WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FAITHFUL BY THE SACRED HOST IN OUR CHURCHES.

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

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. The Chief Health Officer has strongly recommended the use of face coverings in indoor and crowd settings during this winter period (from July 2022 onwards).

Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. However, parishioners should be encouraged (via signage and bulletin reminders) to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity.

Sanitising hands before distribution of Holy Communion is still recommended.

Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings for the distribution of communion. Face coverings should also be worn when visiting parishioners.

It is an essential requirement to isolate for seven days following a COVID-19 diagnosis. Individuals must notify their workplace, in addition to informing their social contacts. Workplaces, however, are not required to individually identify and notify each potentially exposed worker/contact.

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



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.

Parish Pastoral Council: met Thursday 14th July. Alison opened the meeting with a meaningful prayer for our PPC asking our Heavenly Father for guidance, wisdom, support, and to allow us to grow closer as a group as we make decisions that might affect members of our parish community.

Agenda items discussed included:

- ◆ Sacred Heart Funeral Ministry brochure is ready for printing.
- ◆ Invitation for volunteers to organize St Peter's Church 50th Anniversary celebration.
- ◆ Sacred Heart School Report: Stage 2 of Refurbishment and History Project: "Sacred Heart Primary School 60 years of memories".
- ◆ Parish Thanksgiving Renewal 17th/24th/31st July. Speakers at Masses. Emails sent and letters to parishioners available in churches.
- ◆ Maintenance Report: Hall roof and crying room repairs. Archdiocesan representative and engineer met with Brian for further inspection. Two builders will survey and quote. Repairs not covered by insurance.

Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

Senior Moments: Wednesday 3rd August Lunch and Movie at Pat Frisby's house.

Wednesday 17th August Lunch & Games 12pm in the Parish Centre.

St Peter's Hurstbridge 50th Anniversary: An invitation is extended for volunteers to form a planning committee to organize a special Mass and celebration in December. Please contact a Parish Pastoral Council member or the Parish Office.

Morning Tea: PPC members will serve morning tea after Mass this Sunday.

Recently Deceased: Hung Nguyen, Pat Nettleton. Pat's Funeral is 11am at Sacred Heart Tuesday 26th July.

Rosters for Weekend 31st July

Sunday 9am Sacred Heart

Reader: Y. O'Brien

Commentator: B. Greaves

Eucharistic Ministers: A. Schellens, M. Cusack

Saturday 6th August 7.15pm St Peter's

Reader: B. Flynn

Commentator: Amindha

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Nicolaisen

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 including 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



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Baptisms: Please keep in your prayers Oliver, James, Zara, Charlotte and Chad who are being baptised later this month.

Contactless Payments: We are now able to allow electronic transfer of funds through the purchase of a Square Tap Machine. Parishioners will be able to 'tap and go' for the Presbytery and Parish collections.

There are instruction 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.

Finance/thanksgiving Program: For sometime the numbers of contributors to our Thanksgiving Program has been declining with a consequential impact on parish income.

It is now critical that action be taken to address our financial position. A mini Thanksgiving Campaign will be conducted at St Thomas on the weekend of 24th/25th July. A presentation will be made at Masses on that weekend outlining our finances and providing an opportunity for parishioners to participate in the Thanksgiving Program.

Next meeting of the St Thomas parish Pastoral Council will be on Wednesday 20th July, 7.00pm

St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council: Email address: stthomasppc@gmail.com

ST THOMAS TABERNACLE

Fr Steven extends an invitation to parishioners who are interested in forming a committee to further consider a Parish Pastoral Council proposal to place the St Thomas tabernacle closer to the sanctuary. This would involve constructing a wall to enclose its present location in order to create a separate Blessed Sacrament chapel where another tabernacle would be available for those who visit after hours to pray. If you are interested please contact Sandra Bishop sandraebishop@optusnet.com.au or Fr Steven Rigo steven.rigo@cam.org.au before Tuesday 9th August.

A meeting will be held in the parish house meeting room on Wednesday 10th August, 7.00pm.

Rosters for Weekend 30th & 31st July

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: P. Carty

Commentator: D. Haesler

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Bohan, T. Holland, C. Leahy

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: F. Landy

Commentator: M. Kenny

Eucharistic Ministers: F. Landy, A. Letzia, C. O'Brien

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, Lyn Corcoran

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:

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

I wish to thank the family who has kindly donated the marble so as we could finish off the St Thomas Statue. I would also like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Parish to Tony and Rose Rendina who have spent many hours here attaching the marble. We will now organize a plaque to be attached and have a special blessing once completed.



ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST ST FRANCS OF ASSISI PARISH MILL PARK PILGRIMAGE JOURNEY 2023

THE HOLY LAND: 12th October 2023 for 20 Days OR **FOOTSTEPS of ST PAUL:** 6th of November 2023 for 24 Days.

For further information please contact Elio on 0414 440 812 or Chiara on 0439 612 694.

MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION, Saturday 30 Jul 2022, 10am-2pm AEST, online via Zoom. When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. This is a day of prayer in the practice of Mindfulness & Meditation. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart to journey with others and within one self. This day is led by Paola Cheng, a qualified meditation teacher, spiritual director and social worker, who brings an inclusive and gentle approach to her sessions. Cost \$50. Book and pay by 25/7/22 via www.heartoflife.melbourne
Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC, email office@heartoflife.melbourne or tel (03) 9890 1101

GENTLY INTEGRATING OUR SHADOW-SIDE TOWARD WHOLENESS: Saturday 6 Aug 2022, 1pm-4.30pm AEST, attend via Zoom or in-person. Our shadow-side is not some deep, dark pathology within us to be feared. Although we are unaware of our shadow-side operating within us, it nevertheless shapes our living, in that our shadow-side expresses itself through distorted and unhealthy means. If our shadow-side is unknown to us, how can it be recognised and integrated? Also, how can wholeness and true self be experienced? This reflection event, led by Kaye Twining, BTheol, Grad Dip Spir Dir, MA, will offer an understanding of wholeness, true self and shadow-side and includes a reflective practice for gently integrating our shadow-side toward wholeness. Cost \$50. Book and pay by 29/7/22 via www.heartoflife.melbourne Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC, email office@heartoflife.melbourne or tel (03) 9890 1101

INVITATION TO DAY RETREAT ON 'GROWING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES': All parishioners and friends are invited to the St Francis of Assisi Parish Retreat to be held on Saturday, 27th August, 8.30 am – 3.30 pm at Loyola College.
The Retreat will be presented by Lorraine McCarthy & the Archdiocesan Proclaim Team.

'Come apart for a day to spend with the Lord'

*Cost: \$5 * Lunch - bring your own lunch * Tea & Coffee provided

*Booking Essential – RSVP: Tuesday, 23rd August. Bookings: Contact: 9407 6700 Email: Ruth.Lees@cam.org.au

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: *An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.*

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details.

We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: **19 -21 August 2022** in the comfort of your own home or a non-residential parish based weekend: **22- 23 October 2022** in Niddrie. (Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling!

Inviting parishioners to join me on the 2023 Maria Forde Winter Wonderland Tour of Ireland (January 1 to January 14, 2023).

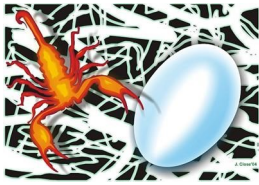
Enjoy two weeks traversing the spectacular Irish countryside of Northern and Southern Ireland in the comfort of a luxury coach and experience the hospitality of the Irish people whilst learning about their history and story. Enjoy live Celtic music, cuisine and its unique spirituality, beautiful accommodation, and the relaxed atmosphere of a small tour group. (20 people max) If you are concerned about travelling alone, rest assured that you will be supported and made welcome by an Irish driver, fellow guests, and myself. For an itinerary, please click on this link. <http://www.mariaforde.com/2023-tour-of-ireland> To book your seat, or for more information, please call Debbie at Emerald Travel on 03 96902123 or email Debbie at debbie@emeraldtravel.com.au

Tour director Maria Forde has been leading Celtic tours since 2004. Born of Irish parents, Maria is an Education officer in Spirituality at Sandhurst Catholic Education, a chaplain, and a spiritual director. Maria is also a successful singer-songwriter www.mariaforde.com

CAN YOU UNDERTAKE AN OVERSEAS MISSION? Our sister churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are requesting Australian Catholics to join them to build the skills of those in their community who have had less opportunity than ourselves.

Please consider these: [Mission opportunities](#) The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference provide support. [Palms Australia](#), who have prepared Australian Catholics for global mission since 1961, will ensure accommodation and a living allowance is provided to you during your time away. [Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 to find out about a placement to engage your skills.

You can also [Register](#) for a Webinar on **Monday August 1st at 7:00 pm** to talk directly with a Palms' partner community in Timor Leste and two Australians recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. **The stories will inspire**



LECTIONARY ART REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE.

God is endlessly generous – that is the message from the gospel today. What parent would hand their child a stone when they asked for bread or a scorpion when they asked for an egg? The metaphor could not be sharper or more telling and it is reminiscent of the imagery that Luke used for the story of the temptations in the desert.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

24 July 2022

First Reading Gn 18:20-23

Lord, do not be angry if I speak.

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3

(R.) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes. (R.)
4. You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading Col 2:12-14

He has made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

Gospel Acclamation Rom 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 11:1-13

Ask, and it will be given to you.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings invite us to reflect on prayer. Whether our prayer be praise, contrition, thanksgiving or petition, it always recognises our need for God. In the gospel Jesus instructs us to ask for what we need. He assures us that God is more than willing to give us what we need. However, for this to happen we must turn to God and humbly acknowledge our need.

The most obvious characteristic of prayer depicted in the readings for this Sunday is persistence. Neither Abraham nor the man in the gospel was deterred by any obstacle. They show that it is not so much that we persist in prayer in order to change God's mind as it is that we persist in order to discover what God's mind might be.

The salutariness of prayer is often found in the change that it effects in us, not in God. By persevering in genuine prayer we may come to acknowledge that all things are in God's hands, and that we can rest content to leave them there, trusting that the situation will be cared for as God sees fit. It seems trite to say that God hears all prayer and sometimes the answer is 'No!' It is better to say that God respects the freedom of people and will seldom intervene to change the way events unfold. Still, prayer can change the one who prays and also the one for whom the prayer is offered if only human need is recognised and divine solicitude is acknowledged.

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. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.