



**Sunday 14th August 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](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://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](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://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](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://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](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

**MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION WILL BE CELEBRATED AT**

**ST THOMAS PARISH MONDAY 15th AUGUST 12.00PM ALL WELCOME**

The Chief Health Officer has strongly recommended the use of face coverings in indoor and crowd settings during this winter period. Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. However, parishioners should be encouraged to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity.

Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers are asked to wear face coverings for the distribution of communion.



Jesus Christ, who came to bring fire on earth, gives us courage and hope to persevere in challenging times.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, 14th August

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflections---i-have-come-to-bring-fire-to-the-earth>

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



[www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au](http://www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

[www.cam.org.au](http://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

**MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION WILL BE CELEBRATED AT  
ST THOMAS PARISH MONDAY 15th AUGUST 12.00PM ALL WELCOME**

***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.***

### **USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA**

Parish clergy, employees and volunteers should not use any 'private' communication channels (e.g. personal email account, personal social media account) to communicate with parish children and young people for parish purposes.

They are to:

- communicate using parish devices, if available (e.g. work mobile phone)
- set up or utilise parish emails
- 'copy in' parents and guardians (and other relevant parties e.g. program coordinator)
- direct communication to the group rather than an individual.

Dear parishioners,

It is with mixed feelings that I announce that I am retiring from my Pastoral Associate role at the end of September (or the first week in October.) I have been here at St Marys' for over 17 years now and 32 years in total in Pastoral Associate Ministry in Melbourne.

I am older and tired and a recent spell of illness sharpened my appreciation of the need to slow down.

The parish will advertise for a new Pastoral Associate and I am sure you will welcome and support that person, as you have for me.

Thank you for everything you have given me over my time here and I look forward to seeing you over the next couple of months.

**Jacinta**

### **JACINTA BRIGHT'S FARWELL**

Following Jacinta Bright's sad news last week that she is retiring in October as our Pastoral Associate, it is appropriate that we farewell her with her family present so as to express our gratitude and well-wishes to her.

All parishioners from our Partnered Parishes are warmly welcome to farewell Jacinta at the **10.00 am Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday October 2nd.**

This will be followed by refreshments in the Gathering Space of the church. If you are coming, you might consider bringing a plate to share.

**Fr Steven Rigo.**

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTREACH**

Neal Murphy, the Director for Mission Integration of St. John of God, Accord has invited our parishes to develop relationships with clients of what used to be 'Churinga' in Nth. Greensborough.

This would entail both our welcoming of them to our parish of St. Thomas' and of our parishioners engaging with them at their facilities.

I have been invited to ask interested parishioners to go to a presentation by Accords CEO Lisa Evans and Directors from each of the service areas who will speak about their roles in the organisation, and for Neal to host a conversation about how Accord holds itself as a ministry of church in the work in which they are involved.

We would also be taken on a short tour of the facility and Accord will provide lunch. I would welcome some parishioners to accompany me to establish this relationship. Please contact me directly by email or phone.

**Fr. Steven Rigo.**

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### CATHOLICARE VICTORIA ANNUAL APPEAL

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare Victoria delivers over 60 programs and services including counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare Victoria support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.



Your support and generosity will help provide caring support for people when they are at their most broken.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available or online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513 Envelopes are available in the Church for the leaving collection. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

### NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK



Please pray for our priests today in thanksgiving for their ministry and presence in our community.

Please pray for the religious who do so much in pastoral care, education, health care and many other ministries.

Pray also that the saints may inspire many vocations to consecrated life and priesthood, especially from our community. [www.vocationsmelbourne.org](http://www.vocationsmelbourne.org)

### THE WAY PRAYER GROUP



A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, North Greensborough. The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass and supper. All welcome. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902

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



**Baptisms:** we pray for Ella, Harrison, Pia and Bella who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in August.

**Bank Deposit:** A generous parishioner has kindly deposited an amount by Direct Debit on 4<sup>th</sup> August, but no Name or Thanksgiving contribution number appears on the bank statement. Please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you to all who have returned Thanksgiving Application Forms.

**Diamond Creek Confirmation:** Our prayers and support go to the candidates who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**St Peter's Hurstbridge 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Celebration Mass Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Suggestion box at back of Church. Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**Senior Moments:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August Lunch & Games 12pm in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 12pm Lunch at Diamond Creek Tavern. All welcome. Contact Margaret Jose for bookings.

### Rosters for Weekend 21st August

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 7.15pm St Peter's**

**Reader:** R. Edmonds

**Commentator:** E. Gittins

**Eucharistic Ministers:** H. Edmonds

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 9am Sacred Heart**

**Reader:** F. Ledda

**Commentator:** M. Walsh

**Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Leonard, C. Bell

***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, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper,*

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

*Jim Beattie, Fr Gerard Loughnan, Kevin Nihill, Win Atkinson, Mary Burke, Wayne Robinson, John O'Connor*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**Baptisms:** We welcome into our community Noah, Charlotte, Joey and Charlotte 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.

 Square



### Set up/Pack up at Mass:

Just a few things to remember now that we are able to have an Offertory Procession.

- Could you please place the bread and wine at the back of the Church instead of on the altar.
- The cleaning of the Altar is to be done at the end of Mass, not during the last hymn.
- Please remember the person rostered on is the one responsible for set up and packing up.
- If you wish to go on the setup roster please contact Lisa in the office.

**Finance/Thanksgiving Program :**Completed pledge forms for our mini Thanksgiving Campaign can be placed in the box in the Church foyer or they can be returned directly to the Parish Office. While internet banking (direct transfer from your bank account to the Church account) is our preferred method of payment, other payment options include credit card, cash or cheque via Thanksgiving envelope or electronically via Square Tap Machine at weekend Masses.

Copies of the handout on Parish finances are also available in the foyer. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 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 and supper. All welcome. For further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902

### RELOCATION OF THE TABERNACLE

The tabernacle relocation committee met on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the relocation of the St Thomas tabernacle. In light of responses received from parishioners and considering all the facts presented, it was decided to move the tabernacle from its current place to the Seasonal Chapel in order to provide a more prominent location for the Blessed Sacrament. To assist in the transitioning process, temporary measures will be implemented over a period of time whilst still retaining the ability to pray after hours in the Adoration Chapel. These measures include the temporary use of an existing extra tabernacle in the Seasonal Chapel and the erection of a makeshift "wall" to block off the Adoration Chapel from the body of the church. Feedback is welcome and can be emailed directly to Fr Martin [Martin.Tanti@cam.org.au](mailto:Martin.Tanti@cam.org.au)

### Rosters for Weekend 20th & 21st August

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** D. Haesler

**Commentator:** K. Salm

**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Bohan, T. Holland

**Set Up:** J. De Carlo

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** M. Bates

**Commentator:** T. Williamson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, R. Piccolo, F. Landy

**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, John Iacobucci*

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

*Arthur Walker, Jane de Carlo, Rachael Casale, Frank McMahon, Frank Ventura, Tony Chirico, Marie Lewis, Michael De Popolo, Maris Sacchetta, Guido Micheluzzi, Orazio Palazzoto, Giovanna Formosa, Robert Capocchi, Denis McCarthy, James McCarthy, Bill Ahern, Marina Micai, Anne Honeywell, Giusepa Minutolo, Paul Silverwood, Jim Lysaght, Salvatore Scala, Margaret Hardwick, Ted Tremayne, Giselle Caliste, Nadia Mefflin, Alan Corcoran, Margaret Howse, Alan McCarthy, Salvador Catalogna, Rose Masabni, Antun Sich, Dragan Zilic*

# 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

*St Marys' secretarial team will only be present in the office on Tuesdays until August 29th.*

*For assistance other days please call 9435 1543. Jacinta will generally be around on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A phone call to make sure she is on if you need to access the office, would be best.*

*During this time, please send any bulletin contributions to Lisa at [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.*

*Thank you.*

**THE ST. MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** met again on the 2nd of August. Following the opening prayer lead by Steve Hodgson, the Council were updated by the School Advisory Council representative (Susannah) of their previous meeting outcomes. Child Safe Standards, further review of policies, the 90's Trivia/Disco fundraiser organised by the Parent's Association, the Engagement & Participation Survey, and, the Working Bee... A lot is being achieved.

Elizabeth shared her notes on the recent event she attended by Sister Joan Chittester and a fruitful discussion followed.

The Partnered Parishes Safeguarding Committee met recently and Lorenzo is working on the Risk Assessments for all Parish Pastoral Council activities.

Also, our Partnered Parishes (Priests and interested parishioners) have been invited by the Archdiocese to a meeting at The Veneto Club to look at Keys to Look at Parish Ministry.

The Strategic Planning Committee is busy with plans and grant applications at the school for continued works and upgrades.

There will be a farewell Mass for Jacinta Bright at 10.00am Mass on October 2nd, with a celebration in the Gathering Space afterwards, and the Alpha Corse is currently running in the Gathering Space of St. Mary's for the participants of the Partnered Parishes.

**HIRING OF PARISH FACILITIES:** Unfortunately due to a number of various circumstances, the James Kierce Centre and the Parish Hall are no longer available to hiring for social functions.

**HELP IS NEEDED FOR 10am MASSES** One of our two 10am Sacristans, who set up before Mass and tidy up afterwards, is moving from the parish after a number of years and we are looking for a parishioner to replace them. If you are available to share this role with our other Sacristan at 10am Mass, or would like to assist with this role at another Mass please contact the office on 9345 1543.

**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. <https://www.trybooking.com/CBEMH>

**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 available in the Gathering Space. 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 you to 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 .

**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. The Library catalogue can be accessed at home on: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS:** At the end of August we start a year with the new Social Justice theme for the Church for 2022/2023 -

"Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse". We pray that all Church and civic leaders model respectful relationships, challenge structures that perpetuate control over others, and compassionately attend the vulnerable.

**For information, counselling and support if you are impacted by violence and abuse: - 1800 RESPECT or 1800 737 732**

Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse  
SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2022-23

## **ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS**

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

In areas of crisis, churches are often destroyed by violence. Where the faith is growing new churches are needed. ACN supports the reconstruction in these areas because a church is the centre of the life of faith and even the smallest chapel provides people with hope and a spiritual home.

Can you help build churches to support the faithful throughout the world? Visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/construction](http://www.aidtochurch.org/construction)

**EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST ST FRANCIS 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.

**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 Booking Essential – RSVP: Tuesday, 23rd August. Bookings: Contact: 9407 6700 Email: [Ruth.Lees@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

### **LECTIONARY ART AND REFLECTION BY JENNY CLOSE**

Reflection by Artist

Mary's Assumption into heaven does not mean that she went 'up' into heaven. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (966) quotes the Byzantine Liturgy: 'in your Dormition you did not leave the world, but were joined to the source of Life'. This is a powerful affirmation that body and spirit are an Integrated whole. Mary's Assumption is an anticipation of our resurrection to fullness of life.

**Mass for the Feast of the Assumption will be celebrated at St Thomas Church**

**Monday 15th August at 12.00pm. All Welcome.**



**First Reading Jer 38:4-6, 8-10***You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.*

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14****(R.) Lord, come to my aid!**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. (R.)
2. He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay. He set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm. (R.)
3. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord. (R.)
4. As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me. You are my rescuer, my help, O God, do not delay! (R.)

**Second Reading Heb 12:1-4***Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.*

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27****Alleluia, alleluia!****My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;****I know them, and they follow me.****Alleluia!****Gospel Lk 12:49-53***I have come not to give peace, but discord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

As disciples we commit ourselves to values and principles that are not always cherished by others. We can be misunderstood for our beliefs, even ridiculed. Our lives may be a reproach to those who do not share our aspirations. There may be times when we must stand in opposition to others. All of this tends to alienate us. It could even place us at enmity with those whom we love. Yet, if we are genuinely committed, we realise that there is also a price to pay if we are not faithful. It is very difficult to live with ourselves when we disregard our deepest convictions and ignore the promptings of God that we experience within ourselves. As difficult as a life of faith may be, we know that it is the only way to live in this world.

Faced with the cost of discipleship we are brought to the realisation that, by ourselves, we do not have the necessary resources. We need assistance. Like Jeremiah, we might find that this aid will come from places we may have never expected. The real support and assistance that we get is from Jesus who came to set the world and our hearts on fire. Paul assures us that there is a vast throng cheering us on as we run the race of discipleship. They are not merely spectators; they have already run or are still running their own race. We are not alone in our commitment, in our struggle. There are many witnesses, many examples for us to follow.

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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