



**Sunday 9th October 2022**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Sandy Starbuck & 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**

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.



**Do we express our gratitude to God at all times?  
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,  
9th October 2022.**

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflections--the-apostles-said-to-the-lord---increase-our-faith>

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

**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.**

# 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.

Please continue to send any bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

Thank you

**PLEASE NOTE—FOR NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN, COULD ALL NOTICES PLEASE BE SUBMITTED TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER. THANK YOU**



## LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS:

Variety stall after masses **w/e 8th/9th October** –lots of toys and books for sale. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990.

Tickets will be on sale after Masses for the Annual Combined Parishes Car Raffle—tickets only \$2.00 each.



## COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE TO BUY FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

**ST MARY'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SUNDAY 23rd October 2022** - is scheduled for 11.15am at St Mary's Parish School Staffroom.

**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 hire for social functions.

**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 .

## CURRENT VACANT ROLES LISTED ON THE MELBOURNE CATHOLIC WEBSITE.

**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**—Administrative Assistant – Catholic Theological College

**Catholic Development Fund**— Account Executive, Client Services; Account Executive – Bunbury WA;

Integration Engineer; Risk & Compliance Analyst; Relationship Manager

**Parish Positions**— Pastoral Worker, Westernport Parish; Parish Administration Coordinator, Sacred Heart-Emmaus Parish; Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) Educator – Hoppers Crossing; Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) Program Coordinator - Hoppers Crossing ; Parish Secretary - St Dominic's Parish; Evangelisation Coordinator - St Catherine of Siena Parish; Stewardship Coordinator - Strathmore & Moonee Ponds Parishes; Parish Administration Assistant – St Brigid's Parish; Parish Secretary, St Catherine of Siena Parish; Parish Secretary/Finance Administrator - St Kevin's Parish

**Other Positions** - Wellbeing Support Worker - Sisters of St Joseph

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### APPOINTMENT OF PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

It is with joy that I announce that an interview panel consisting of 2 members of St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council, the Religious Education Leader and the Human Resources Coordinator of the Archdiocese have appointed Sandra (Sandy) Starbuck as our new Pastoral Associate to take on the PA role after Jacinta Bright retires. Sandy is currently the PA of Christ the Light Parish of Doreen, Mernda, Kinglake and Whittlesea communities. I will provide further information regarding the date when she commences her work with us.

**Fr. Steven Rigo (PP)**

### VETERANS OF THE ARMED SERVICES

Veterans of the armed services who are former members of the Young Christian Workers (YCW) movement in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are entitled to financial benefits under a patriotic fund established by the YCW in 1949.

The fund includes coverage of former YCW members who were in the armed services in the 1960s and early 1970s. If you are, or know of, a Veteran who was involved in the YCW, or you know of a Veteran who may have been involved in the YCW, please contact Brian Lawrence at: [brianlawrence@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brianlawrence@optusnet.com.au)

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all who came on Sunday, to help me mark my retirement at St Mary's', as Pastoral Associate. I feel so very grateful and overwhelmed by the love expressed. Thank you for the beautiful gifts and the many messages, the conversations we had and the wishes expressed on and leading up to Sunday, as well as the many wonderful sentiments expressed in the cards you gave me.

I am savouring the whole experience. I look forward to visiting every now and again. St Mary's will always hold a special place in my heart, as will the relationships we have developed with the people of our partnered parishes.

**With love, Jacinta**



### "PLENARY OUTCOMES - NIMMI CANDAPPA"

On 29th September, our Partnered Parishes Plenary Council Facilitators Group hosted a presentation from Plenary Council Member, Dr Nimmi Candappa.

Nimmi spoke about the Plenary Motions and Outcomes and her hopes for the future of the Church. Her reflections included her feeling **Grateful**, while experiencing a few **Bruises**, had a sense that the Council was **Spirited**, and was left with a strong feeling of **Hope**. Her sense of **Hope** results from the fact that dialogues have been opened and are continuing. For change to be made and be effective, it must be occurring within our parishes.

[While she felt the Holy Spirit worked to make the Plenary productive, a session to discuss key issues important to many laity, as well as more time to discuss opposing views with members, especially the Bishops, would have been helpful.](#)

Nimmi provided us with a wonderful experience, and it was heart-warming to see our three parishes enjoying such an uplifting experience together. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Nimmi for sharing her insights and outlook for our Church.

[A copy of Nimmi's reflection expanding on the bruising challenges and future hopes is available on request from any of your Plenary Council Facilitators Group.](#)

### LAMP-Love and acceptance for Mental Peace.



In response to the Bishop's Social Justice theme "Mental Health," a theme re-echoed in our parish during the plenary discussions in 2018, coupled with our experience of Covid and lock downs a group was formed to develop approaches and responses to the needs of our parish community. This group is called LAMP – Love and Acceptance for Mental Peace. LAMP has been active since then, e.g., parish survey and education sessions.

As a result of Covid lockdowns there has been a sharp increase in mental health areas, particularly anxiety and depression. Many family members and friends have often found themselves in a carer role with little or no support.

In response LAMP would like to provide the opportunity for a mutual support group to meet over a 'cuppa' for the opportunity to share your experience, joys, and frustrations, of being a carer for a family member or friend.

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Where: St Mary's Gathering Space

When: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Time: 10:00 a.m. to no later than 12:00 p.m.

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2022

#### ALL NEW KIA PICANTO TO BE WON



1st Prize:	Kia Picanto S 1.25ltr Auto
2nd Prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$5,000.
3rd prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$2, 000.
4th Prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$1,000.
5th & 6th Prize:	Coles/Myer gift Card to the value of \$500.

Tickets \$2.00 each (cash only) Drawn Saturday December 3rd 2022

Tickets on sale now until Sunday 30th October 2022

Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation Raffle Permit No 10389/22

Ticket available from Sacred Heart, St Mary's, & St Thomas Parishes after Mass  
or contact the Parish offices.

### WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023



Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli is inviting young people, ages 16-35, across the Archdiocese to journey with him to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day in 2023.

Upcoming World Youth Day Information Sessions in October.

A life-changing trip to Lisbon, Portugal: Join 500 other young Catholics from around Melbourne on an epic journey to World Youth Day in 2023.



### CARING FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

One of the very important issues that came out of the Plenary Council consultation process across Australia was the hurt and sorrow caused by child sexual and other abuse by members of Catholic clergy and other individuals associated with the Church. Parishioners in our three parishes were keen for action to be taken locally and across our country to stand with those affected, recognise the pain and grief experienced and work towards reparation and healing in the Church.

Mary Ellen Davis, consultant psychologist from Carelink, has been invited to speak to us about the impact of sexual and other abuse on survivors and how we may provide care and support to anyone who has experienced abuse. Carelink provides professional support and care for adults (and their families) who have experienced clerical abuse or abuse associated with the Church.

Please join us on **Wednesday 9 November at 7pm in St Mary's Gathering Space** for this important interactive presentation.

Refreshments provided.

Please **RSVP by Friday 4 November** to:

- ◆ St Mary's Parish Office on 9435 1543 (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday) or email: [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au)
- ◆ St Thomas Parish Office on 9434 7373 (Tuesday – Friday) or email: [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)
- ◆ Sacred Heart Parish Office on 96016361 (Tuesday-Friday) or email: [sacredheart@cam.org.au](mailto:sacredheart@cam.org.au)

### 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CONSECRATION – ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

As we celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year as a diocese – we also mark a significant milestone for our Cathedral.

Archbishop Comensoli warmly invites you to join him for Mass to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of St Patrick's on **Thursday 27 October 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral, commencing at 1pm**. This is a beautiful opportunity to come together in the house of the Lord, built by the faithful and generous people from every part of our Archdiocese, and home for all.

Mass will be followed by the Launch of the **Catholic Precinct Walking Tour App**, an initiative of the Mary Glowrey Museum.

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



**Baptisms:** we pray for Olivia, Joshua, Fiorina and Elora who will be welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in October.

**Combined Catholic Parishes Car Raffle** \$2 tickets or books available in the church and parish office.

**Parish Fundraiser Craft Market:** in the hall Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. We are seeking donations for a plant stall, a cake stall, and offers of help to run the bbq and serving refreshments. Please contact the Parish Office if you are available to go on a roster.

**Senior Moments:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 12 pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 12pm Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge. Please contact Margaret Jose 9438 1540 for bookings.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Next meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. Suggestion box in back of church.

Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27th** has been set aside as a REMEMBRANCE MASS FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED THIS YEAR

You are invited to come and remember them, you will also have the opportunity to remember those you have loved and lost.

### CRAFT MARKET CONTRIBUTIONS

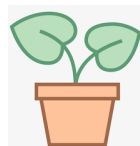
#### CAKE STALL

A Cake Stall will run as a major fundraiser and we would greatly appreciate donations of your favourite cakes, biscuits, cookies, muffins, cupcakes, slices, rum balls etc. **NOTE: Please no fresh cream or custard**



If you are able to contribute, please text or call Megan Ioannidis on 0404 532 591 by Monday 18 October, where simple packaging and labelling requirements will be advised.

Cake Stall items can be delivered to the Parish Centre between 3pm and 4pm on Friday 21st October and 3pm and 4pm on Saturday 22nd October.



#### PLANT AND PRODUCE STALL

If you are an avid grower of potted plants and have any suitable to sell at the Parish Plant Stall, we would be grateful for your donations. Likewise with any other home produce such as lemons, apples, garlic, herbs, honey and labelled jam, preserves, relish etc.

Items can be delivered to the Parish Centre as above or during ordinary opening hours with consideration to the freshness of produce in mind.

Many thanks and we hope to see you there on Sunday 23 October!

#### Diary dates:

**Rosary and Funeral for Mario Molinaro 10am Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at Sacred Heart Church.**

**Kid's Liturgy of the Word** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9am Mass.

**Craft Market** in parish hall Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 10am-2pm.

**Baptism families Mass** 7.15pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> or 9am Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Remembrance Mass** 9am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**St Peter's Hurstbridge 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 5 pm Mass.

#### Rosters

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October** 7.15pm St Peter's

**Reader:** E. Gittins    **Commentator:** B. Flynn    **Eucharistic Ministers:** volunteer

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October** 9am Sacred Heart

**Reader:** C. Fernando    **Commentator:** M. Walsh    **Eucharistic Ministers:** Y. O'Brien, T. Sirianni

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

*Lina Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke,*

*Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Vi Hurley, Kevin Hurley*

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

*Felicia Ongarello, Salvatore Caputo, Fr Leo Pascoe, Colin Elliott, Emma Goodge, Patrick Finlayson, Maurie Roadley,*

*Wade Robinson, Dianne Galea, Irek Dunikowski,*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

*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.*

**Baptisms:** We pray for Jack, Mila and Hudson who will be baptised later this month.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The next meeting of our PPC will be on Wednesday 19th October at 7.00pm

Email: [stthomasppc@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasppc@gmail.com)



*St Thomas the Apostle & Sacred Heart Parishes Food Drive for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre a big THANK YOU to all St Thomas & Sacred Heart Parishioners for your generous donations to the Food Drive these last 5 weeks! We estimate items donated to be worth more than \$3,000!*

*Once again THANK YOU!!*

### Rosters for Weekend 15th & 16th October

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** E. Sacchetta

**Commentator:** P. Carty

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

**Set Up:** J. De Carlo

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** L. Hobson

**Commentator:** S. Millar

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

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

**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, Miran Kasalo, John Iacobucci, Anadelko Korculanin

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

Guido Pariocco, Mary Moran, Helen Paul, Shirley Fraser, Katherine Biskup, Marianna Sacchetta, Reg Carr, Francis Bohan, Bill Watson, Pat Pelly, Frank Green, Grace Money, Betty Hannah, Nedilja Paleka, Sofija Zilic

### ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** In response to the devastating floods in Pakistan, ACN is sending emergency help by providing emergency aid to over 5000 families, in the form of food packages for one month, cash grants for the most vulnerable families, mobile health units, temporary shelters and even basic – but essential – items such as mosquito nets and repellent. Damaged churches and community infrastructure must be repaired to shelter victims of the flooding. To make an offering to the Church in Pakistan. Visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/pakistan](http://www.aidtochurch.org/pakistan)

**WALTER SILVESTER MEMORIAL LECTURE:** A free public lecture will be held at the Knox Room, Thomas Carr Centre. 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, on Tuesday 25th October at 6.30pm. You can attend in person or via zoom. <https://divinity.zoom.us/j/83350628349?pwd=TzJYNnh4d21KdTVYSWhzaVoxdjuZz09> Meeting ID: 833 5062 8349 Passcode: 879518 Vincent Long is a great orator and the topic speaks to the reality and vision of the Church now and going forward.

**HEART OF LIFE: 'Mindfulness & Meditation', via Zoom, Saturday 15 Oct 2022, 10am-2pm (AEST).** When we are present to the 'now', centeredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart, for these few hours of prayer in the practice of mindfulness and meditation, to journey with others and within oneself. Led by Paola Cheng, a qualified meditation teacher, spiritual director and social worker, who brings an inclusive and gentle approach to her sessions. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$50.

Book and pay via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101.

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** the "2022 Knox Public Lecture" on Wednesday 12th October at 7.30pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre. "50 Years of Theological Education in Context: Then, Now, What Next?" Bookings and Info; [ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture](http://ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture) Enquiries: [sarah.styling@ctc.edu.au](mailto:sarah.styling@ctc.edu.au) or phone 9412 3333. Venue: Celtic Hall, Catholic Leadership Centre.

**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.



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Only one of the ten lepers whom Jesus cured was able to overcome his self-absorption for long enough to give thanks. Ironically that leper was a foreigner.

### Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

9 October 2022

#### First Reading 2 Kgs 5:14-17

*Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and acknowledged the Lord.*

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said, 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2**

**(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

#### Second Reading 2 Tm 2:8-13

*If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.*

Remember the Good News that I carry. 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:  
 If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.  
 If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.  
 If we disown him, then he will disown us.  
 We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,  
 for he cannot disown his own self.

#### Gospel Acclamation 1 Thes 5:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

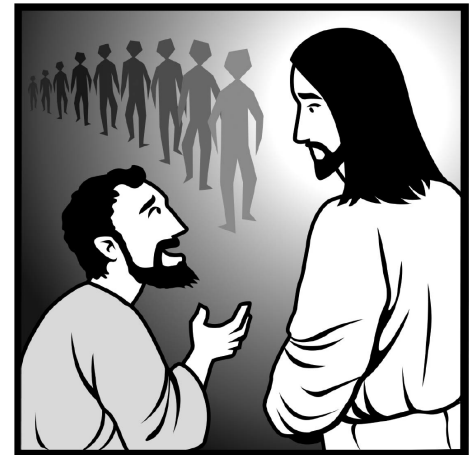
**For all things give thanks to God, because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus.**

**Alleluia!**

#### Gospel Lk 17:11-19

*It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to God except this foreigner.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'



#### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The leprosy of Naaman and the ten men in the gospel serves as a metaphor for sinfulness, the condition that makes us unfit for the presence of God and despicable in the eyes of others. Separated from God and alienated from society, we are truly in a deplorable state, a state out of which we are unable to extricate ourselves. Into these seemingly hopeless conditions step the prophet Elisha and Jesus. Each in his own way brings the healing power of God, the saving grace of God. Paul is such a mediator as well. He brings the gospel to those who are in need of salvation. When people are open to his preaching, they are transformed and made ready to receive eternal glory.

After healing come gratitude and praise. Both Naaman and the lone Samaritan are so filled with gratitude that they return to the one responsible for their healing. They are not so preoccupied with their good fortune as to forget that it came to them as a gift. Their response is the kind of thanks and praise that is proclaimed in the psalm and that is also celebrated at each Sunday Eucharist. We have been saved from our alienation from God and from each other so let us give thanks to the Lord.

Those who know that they have been healed, who realize that this was a gift freely given to them, and who return to give thanks have, by these acts of devotion, stepped over a threshold into a new way of living. Their thanks and praise usher them into a new age, the age of eschatological promise.

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