



Sunday 18th September 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. 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.



Those in power and authority are as in need of our prayers as the poor and marginalised.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
18 September 2022.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflections--open-our-hearts--o-lord>

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

PLENARY COUNCIL OUTCOMES" *Please note change of date to 29th September*"

Nimmi Candappa, a Melbourne academic, writer and Plenary Council Member is generously giving of her time to our three parishes to provide her insights on some of the outcomes of the recent Plenary Council Second General Assembly. Nimmi will be with us on Thursday 29th September in St Mary's Gathering Space at 7:00 pm, with the evening consisting of a presentation from Nimmi, followed by a Q & A session.

Please join us to welcome Nimmi, and to discover Nimmi's reflections on the recent assembly and her views on the future direction for our Catholic church.

Refreshments provided. Please RSVP to St Mary's Parish Office. 9435 1543.

ASYLUM SEEKERS - AND A NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Action shared online Forum, 7:30pm–8:30pm, Thursday 29 September 2022

In our war torn and further troubled world complicated by Climate Change and Pandemics the issue of Asylum Seekers and Refugees is of growing significance. It touches at the very heart of Social Justice.

In this online Forum from **7:30pm - 8:30pm on Thursday 29th September** Brigidine Asylum Seeker's Project ([BASP](#)) Co-Founder, Sr Brigid Arthur AO csb, will provide a timely update on the growing significance of Asylum Seekers.

This discussion will be in the context of Catholic Social Justice thinking, and a new Government. The Forum will include a Q&A session and be made available to our sisters and brothers at St Gregory's Parish and some other neighbouring parishes. The Forum will be Convened by John Costa (St Kevin's Parish SJA Convenor), co-Convened by Tiziana D'Costa (Parish Lay Ecclesial Leader), and **will consider such issues as:**

A brief history of Asylum seekers in Australia, particularly comparing 2014 with 2022

Where Asylum seekers have come from in the past? & where they come from now?

How do Asylum seekers physically get to Australia? & how does this differ for Refugees?

What are the circumstances prompting Asylum Seekers to risk escaping to an unknown land? c.f. Refugees?

How do Asylum seekers survive / have aspirations in Australia cf Refugees? (Dignity? Housing? Income? Work & other rights? Medical support? Education? A Future?)

What impact is a new Government having / likely to have on treatment of Asylum Seekers? c.f. Refugees?

The Government is urgently seeking ways to increase the number of Australian workers - Can Asylum seekers / refugees complement current immigration processes?

How does Australia handle / welcome Asylum Seekers? Refugees? compared with other countries?

What are the short and long-term effects on the lives of Australian Asylum seeker and their family members in the ways we currently treat them?

How does all this relate to Catholic Social Justice Principles?

Registration [HERE](#) (Forum Zoom link will be sent to you just before the event)

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 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.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

On 19 September 2021, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we invite all to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 43 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the recent <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Social-Justice-Statement-2021-22.pdf> Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor - released by the Australian Catholic bishops, which reminds us of the social mission of the Church and which urges us to reflect on 'the bigger picture' and to act together on social, economic and ecological issues. Together, we all have a role to play in building a just and equitable society, where all have equal opportunities to flourish and prosper.

SEEKING STALL HOLDERS!

Sacred Heart Parish
DIAMOND CREEK
www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

COMMUNITY EVENT
**SACRED HEART PARISH
CRAFT MARKET**

Calling all Market Stall Holders!

Are you a Crafter, Grower, Maker?

**FOOD & COFFEE
FREE Kid's activities
ENTERTAINMENT!**

We're seeking stallholders to join the wonderful Sacred Heart community at our **INDOOR CRAFT MARKET!**

We're calling for home or handmade:

- * Crafts, Homewares
- * Children's Goods
- * Candles, Soaps
- * Flowers, Arrangements
- * Jams, Pickles, Preserves
- * Cleaning Products
- * Books
- * Plants

> \$35 per stall, trestle table supplied
> Maximum 20 stalls, no two stalls alike!

For information and to register, email:
clairedadda@gmail.com

DATE
Sunday 23 October 2022

TIME
10am-2pm

VENUE
Sacred Heart Parish Hall
25 Gipson Street
Diamond Creek

St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners

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, Anelko Korculanin, Margaret O'Connor

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

Jean Watson, Maria Scordo, Gennaro Mascia, Bernadette Richardson, Norah Moylan, Jane Tremayne, Tess Natoli,

Barry Williamson, Mollie Kerr, Rocco Crea, Bernadette Linehan, Vincent Mascia, Jim Hardwick Snr, Kevin Power,

Antonio Lunardello, Ines Lunardello, Vincenzina Varalla John Ryan, Fr Jim Feenan, John Muscat, Dawn Morgan, Barisa Zilic,

Stjepan Kernjak

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



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.

Thank you

PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE FOR NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN NOTICES It will be an extra short week next week because of Grand final eve public holiday and the public holiday for the Queen's death. Sorry for the short notice but can we please have notices for the Bulletin **by 10am Tuesday 20th September**. Thank you.



ST MARY'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 23 October 2022 - is scheduled for 11.15am at St Mary's Parish School Staffroom. Parish Groups are invited to submit a report of their activities during the last twelve months. Any plans for 2023 that might have been of interest to other Parish members and groups in helping all in working towards our Parish Vision *to be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world* could also be covered. To be included in the AGM documentation, reports need to be received by **Friday 23 September** and emailed to the chair of the PPC Elizabeth Whiting at ppcstmgreensborough@gmail.com or contact Elizabeth for more information via email or by ringing the Parish Office on 9435 1543. To assist in the compilation of the documentation please send your report in Word format rather than as a pdf. I look forward to receiving your report and bringing together the story of our St Mary's Parish at the Annual General Meeting.



THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE IS BACK ON THIS YEAR! GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON! FIRST PRIZE IS A NEW 2022 KIA PICANTO VALUED AT \$19,500. FIVE MORE GIFT CARD PRIZES TO BE WON . TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE SOON.

We are delighted to invite you to see and purchase handmade religious articles made by the Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent (Belarus), this weekend after Masses. The Sisterhood of St. Elisabeth was founded in 1996. Our missionary began in the National mental hospital located not far from the Convent. Sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults. In order to help these people some workshops were organized on the premises of the Convent where vulnerable people have a possibility to express themselves in art for God working together with nuns and sisters and making icons (including hand painted), crosses, crucifixes, wood carvings, embroidered and ceramic gifts, rosaries and vestments.



NEXT SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER IS WORLD MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY— The theme this year is **'building the future with migrants and refugees'**. This is the start of a National Week of Prayer and Action to engage the Australian Catholic community to take-action and stand in solidarity with people seeking asylum. The Parish of St Mary's currently works with two organisations that provide practical encouragement to asylum seekers and refugees. We support the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project who provide housing, and the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre with donations of food. The St Mary's Parish Social Justice Group can help you to become involved.



Book from St Mary's Parish Library reviewed:

The Quiet Eye – a way of looking at pictures – by Sylvia Shaw Judson (1982)

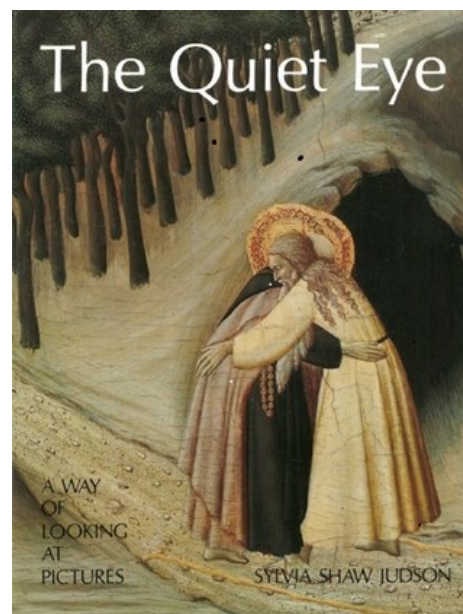
This little book was first published in 1954 and has been popular ever since.

The 33 pictures show art works from the fifth century up to modern works.

There is an appealing Vermeer painting, ancient sculptures and an intriguing Chinese drawing.

The pictures are accompanied by quotes from Van Gogh, Plato, and Albert Schweitzer amongst others.

Borrow this little book from our Library for a thought provoking and peaceful browse.



ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

NOSTRA AETATE, GARRATT PUBLISHING: In the spirit of Nostra Aetate, Garratt Publishing – in conjunction with Yarra Theological Union – invite you to a 4-week webinar series exploring other religious traditions from a Catholic perspective.

As Australian Catholics, we increasingly engage others from differing faiths – in our everyday life, in our local communities, and especially in our Catholic schools.

Catholic educators will find these sessions ideal as we increasingly welcome people from differing faiths into our school communities. Accreditation for Professional Development hours may be available on completion of the series.

These sessions will also appeal to all Catholics across Australia, offering important understandings to help interfaith engagement and enhance relationships with those of other faith traditions. Over 4 weeks, we will explore God, Foundational Beliefs, Women, and Learning from Each Other. [For more information visit our blog.](#) **WHEN:** Monday Evenings, 12 September, 3 & 10 October, 7.30pm-8.45pm. Online via Zoom. \$22.00 includes GST covering all 4 sessions. Register [via TryBooking](#)

HEART OF LIFE: 'Walking with Wisdom Series' (in person or via Zoom), 4 x Thursdays, 6-27 October 2022, 10am-12.30pm. This series offers a time to explore the depths of wisdom in our own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another ... to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Led by spiritual directors Carole Carmody rsm and Julie Adam. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern VIC. Cost \$30 per session or \$100 for the series.

Book and pay via: www.heartoflife.melbourne Email: office@heartoflife.melbourne or tel (03) 9890 1101.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: In October 2022 we are again presenting *Engaging Your Faith* online sessions. Please see the attached flyer for full details of the 12 sessions we are offering.

Of the 12 sessions the following may be of benefit to you, your staff, or one of your parishioners: Living *Laudato Si'*, The Church as a community of "Missionary Disciples", Leading Meditation and Prayer, Teaching the Faith to Beginners, God as Host and Guest. Each session costs \$25. Book and pay directly through our [website](#)

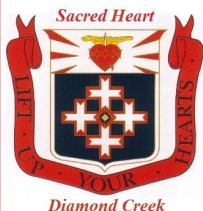
MARCH FOR BABIES 2022: Please keep this date free and come and show support for the unborn. Join us for the 2022 March on the 8th October at Treasury Gardens at 12.30pm and walking to Parliament House at 1.00pm.

Come and help us celebrate life, every life, great or small, born or unborn. Show your support and wear **Pink** or **Blue**.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: On **10 October 2022** (10-11:30am AEDT) the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host the Prof Julie Hanlon Rubio from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, Berkeley CA, USA, who will give an online public lecture (via Zoom) entitled *"Does the Catholic Sacrament of marriage have a future?"* Given consistently decreasing rates of Catholic marriage in Australia and other places around the world, it is more important than ever to consider the future of this beautiful and essential Christian vocation.

For more information and to register, please go to www.acu.edu.au/News_CentreforLiturgy

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



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 8th September. Marg Farrell opened the meeting with a prayer celebrating the return of Spring, rejuvenation, goodness, warmth, life, the creation of Faith.

Discussions included:

-Moving forward we need to ask for volunteers to form an **Umbrella Partnered Parish Pastoral Council** to look at the future. We are already working together with a Plenary Group, and by producing a common parish newsletter.

-Reconnecting celebration with **Baptism families** at Masses on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th November.

-Parish fundraising **Craft Market** in hall 10am-2pm on Sunday 23rd October. Parishioners encouraged to inform potential stall holders.

-Team of volunteers ready to co-ordinate **St Peter's 50th Anniversary Mass** and celebration.

-Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group organising **Atonement Plaques** for three parishes.

-Preparations for hosting **Connections Night** for Foundation and Year 1 parents.

-Parishioners researching **connection of Wi-Fi to Church** for Tap Machine installation.

-Next meeting 13th October. Suggestion box in back of church. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

Thank you to Arthur Keenan for his generosity and time given to painting and graffiti removal.

Kid's Liturgy or Children's Liturgy of the Word is returning during 9am Mass at Sacred Heart church on the second and fourth Sundays. Consider bringing your children along to learn about the Lord Jesus as the Gospel reading is proclaimed in a child friendly environment which follows safeguarding procedures.

Once a year a parent or care giver is asked to complete a Permission to Participate form, a Safeguarding recommendation. Copies are available at the back of the church, in the school office or attached to the School newsletter.

Craft Market in parish hall Sunday 23rd October. Please read attached flyer.

Senior Moments: Wednesday 21st September 12pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5th October 12pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre

Rosters for Weekend 25th September

9am Sacred Heart

Reader: R. McEvoy **Commentator:** Y. O'Brien **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Ledda, P. Keenan

Saturday 1st October 7.15pm St Peter's

Reader: J. Robinson **Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen **Eucharistic Ministers:** Volunteer

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 and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of September that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Terry Moran, Michael Holland, Ann Cusack, Andrew O'Dea, George Ind, Peter Thomas, Francis Goodge, Margaret & Bernie Fitzgerald, Alexander Libertino

PARISH FINANCES/THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN ST THOMAS

It is now two months since our mini Thanksgiving Campaign the results of which were disappointing.

Nine contributors committed to increasing their contributions, one new contributor signed a pledge and there was one donor who made a one off contribution. Together these responses will add about \$4,000 annually to our income. This means that our forecast annual operating deficit for calendar year 2022 will remain in the order of \$20-25,000. This is clearly untenable going forward.

Unless we can gain some significant external income, for example, the Early Learning Centre proposal, we will be faced with some very significant and harsh decisions in the near future. Again, thanks to those who responded to the campaign and to all our loyal and faithful contributors.

John Bohan – Chair, Parish Finance Committee.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

Rosters for Weekend 24th & 25th September

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: S. McMahon **Commentator:** E. Sacchetta **Eucharistic Ministers:** D. Haesler, M. Bedford, T. Holland

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny **Commentator:** Volunteer **Eucharistic Ministers:** F. Landy, A. Letzia, C. O'Brien

Set Up: C. Riordan

The Parish community will have a Blessing of the Statue during the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 25th September.

The Adoration Chapel now has a key safe located inside the chapel on the side wall .

Ministers of Communion have been given this code to collect the Sacred Hosts.

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TABERNACLE

Dear Parishioners,

A number of St. Thomas parishioners have requested that we consider having a tabernacle in a place of prominence in the church. However, we already have the Adoration chapel that has been built in such a way that it is accessible for people to come to pray at any time or collect the Blessed Sacrament to take to the sick without actually going into the body of the church. Since there may not be two tabernacles used for the reservation of the Eucharist in the church, a few options have been considered:

1. That a wall be built to separate the current Adoration chapel with the current tabernacle from the body of the church, and have another tabernacle in what is currently the Seasonal chapel.
2. That we have 2 tabernacles, but the Blessed Sacrament is only in one of them at any particular time— so the Blessed sacrament would be reserved in the Adoration chapel and would only be brought into the church's tabernacle before Masses and be returned after Mass. This would mean that a wall would not be erected between the church and the Adoration chapel.
3. That we do nothing because any other option would impact on the integrity of the original design of the church that intended to separate the place of reservation of the Blessed Sacrament from the body of the church.

No other options have been considered at this stage. An initial meeting was held a few weeks ago and it was decided that we would "test the waters" by placing a screen between the church and the Adoration chapel and place another tabernacle in the church for the reservation of the Eucharist during Mass. Please note: THESE ARE ONLY TEMPORARY. I am pleased to say that the response to the request for feedback has been wonderful and passionate. They are indicative of the importance that is placed on the reservation of the Eucharist in our church and the love of the church building itself.

Please continue to submit feedback if you wish, but to do so by the 30th September.

We will meet on Wednesday 5th October at 7 pm. in the church.

I would like to use that meeting as an opportunity to genuinely listen to one another and arrive at a consensus together for the sake of our parish community, both now and into the future. Everyone is welcome at this meeting.

In the meantime you can continue to submit any feedback to Fr. Martin prior to Friday 30th September.

martin.tanti@cam.org.au

With gratitude for your interest.

Fr. Steven Rigo

SHAPING OF OUR CHURCH

In September of 1997, Fr Kevin McIntosh extended an invitation to all parishioners to participate in an Advisory Group charged with setting forth the aspirations of a new church for the parish. Their work was facilitated by Prism Studio Pty Ltd, liturgical and design consultants.

They gathered together on 3 occasions, for more than 12 hours of prayer and discussion, to discern "what the spirit is saying in the church". Discussions took place in an atmosphere of consensus-building. They developed concept statements, values, expressed by the treasures we had and those for which we hope, and also our most important needs.

There are handouts available in the church for your information regarding the process that was undertaken, an article by Randall Lindstrom (Building & furniture design) . Pitching a New Tent, A Futuristic Church, and The Shaping of our Church, also Concepts of religious Art.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

In this parable Jesus advises his disciples to be shrewd in their dealing with life's demands. He realises that most people are pulled in two directions – self-interest and service to God. In the final analysis our first allegiance must be to God.



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

18 September 2022

First Reading Am 8:4-7

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7

(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.
or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore! (R.)
2. High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth? (R.)
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dungheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Tm 2:1-8

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to life their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 16:1-13

or (shorter form Lk 16:10-13)

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

We return again to the Lukan theme of money and how it can get in the way of being a true disciple. This week's gospel passage reminds us that we cannot be a follower of God and chase after riches at the same time. That parable of the steward and his master is one that is rarely quoted and would be unfamiliar to most readers. The actions of the steward upon learning that he is to be dismissed seem to us to be evidence of his dubious dealings and yet the master praises his astuteness.

When a steward entered into loans and deals on behalf of his master, he would build into the repayment a profit for himself. This was quite normal and acceptable. So the amount that the steward asks the debtors to reduce their debts to the master is actually the cut that he had built into the deal for himself. His actions are, surprisingly, quite noble and legitimate. What he is doing is ensuring that his master receives all that is owed to him whilst the steward is making himself more popular with the debtors because they don't have to pay back as much. It would be like a modern day salesman saying that he would forego his commission on the sale so that the purchaser didn't have to pay as much.

But why does Jesus use this parable? He makes the point that when the crunch comes – when the kingdom of God is imminent – monetary wealth is going to be meaningless. It is best to cut your losses and turn your energy to building relationships rather than riches.