



Sunday 31st March 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

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: Lisa Leahy

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 Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **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

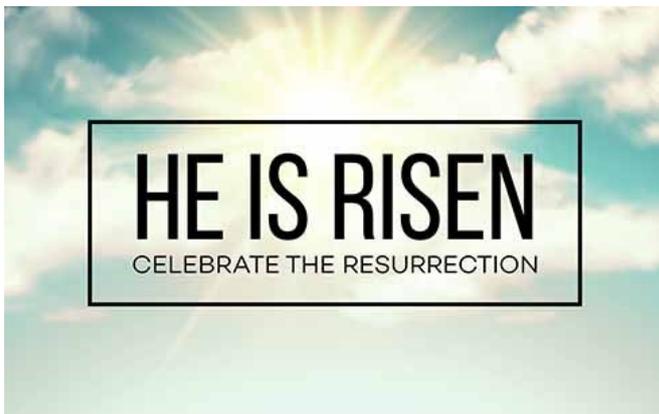
Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: CHRIST, OUR HOPE, IS RISEN!

ALLELUIA

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Easter Sunday Year B, 31 March 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/easter-sunday-second-sunday-year-b-2024>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/



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.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH COMMUNION (SUNDAYS) &
LITURGY OF THE WORD WITHOUT COMMUNION (WEEKDAYS)**

With now only two priests across our three parishes there may be occasions when the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word will have to replace Mass. For **Sundays and Saturday evenings** there is normally a supply priest engaged to replace one or the other of us when either is on vacation. However, it may happen that a supply priest fails to turn up for a variety of reasons. On these occasions a trained member of the parish will lead a **Liturgy of the Word with communion** being distributed as part of the ceremony. On **weekdays**, when one or other of us is away on vacation, there will be the celebration of the **Liturgy of the Word without communion** being distributed.

Some have asked why there is no distribution of communion at weekday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, when at the end of the ceremony, some ministers of communion to the sick may well take hosts from the tabernacle to distribute communion to parishioners in their homes and Aged Accommodation places. We have also had people saying that if we did have Communion at these celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, they might come to these celebrations. I would like to outline some important theological and liturgical principles about the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word when a priest is not available to celebrate Mass.

A Communion service can never substitute for Mass. If there is no Mass that can be reasonably attended by the faithful, then there is no Mass obligation. In the absence of Mass, the community is invited by the Church to pray the Liturgy of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. This is led by a member of the parish trained to lead these celebrations, who will also possibly read a reflection on the readings to assist those who gather to contemplate them more deeply. It is possible that the leader of these celebrations may open it to others who are gathered, to share some personal faith reflections on the readings. It is important that if this is done, it is not to be used as an opportunity by any of those who gather for prayer to engage in theological debates, but as opportunities for faith sharing.

Although the Church does foresee a Liturgy of the Word with Communion (i.e., a Communion service) as a possibility on a Sunday, the Church asks that such liturgies be rarely permitted on weekdays. The Church sees Communion services during the week when there is no priest as an extraordinary exception rather than the norm. The 2003 Vatican Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, in considering the integral nature of Communion to the Celebration of the Eucharist (Mass), states: *"It is necessary to avoid any sort of confusion between this type of gathering [i.e. a Sunday Celebration of the Word with Holy Communion] and the celebration of the Eucharist. The diocesan Bishops, therefore, should prudently discern whether Holy Communion ought to be distributed in these gatherings..."* [165.]

Even on Sundays, the Code of Canon Law recommends a simple Liturgy of the Word rather than a Communion service: *"If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place according to the prescripts of the diocesan bishop or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families".* (canon 1248 §2)

We see here how important it is to protect our understanding of the centrality of the Celebration of the Eucharist. Imagine how easy it would be for people to encourage a distorted understanding of Eucharist if we are to introduce the reception of Communion outside of Mass as a norm. *"Likewise, especially if Holy Communion is distributed during such celebrations [i.e. Sunday Celebrations of the Word], the diocesan Bishop, to whose exclusive competence this matter pertains, must not easily grant permission for such celebrations to be held on weekdays, especially in places where it was possible or would be possible to have the celebration of Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday. Priests are therefore earnestly requested to celebrate Mass daily for the people in one of the churches entrusted to their care."* [166.]

To reinforce the centrality of Eucharist and the Sunday Celebration; the Lord's Day as the principle celebration for the community, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Guidelines stress the importance of only having Communion with Celebrations of Liturgy of the Word in the Absence of a Priest, on a Sunday and only when necessary. Sunday, or its vigil, is the day on which the community of faith gathers. Weekday Masses are the privilege we have because we still have enough priests. That has not always been the case, especially in generations past in Australia and it is certainly still the case in many countries. We don't have a *right* to the Eucharist. It is a gift. We come to the Eucharist in humility, to remember, to give thanks, to become the body of Christ and to be sent into the world with God's mission.

Finally, it is foreseen that at the end of the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, ministers of communion to the sick may take hosts from the tabernacle to distribute them to the sick and elderly who cannot participate in the liturgy in the church. The purpose of the tabernacle is primarily for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament for devotion and prayer in the church, but equally important is that the reserved Blessed Sacrament be available for distribution of communion to the sick and elderly at any time.

It is the commitment of the priests of the parish to celebrate the Mass on most weekdays, however that is not always possible. When a priest is not available, the community is asked to gather to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word without distribution of communion. Please come and join those who gather for our celebrations of Liturgy of the Word. Truly, Christ is present in his Word when we gather in prayer.

Fr. Steven Rigo (Parish Priest)

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS



Women's Dinner

Sacred Heart 2024

Friday 3 May @ 7pm

Sacred Heart Parish Hall

📍 25 GIPSON STREET, DIAMOND CREEK

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN

ENJOY A TWO-COURSE MEAL AND AN EVENING OUT WITH FRIENDS
AND OUR INSPIRATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER **LINDA PETROVSKI**

World Transplant Games Gold Medalist & Owner of Infinity 360 Health & Fitness, Diamond Creek, Linda's empowering story is one of resilience and gratitude as a kidney donor recipient and Fit for Life Ambassador for Transplant Australia.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE MOTIVATED AND UPLIFTED!

👥 INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BOOKINGS (MAX 10 PER TABLE) WELCOME

💰 \$35 PER HEAD

🔗 www.trybooking.com/CQICQ



🎁 RAFFLE DONATIONS AND OFFERS OF HELP ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

☎ Direct Bookings & Enquiries

PATRICIA 0418 992 488 OR TONINA 0419 154 524



JAMES

Discerning

ZOOM course

7 Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm

April 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4



The objective of the "James" course is to take a journey through the Letter of James, learning how to discern our own lives in the light of the Word of God.

It is not a comprehensive course on discernment, but rather an introduction, with some criteria in approaching the art of discerning.

Book before April 22 at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CQKNK>

Booking fee \$35, Concession \$25,

Overseas participant code: OVASEA



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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Lenny, Mila and Oscar who will be welcomed into our community in March.

WOMEN'S DINNER: Friday 3rd May @7pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. See attached flyer.

DIAMOND CREEK CARE COMMUNITY: Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the Communion Roster for DCCC, Broad Gully Road Diamond Creek. We visit at 10.30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Thank you

EASTER MUGS: a range of religious and non religious Easter Mugs \$10 are available at the back of the church. All proceeds are for our church. Thank you Rosemary.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: during 9am mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of school terms for children from preschool to grade 3. Volunteer leaders are welcome. Working with children card and safeguarding training is mandatory. Training provided.

For information call Jasna Bruce 0403827350.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting 11th April. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 3rd April 12pm Fish and Chips in the Parish Centre.

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

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 2nd April C. & F. Ledda

Saturday 6th April St Peter's 7.15pm

Reader: R. Nicolaisen **Commentator:** E. Gittins

Sunday 7th April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: M. Walsh **Commentator:** M. Farrell **Eucharistic Ministers:** T. Sirianni, A. Schellens

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

Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

Recently Deceased:

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au or greensborough@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you



WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS: It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Thank you to everyone who attended our St Patrick's day celebration. Raffle winner Gerry. Easter raffle winner S. Luttic.

Next meeting Wednesday 17th April at 10.15am in the gathering space. Enquiries: Maureen 9435

MASS OF ANOINTING: A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. A number of our Sacristans are currently unavailable, and others are often attending two Masses each week to provide this service for our priests and our parish. If you can help, please contact Marian mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS: Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email mamitchem@gmail.com for further information.

HOLY ROSARY is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

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 .

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms: Marcus, Darcy, Eliza, Jackson, Riley

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

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan , Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Betty Luttick, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr

Recently Deceased: Lois Jones

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

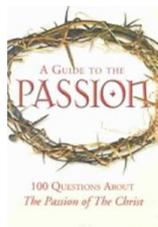
Greg Maher, Annie Heath, Mary Edwards, Kath Case, Lucy D'Souza, Tristan Cosgriff, Marie Azevedo, Theodore Grote, Henry Wessels, Arthur Maxwell, Gerard L'Huillier, Michael O'Connor, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Josephine Phelan, Daniel McCabe, John Fitzgerald, Angelita Moral, Colin Wade, Bill Reynolds, Louie Agpawa, Jenny Kenny, Colm Kiernan, Raymond Lee, Allan Doupé, Margot Doyle, Brian Doyle, Jacob de Graaff, Fr. Francis Kissane, Cecil Dorney, Mary O'Malley, Jana Radic, James Foley, Jim Barry, Stjepan Friscic, Serge Leclair, Errol Hodges, John McLean, Maudie Baillie, Jock McCorkell, Michael Heaton, Rose Emirzian, David Faux, Jennifer Mullavey, Andrew Appleton, Charles Bugeja, Bill Bunt, John Bentley, Muntague Juriansz, Sheila Caldwell, John Collins, Daniel Leahy, Kevin Boyle, Norman Seymon, Des Hill, Eliane Jean-Francois, Frances Skelton, May Early, Theresa Hodgson, Rollo Jackson, Patrick Dennis, Brian McKenna

Be informed, inspired and entertained

A Guide to the Passion: 100 Questions about The Passion of the Christ by Tom Allen et al.

Mel Gibson's stunning film The Passion of the Christ has touched thousand of hearts since its release. Yet, despite its visual and emotional impact, the dramatic events portrayed do not explain themselves; they often give rise to perplexing questions. This short book helps you delve a little deeper into some of the movie's profound riches.

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

TOGETHER COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION: at St John's Anglican Church Diamond Creek 19th – 28th April at 12 noon until 4pm.

TOGETHER 2024 is inviting local artists to display their work in the welcoming space of St John's.

All mediums welcome. Art has the power to transcend words, fostering connections that go beyond the ordinary.

TOGETHER aims to be a space where community members connect, resonate, and find common ground through the language of art.

Free Entry. www.stjohnsdc.org.au/together

AUDIO DIVINA: Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <https://therightdirt.com.au/>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

HEART OF LIFE: Meditation and Mindfulness

Join Rowland Ashby, author of A Faith to Live By: Conversations about faith with twenty-five of the world's leading spiritual teachers (Anglican Media/Mosaic Press 2012) and former Director of Anglican Media Melbourne and editor of The Melbourne Anglican as he leads this special meditation series at Heart of Life in Croydon this Autumn. This practice can be profoundly healing and life-giving. Starting on 8 April and running for 8 weeks, you can tap into a deep spring of love, joy, peace and compassion at the centre of our being. Jesus called it Living Water, with which we will never thirst. Cultivate a transforming, healing awareness of the Divine presence, and learn how to mediate.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meditation-mindfulness-in-the-christian-tradition/>

Walking the Land in Autumn

This experience on 6 April is an opportunity to walk the land along the Darebin Creek and parklands in Alphington, enjoying their wonder in autumn and being enriched by the spirituality of the earth. The day will invite you into a deeper sense of connection to the abiding mystery of the land to which we belong. The process of the day will include personal reflection and creative time. Cost of \$60 includes journaling and art material. (BYO Lunch)

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/walking-the-land-in-autumn/>

Meaning-making Awareness & Reflection

This reflective event on 20 April, offers a sacred space to reflect upon your life using a tree as a metaphor. Between 10 am – 2 pm, join our facilitator Nicole, a counsellor trained in Narrative Therapy to walk with you through this contemplative space.

Book in using this link: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meaning-making-awareness-reflection/>

Or email info@heartoflife.melbourne

Learn more about Heart of Life: www.heartoflife.melbourne

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Olivia, Jude and Harvey who are being baptised later this month.

PPC Report Wednesday, 20th March, 2024.

The following matters were discussed:

- Update on Early Learning Centre project
- Formation of Planning Committee to oversee 25th anniversary celebrations of St Thomas Church.
- Application for Artist in Residence grant deferred to 2025
- Parish information brochure and update of parish website
- A 'Thank you' card and gift for Fr Martin on behalf of parishioners have been finalised.
- St Thomas Primary School Report submitted detailing:
 - student events
 - proposal for restoration and installation of new pedestrian lines from the school to parish carpark.
 - Applications for new Principal have closed and interviews to be conducted during school holidays.
- Liturgy Team Report submitted detailing Lenten activities across the three parishes, including:
 - communal penitential service
 - Celebration of the Stations of the Cross with Benediction
- Plans for ongoing faith formation sessions after Easter are progressing
 - Future planning for St Thomas parish and mission as church.
 - Liturgy of the Word only to be offered across the three parishes in the absence of a priest on weekdays.
 - **Next meeting Wednesday 17th April, 7pm in St Thomas meeting room**

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC. StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

Roster for Weekend 6th & 7th April

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: E. Sacchetta **Commentator:** H. Fernando **Eucharistic Ministers:** K. Salm, M. Bedford

Set Up: K. Salm

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny **Commentator:** L. Hobson **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, R. Piccolo

Set Up: John Kerr

St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:

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

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

We pray for those who have died recently 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, Therese Micallef



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

It was very early in the morning when Mary Magdalene went among the graves to find Jesus: 'it was still dark'. It must have been unnerving to find an empty space where a stone and a body should have been. The resurrection took everybody by surprise, even those who had heard Jesus say, 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up' (Jn 2:19).

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

31 March 2024

First Reading Acts 10:34, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.
Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

or: 1 Cor 5:6-8

Throw away the old yeast, that you may be new dough.

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the

linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

or: Mk 16:1-7

Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has risen.

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter. "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

or at Evening Mass: Lk 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

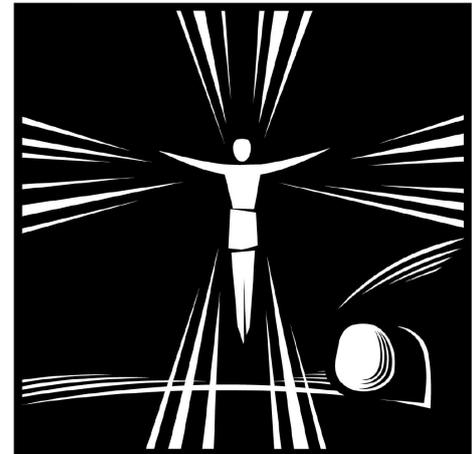
Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said 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 Dianne Bergant CSA

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

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