



**Sunday 5th March 2023**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** 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:** 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**  
[princi-](mailto:princi-)

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES**

**LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

**7.00pm Wednesday 29th March at St Thomas Church**



O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.  
Second Sunday of Lent Year A,  
5th March 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflection-lent-2-year-a>

**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:** Tuesdays 9am-5pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm. Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you



**OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT** During Lent, our worship space is simplified with no flowers or greenery in the church or Gathering Space representing the barren desert where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. This is symbolic of the Lenten Season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty - only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT** Three Stations of the Cross services are available on our parish website during Lent – one based on the *Gospel of St Matthew*, another are *Mary's Stations*, and there is a video *Way of the Cross* with images of the Stations at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Deepdene carved by Austrian immigrant Leopoldine Mimovich.

**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK** Choir Practice for Holy Week Ceremonies will take place on **Tuesdays 7,14,28 March and 4 April** in the Church from 1-3 pm. Dom LaFerlita our talented Saturday night pianist will accompany us. The Liturgy is the centre of the Church's life and music adds another dimension. It is three years since we have had live music for Holy Week and you would be made very welcome. No experience necessary. Please consider joining us for these ceremonies. Contact Megan Mitchem via email: [mamitchem@gmail.com](mailto:mamitchem@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the choir so that music can be organised for you.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP** - Next Meeting Wednesday 8th March at 12.00 in the Gathering space. Short meeting to discuss having an outing. BYO lunch, Tea, Coffee & Afternoon Tea after the game 5 bingo. Bingo \$5 for 10 games. All welcome. For any queries, please call / Text Geraldine ( 0438 148 896) or Angela (9444 6298)



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** every Friday during Lent at **7pm at St Mary's**.



**ANOINTING MASS** at St Mary's. Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am.

**LADIES AUXILIARY** We are seeking knitters to assist with knitting beanies and/or fingerless gloves. Patterns and wool are available on the table in the gathering space this weekend.

**VOLUNTEERS** *"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).*

*Getting involved as a volunteer brings a double portion of joy, as we give draw our heart to Christ*



Trinity Manor Age Care at 226 Elder Street, Greensborough gives thanks to St Mary's Community volunteers for taking the time to bring Communion each week to our residents, anyone willing to serve in this ministry can join the list, for further details please contact the parish office.

OR perhaps you would like to VOLUNTEER using your skills or visiting elders or able to help run an activity. We need people on a roster donating their time once a week or once a month for 30 or 60 minutes. If you are interested please contact Monica Espinoza at Trinity Manor at 9091 5200, we would like to hear from you soon. Thank You.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ST.PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATION ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH AT 10.30AM** in the gathering space. Entry \$10.00 per person. Bookings weekend of 11th/12th March after Masses. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990. All welcome

## ***Be informed, inspired and entertained***

**Book of the week:** [Ideas to Save Your Life](#) by Michael McGirr

McGirr shares his love of philosophy, focusing on the works of eminent thinkers across history. It is animated by two related questions- from where do we draw a sense of life's purpose? And how can philosophy make life better? Drawing on his many years of teaching philosophy to teenagers, he shares stories from his life and the lives of others.

[Ideas to Save Your Life](#) is often funny, but it is always serious about the task of philosophy. It makes the impenetrable accessible, the indescribable palpable, and invites you to change how you see the world.

**The Library is usually open** after 10 am Mass on Sunday and 6.30 pm Mass on Saturday.

We need more volunteers to staff the Library at other Masses. In the meantime feel free to ask a sacristan or priest to open the room. Self-borrowing is available through a sheet on the desk. Items can be returned via a chute outside the Library.

Access to the catalogue is available at: [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S CONTINUED**

**SUNDAY CATECHIST CLASSES** for primary school children attending Government Schools are now commencing at 9.00am in St Mary's School. Classes are for children from Grades 3 to 6, include the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, and are held during each term. All enquiries - Geraldine - 0438 148 896

**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.

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NORTH EAST LINK** From Sunday 5 March to Friday 10 March, crews will be working in the Grimshaw Street and Greensborough Road intersection for up to five nights near the Church/School Property. Working hours are between 6.30pm and 6.00am, subject to weather conditions. There may be construction traffic in the area and noise from machinery and equipment during these times.



## **ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS**

**A CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE** (monthly via Zoom with two in-person sessions), 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month starting March-November from 10 am – 12pm (AEDT) with Leslie Hanger.

An invitation to take time out and nurture your soul in a contemplative space. These monthly gatherings offer opportunities for meditation, personal reflection and time for sharing. The sessions will be held online except for May and November when the group will meet in-person at Heart of Life. This is a great opportunity to develop connections with others and support each other's contemplative journey. Join us for individual sessions or book for the entire 9 sessions commencing with 10 Mar 2023. Cost: \$25 per session or \$200 for the series. Book and pay by 6/3/23 via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne).

**UNDERSTANDING YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE: Gifts Differing (in-person event), Saturday 18 March from 10 am – 3.30 pm with Peter Malone msc.** Our graced selves, praying, communicating...This is a Myers Briggs reflection day. Attendees can complete the Personality Type Indicator form on the day. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch). Book and pay by 15/3/23 via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne).

**CURRENT VACANT ROLES LISTED ON OUR MELBOURNE CATHOLIC WEBSITE.**

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

### **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Retail Shop Assistant – St Patricks Cathedral Shop

#### **Parish Positions**

- Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton
- Parish Administrative Coordinator - St Patrick's and St Kevin's Parishes, Murrumbeena
- Parish Secretary – Parishes of Frankston
- Pastoral Worker –St Peter and Paul's Parish, Doncaster East
- Funeral Coordinator – Holy Trinity Parish, Bentleigh East

#### **Other Positions**

- Stewardship Coordinator – Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community
- Evangelisation Coordinator – Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community

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

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### LENTEN THEME 2023-Open our eyes to see...

Lent is the liturgical season for prayer, reflection and contrition for any wrongdoing we have made in our lives as we prepare for the joyous season of Easter.

The theme for this year, ***Open our Eyes to See***, is a challenge to us: it is perhaps easier and more comfortable for us to go along with our lives as they are, to resist the urge to take time for reflection and to consider if life is really meaningful, and then to take steps to change. For Christians, a meaningful life is one based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, who tells us to open our eyes and ears to the Word of God. To be able to “see” requires us to open our hearts, to God, to our neighbours, to those in need, those marginalised and forgotten by our society. It requires faith, courage and love, love of God and of all human beings made in his image. In our world, so often wracked by wars, natural disasters and economic and social challenges, we need to have our eyes open, to see what we are called to do in the name of Jesus.

***Open my eyes, Lord, help me to see Your face; open my eyes, Lord, help me to see.***

***Open my ears, Lord, help me to hear Your voice; open my ears, Lord, help me to hear.***

***Open my heart, Lord, help me to love like You; open my heart, Lord, help me to love.***

*(Jesse Manibusan)*

### WEEK TWO

***Open our eyes to see the glory of God in us***

Today is the second weekend of Lent and we pause to reflect.

In the Gospel today Jesus is transfigured before three of his apostles, his face and body shining in all his heavenly glory. This was the moment when these apostles saw Jesus not just as human but also divine. They heard the voice of the Father confirming that Jesus was his beloved Son. While at that time the apostles struggled to truly understand this revelation, they put their faith in him.

Jesus wants all people to be saved, to share in his glory, by recognising that God is within each of us and that the way to know God is through him. While we have not seen Jesus in person like the apostles, let us strive to see the image of God in ourselves and others and follow his teachings as we journey together towards the Kingdom.

***‘But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’ 1 Corinthians 2:9***

## ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

**A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of *Aid to the Church in Need* is asking for support to provide sisters in Romania with a new heating system. The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest congregation of sisters in the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. The history of their community has long been one marked by persecution, particularly when Romania was under communist rule.

Today the sisters continue to aid their local community with youth groups, spiritual support and counselling, as well as providing the poor with basic necessities. But they are facing a major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. The sisters need your help!

To make an offering and learn more visit [www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject](http://www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject)

**LENT 2023 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY BRUCE DOWNES:** Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is Free and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23> Go to [BruceDownes.org](http://BruceDownes.org) for more information.

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE :** Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at CTC. We have areas of study that may be of interest such as: ***John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century***, which is to be held by Zoom on twelve Saturdays from 10am – 1pm (AEDT). ***Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church***, semester 1 Intensive over 4 Saturdays commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Undergraduate Study Options**, you can study from anywhere in the world now that CTC is offering online options. For more information contact: [registrar@ctc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ctc.edu.au) or visit: [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au)

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 4th & 5th March**

Teeresa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Teeresa's only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Teeresa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Teeresa access housing and psychological support. Today, Teeresa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community.

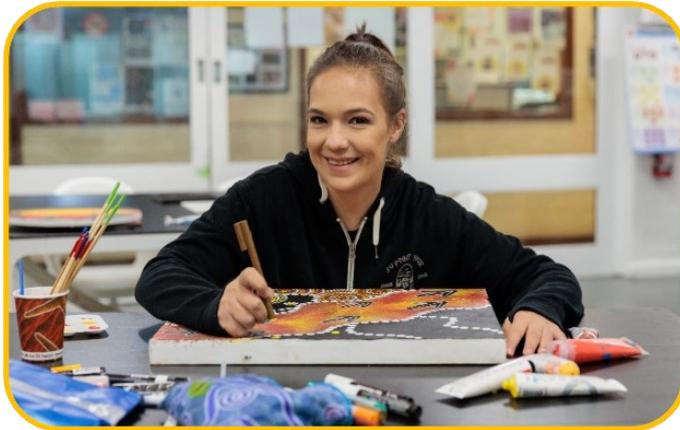
Teeresa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people



**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**REFLECTION**

Think for a moment about some of the things you have on your walls at home. They don't have to be fancy or expensive. They might be photos of your family or perhaps of deceased grandparents. They might be prints of famous paintings or posters with sayings that mean a lot to you. It is very common that Christians have special things: crucifixes or images of saints. All of these things inspire us in one way or another. If ever you have had to pack up to move house and looked at your bare walls as you leave, they will seem empty and colourless.

Art is one of the things that transfigures our world and makes it more beautiful. Other things do this as well: laughter, tears, cooking, music, hugs and sharing stories. They all transfigure our houses and allow us to

see them as homes. They unlock the true potential of an otherwise ordinary space.

This week Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia, presents us with the story of Teeresa, a 27-year-old indigenous woman from Western Sydney, the area with the largest urban indigenous population in the country. Teeresa became pregnant at the age of 16.

With your help, Project Compassion has been able to support the Mums and Bubs program run by Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation. This allowed Teeresa to find accommodation, gain skills and continue her education. She was also able to connect with her culture. Her glorious artwork was featured on the Wulugul Walk during Sydney's Vivid Light festival last year. Her use of light and colour transfigured the environment where it was displayed. In so many places, Project Compassion helps people to achieve their vision.

Of course, the transfiguration of Jesus is unique. We hear in today's Gospel that Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain. His face shone like the sun and his face became 'as white as the light.' A voice from heaven said 'this is my beloved son; listen to him.' Peter said how wonderful it was to be there. The transfiguration may have only lasted a few minutes but it was clear that Jesus' friends never forgot it. Like a work of art on a wall, the memory made the world seem very different. During Lent, we are also called to transfigure the world, to make a difference.

***Written by Michael McGirr***

*We pray for all people who are a source of hope in the world, who help to transfigure darkness into light.*

*May our support of Project Compassion help to keep alive our vision of Christ as the one we should most listen to, the light of the world.*

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



**BAPTISMS:** we pray for Harper, Sophia, Jasmine, Jack and Hannah who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in March.

**THANK YOU** to those who generously donated to the **Caritas Earthquake Appeal**.

**LOYOLA COLLEGE:** Flynn House Annual Mass 9am this Sunday. Refreshments will follow.

**VOLUNTEER WORK:** Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email [ray.belli57@gmail.com](mailto:ray.belli57@gmail.com)

**LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION SESSIONS** will be held at Sacred Heart on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm beginning on Tuesday 21st February 2023. This evening group will especially support our catechumen in his preparation for the sacraments at Easter. Please register with the office. [diamondcreek@cam.org.au](mailto:diamondcreek@cam.org.au)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE:** Thank you to parishioners who attended the service and to those people who helped on the day.

**PLAQUE FOR FR TAO:** Parish Pastoral Council have chosen the following words:

*Fr Tao Xuan Pham, 17.6.1970 - 15.1.23*

*Ordained Priest: 10.9.2016, Assistant Priest: 2016 – 2023,*

*In God's care*

We are still accepting donations from our community towards a plaque in the Garden of Reflection at Diamond Creek. Please place envelopes in the PPC Suggestion Box.

**CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER:** Thank you for the wonderful response. Roster in church. Contact Marg Farrell or Wendy McEvoy if you would like to join the team.

### SENIOR MOMENTS

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March lunch & scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April Fish & Chips in the Parish Centre.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Suggestion box at back of church. Email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

### ROSTERS

**Cleaning:** 7<sup>th</sup> March B. & P. O'Regan

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** C. Fernando **Commentator:** R. McEvoy **Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Greaves, M. Cusack

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March St Peter's 7.15pm**

**Reader:** J. Robinson **Commentator:** M. Frisby **Eucharistic Ministers:** E. Gittins, Aminda

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

*Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.*

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

*Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle, Owen Doyle*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

**BAPTISMS:** Please pray for Henry, Andreas, Teddi, and Sonny who are being baptised later this month.

**GREENSBOROUGH INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL:** The Greensborough Inter-Church Council exists to encourage people from the community with a wide range of Christian beliefs to come together to provide support to each other and the community in general. They work together on various events throughout the year, particularly leading up to Easter and Christmas, and raise funds to support members of our community in need. St Thomas has not been represented on this Council for the last two years, however it is important that we stay involved in this important ministry. Enquiries can be made to the St Thomas Parish office.



**LOYOLA MACKILLOP HOUSE MASS:** This Sunday is the annual MacKillop House Mass , followed by morning tea.

**CATRITAS EARTHQUAKE APPEAL:** Thank you to everyone for your generous donation to the Caritas Appeal, your support is helping those communities in Turkey and Syria devastated as they work to recover and rebuild after the catastrophic earthquakes.

**FAITH CIRCLES**, is a simple but powerful program which centres on reflection on the Gospels. The aim of the Faith Circles program is to provide opportunities, in small groups of approximately 6-10, for parishioners to reflect on the upcoming Gospel of the week. Through this reflection, participants are able to think about how the reading relates to their own lives, to discuss the teaching that Jesus was sharing with us and so grow in their own faith in a safe and welcoming environment.

There is a Faith Circles group for parishioners of our three parishes. It meets weekly via Zoom, for approximately one hour on a Tuesday evening, beginning at 7 pm. If you are interested in trying out or joining the program, please contact Cathy O'Brien via email:

[cathyob757@gmail.com](mailto:cathyob757@gmail.com)

### Rosters for Weekend 11th & 12th March 2023

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** S. McMahon      **Commentator:** E. Sacchetta      **Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Bishop, L. Leahy, C. Leahy

**Set Up:** C. Leahy

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** L. Hobson      **Commentator:** S. Millar      **Eucharistic Ministers:** C. Riordan, A. Kerr, R. Piccolo

**Set Up:** J. Kerr

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Next Meeting, Wednesday 15th March, 7.00pm. Email: [stthomasppc@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasppc@gmail.com)

**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, Tina Butera*

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

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahon, Matthew Van Beek, Mary Tan, Owen Doyle

## MELKITE CATHOLIC EPARCHY

Bishop Robert Rabbat's Syrian Earthquake Appeal. Please donate now: The recent Syrian earthquake has hit people who were already displaced in a region that has been devastated by more than a decade of civil war. Yet again, we are seeing people fleeing and desperate for shelter in freezing conditions. We want to help provide that light in the deepest darkness, to get through this devastating Disaster. All donations are tax deductible. For a receipt please email [mcf@melkite.org.au](mailto:mcf@melkite.org.au) or contact on 02 9750 5514.

**MCF DGR Appeal Ref: Syrian Appeal BSB: 062784 ACCOUNT: 100011493**





**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close** The transformation of Jesus on the mountain blew the minds of the disciples who were witnesses. In the other versions of the story, in Luke and Mark, Peter became incoherent with wonder and they were all terrified. But how did Jesus respond to the situation?

There is no information in the Gospel stories about what Jesus thought or how he felt about the experience; but it must have left a lasting mark on his life – a spiritual signature. The Gospel writers describe this awesome manifestation of God in terms of bright light, so perhaps one of the after effects for Jesus was a sense of glowing. In any case, being ‘enlightened’ seems to have been part of his job description.

## Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

5 March 2023

### First Reading Gn 12:1-4

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your family and your father’s house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

‘I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.’

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22**

*(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. *(R.)*
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. *(R.)*
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. *(R.)*

### Second Reading 2 Tm 1:8-10

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

### Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Gospel Mt 17:1-9

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.’ When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘do not be afraid.’ And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. ‘Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.’



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: ‘If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.’

Today’s Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus’ body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to ‘Google’ or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint – St Seraphim of Sarov – and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of ‘immeasurable wellbeing’ – ‘infinite joy in our hearts’.

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