

Sunday 25th 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.



May our prayer life lead us to respond with compassionate action to the needs of those less fortunate.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C,
25th 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.

www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

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.

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

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

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.

THIS SUNDAY 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.

LADIES AUXILIARY Our next activity will be a Variety Stall held after Masses on the weekend **8th/9th October**. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990.

PPC MEETING – 6TH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING SUMMARY Our opening pray was led by Fr Steve, which involved reflection upon a passage in the Gospel of Luke. This showed the deep prayer life of Jesus, as well as his devotion and faithfulness to God. Mark and Carolyn then provided us an update on the most recent SAC meeting, with an application having been made for a \$100,000 grant for the school, which would be used to renovate the hall, as well as the Williams street walkway. For next year, there have been 60 prep enrolments which is down from the previous year. Following this, Agnes from the SAC committee gave us an overview of a potential initiative, involving connecting children with Elderly within the community. As Agnes said, this would prove beneficial to everyone involved, and is something to pursue if there are people who are interested in participating. Then, Bhushan gave an account of a spiritual retreat which he and 150 other people attended from Parishes across Melbourne. The theme of this retreat was multiple members, one body, and was focused upon the importance of leadership, as well as a common vision in developing a Christian community. Finally, Fr. Steve informed us that he will be conducting interviews for a new Pastoral Associate in the week of the 12th of September.

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.

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 .

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

NATIONAL DAY FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

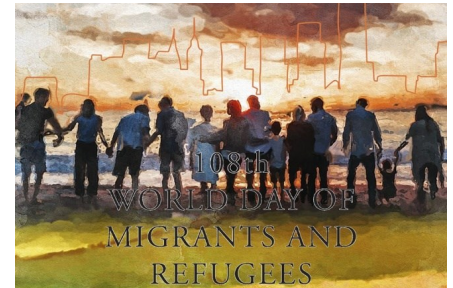
“Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees” is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). Pope Francis highlights the commitment that we are all called to share in building a future that embraces God’s plan, leaving no one behind.

- ◆ *No one must be excluded. God’s plan is essentially inclusive and gives priority to those living on the existential peripheries. Among them are many migrants and refugees, displaced persons, and victims of trafficking. The Kingdom of God is to be built with them, for without them it would not be the Kingdom that God wants. The inclusion of those most vulnerable is the necessary condition for full citizenship in God’s Kingdom. Indeed, the Lord says, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*
- ◆ *Building the future with migrants and refugees also means recognizing and valuing how much each of them can contribute to the process of construction. I like to see this approach to migration reflected in a prophetic vision of Isaiah, which considers foreigners not invaders or destroyers, but willing labourers who rebuild the walls of the new Jerusalem, that Jerusalem whose gates are open to all peoples (cf. Is 60:10-11).*

(Taken from the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022)

PRAYER (BY POPE FRANCIS)

*Lord, make us bearers of hope,
so that where there is darkness,
your light may shine,
and where there is discouragement,
confidence in the future may be reborn.
Lord, make us instruments of your justice,
so that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish,
and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.
Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom,
together with migrants and refugees
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.
Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is
to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.*



SAFEGUARDING COMPLIANCE

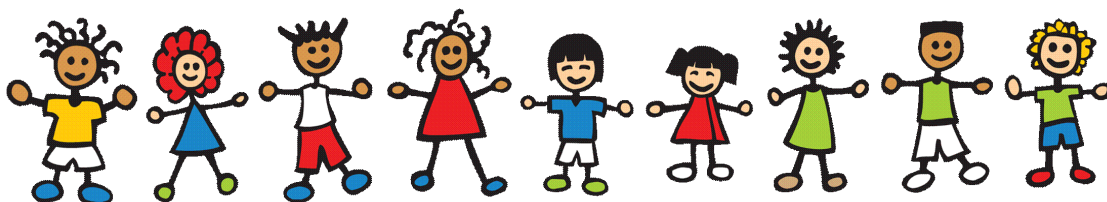
We know that much is asked of us these days to ensure that we are in the best possible position to ensure the safety of our child and young people. Your response to what has been asked so far, has been very gratefully received.

In the last couple of months you should have received a letter from the leader of any parish groups or ministries of which you are a member, asking you to ensure:

- That your Working with Children Check is up to date and that the Department of Justice has your parish recorded against your WWC Check
- That you have signed and submitted to the leader, a Partnered Parishes Code of Conduct
- That you have completed the induction module now available on the Archdiocese website

All group leaders have been asked to complete a Volunteers Requirements Check List by the end of September and submit these Check Lists to the Partnered Parishes Safeguarding Committee, through the various parish offices, by the end of September.

Please assist your group leaders by providing what is needed as soon as possible. Some of our ministries and groups are large and so the load on our group leaders, who are asked to collect this information, is significant. Your support is much appreciated.



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.

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: We are seeking stall holders for this parish fundraiser. Please read attached flyer.

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

Wednesday 19th October 12 pm Lunch and Games in the Parish Centre.

Parish Pastoral Council: Suggestion box in back of church. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

DIARY DATES

Children's Liturgy this Sunday 9am Mass.

Craft Market in parish hall Sunday 23rd October.

Baptism families Mass 7.15pm Saturday 19th & 9am Sunday 20th November.

St Peter's Hurstbridge 50th Anniversary Saturday 3rd December 5 pm Mass.

Rosters for Weekend 1st/2nd October

Saturday 1st October 7.15pm St Peter's

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

Sunday 2nd October 9am Sacred Heart

Reader: T. Jenkins **Commentator:** J. Hoyne **Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Padgett, R. Belli

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

SEEKING STALL HOLDERS!

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

COMMUNITY EVENT
SACRED HEART PARISH CRAFT MARKET

Calling all Market Stall Holders!

Are you a Crafter, Grower, Maker?

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:
claireledda@gmail.com

FOOD & COFFEE FREE Kid's activities ENTERTAINMENT!

DATE
Sunday 23 October 2022

TIME
10am-2pm

VENUE
Sacred Heart Parish Hall
25 Gipson Street
Diamond Creek

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

Baptisms: We pray for Charlotte, Amelia and Concetta who are being Baptised this weekend.

Rosters for Weekend 1st & 2nd October

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: T. Holland **Commentator:** J. Bohan **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Leahy, S. Bishop, L. Carty

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: F. Landy

Commentator: M. Kenny

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Riordan, A. Kerr, R. Piccolo

Set Up: M. Bates

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

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.

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, Andelko Korculanin

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:

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,

Stjpan Kernjak

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

FEAST DAY AT ST FRANCIS: We are celebrating the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, our Parish Feast Day on Sunday 9th October, with Mass in the Church at 10.30 am, 12.00 pm Lunch in the School Courtyard, and 2.00 pm Blessing of the Animals.

All parishioners and friends are warmly invited .

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 email 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

Enquiries: sarah.styling@ctc.edu.au or phone 9412 3333. Venue: Celtic Hall, Catholic Leadership Centre.

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



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Jesus' vivid picture of eternal comfort and agony shows how vital it is to be faithful to Kingdom values in this life. Living justly and compassionately are the core values of this story. It is clear that the choices we make now shape our ultimate future.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

25 September 2022

First Reading Am 6:1, 4-7

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:
Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and to those who feel so safe on the
mountain of Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like
David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing
themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not
care at all.

That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *(R.)*
3. He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Tm 6:11-16

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,

the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
who alone is immortal,
whose home is in inaccessible light,
whom no man has seen and no man is
able to see:
to him be honour and everlasting power.
Amen.

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!

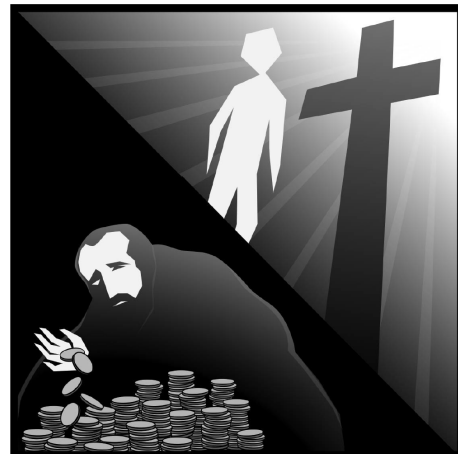
Gospel Lk 16:19-31

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The rich man ('Dives') is so totally self-absorbed in the self-indulgence of his wealth that he does not even notice poor Lazarus at his gate. He created such a huge chasm between himself and the poor that not one crumb of food or companionship could cross over to Lazarus.

This chasm, created by Dives, was fixed at the moment of his death so that not one part of the life of Paradise could cross over to him – not even a drop of water. Hell is not a punishment sent by God. It is simply the continuation of the Divide which some have chosen as that which defines who they are. Hell is of our own making.

We could pause for a moment to check that we are making such choices that we become amongst those 'carried gently by the angels into Paradise'.

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