



Sunday 18th December 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

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: 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



Let's pray for the grace to listen with the ear of faith, and respond obediently to the Lord's call.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A,
18th December 2022.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/scripture-reflection--let-the-lord-enter--he-is-the-king-of-glory>

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.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

The focus of the fourth week of Advent is: *The trust that reveals Christ to the world.*

This Gospel lays bare the complete faith and trust that Joseph (and before him, Mary) had in God. Joseph was a special man, called to be the earthly father of Jesus. From the beginning, though upset and confused by Mary's pregnancy, he treated her with respect, kindness and dignity. When the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and told him the truth of the conception, Joseph believed, placed his trust in God and committed himself to Mary and Jesus. Through the faith and love of these two people, Jesus grew confidently into manhood, and began His ministry, given to Him by His heavenly Father.

We pray that we too can display the total faith and trust in Jesus that leads us to Him and eternal life.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2022

Individual Reconciliation

Sacred Heart	Friday	23rd December	9:45-10:15 am
St Thomas	Saturday	24 thDecember	9:30-10:00 am

Masses for Christmas

Sacred Heart	Christmas Eve	6:00 pm	
		Carols 8.30pm	Mass 9:00 pm
	Christmas Day	9:00 am	
St Mary's	Christmas Eve	Carols: 6.00pm	Mass: 6:30 pm
		Carols : 9.00pm	Mass: 9:30 pm (Please note change of Time)
	Christmas Day	8:00 am and 10:00 am	(no 5:00 pm Mass)
St Thomas	Christmas Eve	6:00 pm	
	Christmas Day	10:30 am	



CHILD SAFEGUARDING

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.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING MODULE LAUNCHED FOR CLERGY AND VOLUNTEERS

Safeguarding Essentials is a 30-60 minute online training module for all clergy and volunteers within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Employees will soon be able to access the training module on Employment Hero.

This accessible and engaging resource provides clergy and volunteers with foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm.

This will be:

- an annual requirement for everyone
- possible to complete individually online.

At the completion of the training:

- participants will receive a certificate of completion accessible via the training module dashboard.
- participants will receive email notification that the module has been completed successfully.
- To access the online training go to: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org



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



Baptisms: we pray for Sullivan, Edie, Xavier, Harper and Ethan who we welcomed into the Sacred Heart community in December.

Christmas Working Bee: Volunteers welcome to Sacred Heart church pre Christmas clean up. Dusting, vacuuming and setting up extra chairs etc. Tuesday 20th December 10am.

Thank you: I am writing this note to acknowledge and say a very big Thank You 🙏 to all the parishioners for the prayers over the past year when I was undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. After being told that the current treatment would have little or no effect to then find that I was, indeed, in remission 🙏. I am doing very well and feeling Blessed for all the support and prayers. Maurice & I would like to wish you all the Joy and Blessings of Christmas and good health and peace in 2023.

Kind regards, Margaret Holland

Please note: 8.30pm Carols will precede 9pm Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart.

Thank you to parishioners for your generous response to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal leaving collections at St Peter's and Sacred Heart. *Cash donations* in envelopes or *gift cards* can still be placed in collection bags or left at Parish Office.

Senior Moments: Wish everyone a Holy and Happy Christmas.

The 2023 Planning Meeting is Wednesday 1st February 12pm in Parish Office. New members welcome.

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

Due to ill health, the Readers' Formation meeting which was to be held in Sacred Heart Church on the 15 December has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in February. **Sr Margaret Sapsford**

Rosters

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December 6pm Sacred Heart

Reader: J. Hoyne **Commentator:** B. Greaves **Eucharistic Ministers:** R. Padget, P. Leonard

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December 9pm Sacred Heart

Reader: B. Flynn **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Ledda

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December 9am Sacred Heart

Reader: C. Fernando **Commentator:** B. Greaves **Eucharistic Ministers:**

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

Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Vi Hurley, Kevin Hurley

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

Adam Hibbert, Martin Padget, Eileen Dunn, Kevin Hewitt, Frank Orders, Julian Federico, Brian Bell, Bridgette Tancredi-Roberts, John Elliott, Clara Mercieca, Paul Clements, Bernice Burke.

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

ANNOUNCING THE DAMASCUS SPIRITUAL LEADERS PROGRAM! Part-time in Feb-Nov 2023 - either in person or online - through Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. This program is designed for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and parish or outreach ministries. It will equip individuals to lead with integrity, vulnerability and resilience, and will focus on the inner spiritual journey in order to create fully-formed leaders who listen, learn and accompany others with strength and sensitivity. 'Damascus' can be studied as a Graduate Certificate in Divinity through the University of Divinity (Yarra Theological Union/Catholic Theological College), or as an audit student to receive a Certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Heart of Life. Attendance on Monday mornings and some Saturdays. Read more about the program on the [Heart of Life website](https://www.heartoflife.org.au) or contact us on (03) 9890 1101. Applications close on 6/1/23.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Square Tap Machine: Now that our property has been connected to the NBN we are now able to process donations on the Square Tap Machine more efficiently.

Parish Pastoral Council: Email: stthomasppc@gmail.com Next meeting Wednesday 15th February 2023

The new sets of thanksgiving envelopes commencing 6th November are now ready for collection.
Could parishioners please have a look and see if there is anyone that lives close to you and you could assist by dropping them in their letterbox.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR: The calendar's are now available at St Thomas, \$10.00 each, cash or by the Square tap machine. Pay to Church.

Rosters: Thankyou to all our volunteers who continues to help out with weekend Masses. I am currently in the process of putting together the rosters for next year. If anyone would be available to help out with Setup for Mass, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Commentators, Communion to the nursing homes (during the week) please give me a call in the office. You would need a current Working with Children Check, and training would be provided.

Thank you Lisa.

Rosters for Weekend 31st December & 1st January

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: S. McMahon

Commentator: E. Sacchetti

Eucharistic Ministers: T. Holland, M. McKenzie, K. Salm

Set Up: Volunteer

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Bates

Commentator: T. Williamson

Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, A. Letzia

Set Up: C. O'Brien

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:

Miran Kasalo, John Iacobucci, Andelko Korculanin, Estelle Smooker

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

Emilia Micomonaco, Adrian DeGier, Doris Morfea, Frank Jordan, John Winter, Arthur Eames, Cass Sheehan, Nancy Marzella, Giovanni Marzella, Leo Glennon, Rose Hegarty Stjepan Kernjak

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal *Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas*. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria. It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas! To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022


PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th – 28th April 2023. If you are interested please visit our Parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohl 0427 879 733.

At Home: Palms' *Neighbours Without Borders* program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas: Completing a further four days (January 12th-15th) will prepare you to meet one of the *many requests Palms has from communities* in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training. Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS—Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to greensborough@cam.org.au by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS BULLETIN NOTICES Please note that the deadline for any notices for the last Bulletin of the year (December 24/25) is Tuesday 20th December at 12 noon. Thank you.

READING WITH PARISHIONERS PROGRAM

Do you have a weekday morning free? St Mary's School is looking for parishioners who are able to spare 1-2 hours on a weekly basis to listen to children read in the junior school. All volunteers will need a Working with Children's Check. Training will be provided at the beginning of the 2023 school year for any parishioners who would like to be a part of the program. If you're interested please contact Bec Mellerick on 0402064081 or via email rmellerick@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

SILENCE IN LITURGY

God addresses us through the scriptures. But silence is what helps us discover the meaning and power of these words, letting them 'sink in' and be absorbed into our minds and hearts. In addition to the short periods of silence observed by the Reader after the first and second readings, we will again have a period of silent reflection following the Homily. **The first collection** will be taken up after this period of reflection.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquires: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: First Friday of month, after 9.15am Mass to 3pm. Spend whatever time you can. All Welcome.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. We have a number of people to whom we take Communion of a Friday morning. Currently we don't have enough Ministers of Communion to the Sick, to meet our needs. If you have time on a Friday morning and would be willing to join the roster, or at least see what you think, please contact Sandy Starbuck, our Pastoral Associate, or the parish office (94351543 or Greensborough@cam.org.au). Training and support is provided. Hopefully we can have enough Ministers so that each person is

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Front-End Developer

Catholic Development Fund

Integration Engineer

Risk & Compliance Analyst

Parish Positions

Pastoral Worker – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee

Pastoral Worker – St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen

Cleaner – St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully

Parish Bookkeeper – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee

Parish Secretary – St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

Youth Pastoral Worker - St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

Other Positions

Cook – Oblate of Mary Immaculate

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

Joseph takes the active role in Matthew's infancy narrative. It is Joseph, rather than Mary, who encounters an angel. In a dream, Joseph is reassured by a heavenly messenger that Mary's pregnancy is legitimate, albeit unconventional.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

18 December 2022

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the
Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure
heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to
a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.