



Sunday 23rd April 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Martin Tanti & Fr Ananda Maddineni

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



While homilists are likely to focus on the Gospel of the appearance of the risen Lord to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the first two readings, dominated by the figure of Peter, are also theologically rich.

Third Sunday of Easter (Year A),

23rd April 2023.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-notes-3-easter-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

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

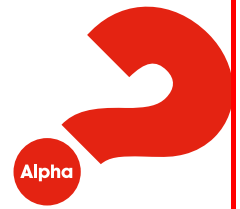
PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

*** Alpha begins 23 May, St Mary's Parish – Register now ***



Ever wanted to pause and consider the big questions about **life, meaning and faith**?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions in a friendly, welcoming space. Participants gain an insight into the basics of the Christian faith and discuss its impact on various aspects of our lives. All are invited.



We share a meal

We watch a video

We engage in discussion

Register using the above QR code or by clicking this link <https://tinyurl.com/y87kzhj3>

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

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./**Training to be completed by Friday the 28th April.**

To access the online training go to: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org

St Thomas the Apostle Parish

is hosting The **Alpha Parenting Children Course**
Starting Tuesday 9th May– 6th June 2023



Are you a parent, grandparent or care-giver of children aged 0-10 years?

Are you looking for practical support to strengthen your family relationships?

Over **five sessions**, the course will help you to:

- build strong foundations,**
- meet your children's needs and**
- teach healthy relationships.**

The course emphasises the role of the family, and acknowledges there is no instant recipe for bringing up children. However, some general principles apply to all families, and there is great value in discussions with others. The Parenting Children Course is based on Christian principles but designed for all people with or without a church background.

When: Tuesday evenings 7.30pm – 9.30pm Where: In your own home – Online via Zoom

Dates: May 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & June 6th

Bookings essential by 7pm Sunday 7th May at

Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGZJF>

For more information contact: Emilia 0418 120902 or emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS continued

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST

I am pleased to announce that a new Assistant Priest has been appointed to our Partnered Parishes. Fr. Ananda Maddineni will commence his duties on the weekend of 22/23 April and will be residing with Fr. Martin Tanti at St. Thomas'. He will be with us for about a year as the 4 members of his congregation (Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales) in Melbourne gain experience of pastoral work in Australia before they are appointed as a community to take responsibility for a number of parishes in the Archdiocese. I have asked Ananda to write a brief bio about himself by way of introduction. I am sure that you will all make him most welcome among us.

Fr. Steven Rigo

Hello dear Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. Thomas and Sacred Heart

Greetings of Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord

My name is Fr. Ananda Prasad Maddineni MSFS. You can call me Fr. Anand. I was born in India. After my secondary school, I joined the Minor Seminary of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS or Fransalians). After completion of my Novitiate, Philosophy and Theological studies, I was Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on 21 October 1996. As a new Priest I worked in Khammam, India as an Assistant Parish Priest and Teacher at St. Francis de Sales High School. In 1998 I was sent to West Indies as a member of the pioneering team to start our Mission in St. Lucia. From 2001 to 2006 I was Assistant Parish Priest at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Jacksonville, Florida, USA; during this time I also pursued my Doctor of Ministry studies at Barry University, Miami, FL and graduated in 2010. From 2006-2012 I was the Parish Priest of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Jacksonville, FL. I returned to India in 2012 and served as the Parish Priest of Holy Cross (2012-2015), Parish Priest of Mother of Compassion Church and Assistant Principal of St. Francis de Sales High School (2015-2019) and also Professor of Pastoral Theology at St. John's Regional Seminary. At my provincial's request I led the pioneering mission team to East Flores, Indonesia in 2019 and for the past 4 years I was the Mission Coordinator and the Parish Priest of St. Kornelius Parish in the Diocese of Larantuka, Indonesia.

I am very happy to come to Melbourne and to be assigned to the Partnered Parishes of St. Mary's, St. Thomas and Sacred Heart as an Assistant Parish Priest.

Looking forward to meet and work with you all in the service of the Risen Lord.

Fr. Anand MSFS

CHARITIES BEING CHARGED EXTRA WASTE FEES

Below is a condensed version of an email that St Vincent de Paul are asking its volunteers and concerned parishioners to send to their local member and to c.c. the Environment Minister, The Treasurer and Premier:

On 1 July 2023, the Victorian Government will stop supporting charity shops, and start penalising them with \$1.5 million in unfair extra cost burdens. This is a crisis situation for Victoria's charity shops, as well as the environment and those in need.

All the other State Governments in Australia provide protection for charities from waste levy costs, because they know charities don't create the waste, don't want the waste and that it is illegally dumped on them. All the other Australian states support charities as integral partners for a Circular Economy. Going it alone and imposing costs on charities will make Victoria an outcast state in penalising charities.

This is the impact of the Victorian Government's decision to hurt charities will have on those in need:

- ◆ \$1.5 million in electricity or gas bills that can't be paid by those who need help
- ◆ 428,571 meals that cannot be provided to Victorians who will go hungry
- ◆ 38,461 crisis calls from Victorians that can't be answered, including suicide calls

This is the impact of the Victorian Government's decision to hurt charities on the environment:

- ◆ 27,500 more tonnes of waste going to landfill every year

Why does the Victorian Government want to hurt the charity shop sector, especially as it provides the government in \$232 million in avoided costs, in providing food, shelter and other essential services to Victorians in need.

Please contact Megan Mitchem via email mamitchem@gmail.com for the full email extract and email addresses for the members in the Victorian Parliament.

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



BAPTISMS: we pray for Alayna, Sophia, Isabella and Charlotte who will be welcomed into Sacred Heart community in April.

Diamond Creek RSL ANZAC Day Service: Tuesday 10.30am at Cenotaph. A wreath will be laid by Sacred Heart School and Diamond Creek Combined Churches (St John's Anglican, DC Uniting and Sacred Heart).

READERS & COMMENTATORS MEETING: Thursday 27 April at 7.00 pm at Sacred Heart Church.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING 13TH APRIL. Frank opened the meeting with a Prayer.

- * Agenda items included: FIAT weekend of Prayer 24th – 26th March.
- * Recent Foundation Connection Night.
- * Garden of Reflection plaques including Fr Tao's have been dispatched.
- * Church defibrillator replacement battery & pads.
- * Dates of School & Catechists First Eucharist Masses and Confirmation Commitment Masses.
- * Successful Sacred Heart School Official Opening & Blessing, Easter celebrations & Stations of the Cross.
- * Take the Way of the Gospel Northern Region Forum at Loyola College on 26th April.
- * Readers & Commentators Evening Sacred Heart Church 7pm Thursday 27th April.
- * First Umbrella PPC meeting scheduled for 3rd May. Parish needs to have a clear pastoral plan for the future.
- * Sacred Heart Family Groups 50th Anniversary Mass and morning tea 9am Sunday 7th May.
- * A local family's written appreciation of Fr Martin following their father's funeral.
- * Combined Sacred Heart & St Thomas Social Justice Group Annual Report.
- * Thank you and well done to Mandy, Frank, Tonina and Alison and all who prepared or participated in the lay led Good Friday Service which received positive feedback.
- * Reminder to complete the Safeguarding Essentials Online Training Module.

Next PPC Meeting – Thursday 11th May. Email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

50th ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY GROUPS: Fr Steve will celebrate Mass at 9am Sunday 7th May and we would like to invite all parishioners to morning tea afterwards. If you know any former Family Group members we would love to see them.

INVITATION TO ALL: SENIOR MOMENTS extend an invitation to join them on Wednesday 3rd May 12pm for Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge. Contact Margaret Jose for details.

Wednesday 17th May Lunch & Scrabble 12pm in Parish Centre.

ROSTERS:

Week 25th April **Cleaning:** Lino & Marg

Sunday 30th April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: D. Botica **Commentator:** F. Ledda **Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Cusack, A. Schellens

Saturday 6th May St Peter's 7.15pm

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

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

Calliope Enright Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Mervyn Bourke, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard,

Recently Deceased:

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

Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy, Alan Ridsdale, Jane Coyle, Elaine Chapman.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS

BAPTISMS: Please pray for Sonny, Lucy Anne, Tessa and Lucy who are being baptised later this month.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next Meeting, Wednesday 21st June 7.00pm, in Parish house meeting room

Email: stthomasppc@gmail.com

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP: Come for a coffee & chat. EVERYONE WELCOME.

Thursday 27th April 3pm at Phoenix Diamond Creek Road Plenty. Contact me & let me know if you can make it so I can reserve a table stewmarq@bigpond.net.au or 0408370685 Marg.



PLAQUE FOR PRIESTS: At our PPC meeting in March it was agreed that we should remember Priests who have died in service while at St Thomas.

Donation for a plaque both for Fr Peter Fulton and Fr Tao Pham, if you would to donate you can drop the donation into the Parish office in a clearly marked envelope, or in the collections on the weekend.

Donations accepted up until the 30th of April. Envelopes are available in the church foyer.

Rosters for Weekend 29th & 30th April 2023

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: S. Mc Mahon

Commentator: E. Sacchetta

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Bohan, T. Holland, M. Mc Kenzie

Set Up: M. Mc Kenzie

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: F. Landy

Commentator: B. Iacobucci

Eucharistic Ministers: F. Landy, A. Letzia, C. O'Brien

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, Tina Butera, Lilian Hobson, Peter Kranjak

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

Mary Cho Nguyen, Prisca Rosario, Osvaldo Porcaro, Lina Betuna, Margaret Mc Carthy, Dino Bianchin, Bill Schultz, Brian Brown, Alessandro Sacchetta, Reg Cummins, Pat Hart, Iris Hartley, Joy Joseph, Roy Kilkenny, Anastasis Rendina, Sylvester Ellul, Rod Nettleton, Kathleen Jordan, Maria de Bartolo, Elaine Chapman, Shirley Bourke, Maria del Popolo, Rosa Alvaro, Dragan Zilic, Kaye Dixon

MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES - THEIRS...AND YOURS PALMS AUSTRALIA

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training.

Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: **RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.** www.palms.org.au

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL: The Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal, providing parishioners an opportunity to contribute to the educational costs of seminarians of the regional seminary, Corpus Christi College.

Donations to this Appeal through the Catholic Theological College Fund are tax deductible. <https://ctc.edu.au/community/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/>



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
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OF DIVINITY

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



CHURCH SECURITY Group members and parishioners are reminded to check that **ALL doors** of the church and gathering space **are securely locked** and **all lights are off** when you leave after evening Masses and meetings. Thank you.

FOR SALE: Medium size suitcase with 4 wheels, hardly used, as new-\$50. Please contact Office on 9435 1543 if interested.

BOXES FOR FREE —Ten packing/removal boxes and two containers of packaging material eg bubble wrap etc. available for free. If interested please call the Parish Office on 94351543.



Dear Parishioners, I share with you the news that I shall retire from my role of Parish Secretary of St. Mary's at the end of May. I have worked in the Parish Office for almost 14 years and it has been a very rewarding time. I have made many wonderful friends and memories. St. Mary's is a warm and welcoming community, which I am very proud to say I am a part of. Thank you all for the support and friendships over the years. I am looking forward to this next chapter of my journey.

Best wishes to you all. Francesca.

Be informed, inspired and entertained

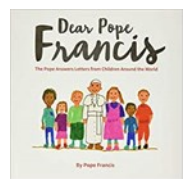
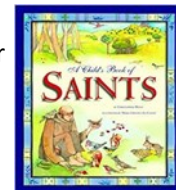
Book of the week: A couple of kids' books (suitable for children aged 5-12). A Child's Book of Saints by Christopher Doyle. This is a beautifully illustrated book featuring 26 saints from the early Christian era up to Mother Teresa of Calcutta in modern times.



Dear Pope Francis: the Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World. The children's hand-written and illustrated letters are reproduced in their own languages (with translations) and with photos of the children. The Pope's honest and respectful responses are given on facing pages.

If the Library is not open please ask a priest or sacristan to open the room and you can record your loans on the form provided. Please return in one month through the chute outside the Library.

Access to the catalogue is available at: cloud.collectorz.com/247780



THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: 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.

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.

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Discipleship Specialist - Marriage and Family Accompaniment

Executive Support Officer

Retail Shop Assistant - St Patrick's Cathedral Shop

Parish Positions

Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton

Parish Secretary – Holy Family Parish, Maidstone and Braybrook

Parish Secretary - St Joseph's Parish, Malvern

Liturgical & Sacramental Coordinator - Nazareth Parish, Torquay

Other Positions

Maintenance Officer - Corpus Christi

Philanthropy Lead - Carmel Impact

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

TREK MUSICALS PRESENT

TREK SHOWCASE

A RETROSPECTIVE JOURNEY

Featuring songs from our past shows



St Mary's Catholic Church - Sun 7th May 1:30 pm

Tickets \$20 \$15 Pen/Child

Bookings Phone: 9435 1543

Trek Musicals, established in 2016 by Graham Ford, is an organisation which presents its musicals using karaoke technology, enabling the group to perform in any location, at any time and without the need for an accompanist or orchestra.

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

CARDINAL PELL LUNCHEON & LECTURE: Aid to the Church in Need is launching an annual George Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture with the inaugural event to take place in Melbourne CBD on Sunday 21 May. The keynote speaker will be Mr David Pell, brother of the late Cardinal. For information and to register, please visit: www.trybooking.com/CGUDA

'Dare to Dream!', via Zoom, 5x Wednesday, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 May, 5.00-6.30 pm (AEST).

"We have had dreams and there is no one to interpret them..." and Joseph said to them, "do not interpretations belong to God?" (Genesis 40:8)

Join our director, Clare Shearman, and guests in our 'dream lab'. Based on the Dreams session previously offered as part of the Siloam Program, this five-week program will explore the significance of our dreams, include the practice of dream circles, provide guidance and practice for working with dreams—our own and others', consider the potential for our dreams to personally and collectively shape the future.

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$130. Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

'Pondering Grief' (in-person event), Saturday 20 May 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (AEST)

This day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Facilitated by Linda Espie a counsellor of loss, grief and bereavement for over 35 years. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost: \$80 including 'Pondering Grief' book (BYO lunch). Book and pay via website.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close. Gospel stories of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus are fascinating for their variety. There is nothing uniform in the way that Jesus made himself seen, heard, felt, recognised etc, on these occasions. In every encounter there seems to be a unique element. In this account from Luke's Gospel, wonder and reflection are integral parts of a conversion experience.



Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

23 April 2023

First Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing
can shake me.

So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:17-21

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in

silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when
you speak.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This story is the story of each one of us at Mass. Each Mass is structured on the Road to Emmaus travelogue.

Two men set off on a journey of their own making. At the beginning of Mass we confess that we have gone off course.

The traveller helps the men on the road to Emmaus understand what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth by showing God's plan revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Scriptures expounded, revealing more fully the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Every so often you will experience the burning sensation in your heart as something that is said hits home.

The traveller takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them to eat. In that moment of bread-sharing, the two men recognised their travelling companion as the Risen Lord. Eat the bread consecrated at Mass, and we receive into our very being the Divine Companion for our journey through life.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the privilege at every Mass of having our eyes opened so that we recognise Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia!

mtate@bigpond.com

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