

4th Sunday of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday, Year A 2nd - 3rd May 2020

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles Acts 2:14.36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord

'Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us, and save us.'

Pope Francis – from the Message for 2020 World Day of Vocations



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4th SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year A Good Shepherd Sunday 2nd - 3rd May 2020

In God's Care

In a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has been spreading throughout the world, many of us are fearful and uncertain about our future. Many have lost a sense of security; some have lost loved ones. And I wonder whether you, while listening to or reading today's Responsorial Psalm, have felt the consoling word of God and heard his loving whisper: *"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit."*

Jesus often used the image of shepherds and sheep to show his care for others. In the Gospel today, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, speaks of the relationship between the Shepherd and the sheep. The image of the Shepherd and sheep is old but the message is still relevant to us: by our trust in Jesus, our relationship with Him is alive and personal.

The Good Shepherd knows his own sheep. He calls each of his sheep by name. For Jesus we are not just numbers, not one among many. He does know us personally. He also personally loves us and bears each one of us in His heart. Therefore we must also know Him, and to know Jesus does not only mean an act of faith, but also an act of charity and love.



We may ask ourselves today: do we belong to His flock, do we know Him? St. Gregory the Great tells us: "I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love. And love is shown in our deeds."

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, identifies himself with the Gate of the sheepfold. If the sheep are to flourish, to be fully alive, they have to come and go through the gate, which then becomes their means of access to both protection and growth.

Jesus says: "Whoever enters through me will be saved". And further in John's Gospel He insists: "No one comes to the Father except through me". In Jesus' sheepfold we can feel secure even in times of fear and uncertainty. Only through a lively relationship with the Good Shepherd will we and our community find life, peace, security and growth.

Today we pray for all those in leadership roles, especially parents and teachers, priests, religious and lay leaders, that they will be attentive to the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow His example, as they are entrusted with caring for God's sheepfold.

Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,

Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solo-

mon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday-Friday: 1pm

Saturday: 9am

Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Mass

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday mornings at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday mornings at 8:30am

World Day of Prayer for Vocations - 3rd May

In his message for the 2020 World Day of Vocations Pope Francis tells us:

"Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives".

Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

What can I do? Each one of us can do something for the future of the Church in our nation.

The most important and essential thing that you can do is to pray. Intentionally, regularly, insistently. Make a decision today to include a prayer for vocations in your daily prayers.

Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) Seminarians - Box Hill



May – a Month Devoted to Mary


Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. "Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, our mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican April 25th.

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view." "You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow."

The Legion of Mary invites those of you who would like to pray the Rosary with them every Thursday at 8 pm. For more information, please contact Janice on 0422320708.

WE PRAY FOR:
The elderly and the sick
*Lopisoni Amato, Alan Castles,
Nicola D'Orazio, Valerie McGuire &
Vincent Sievers*

We Commemorate
*Helen Perolina Castillo,
John McNamara and Bert Sievers*
O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.



Thanksgiving Offering Easter Time

Thank you for your ongoing support and contribution through direct debit. Due to current circumstances, we are unable to receive your cash contributions through envelopes, but if possible you can make via Direct Bank Debit directly to the Parish bank account using these details:

Bank: NAB
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Church
BSB: 083-347
Account Number: 658787823

Or for the 2nd collection to:

Bank: NAB
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Presbytery
BSB: 083-347
Account Number: 659026014

We understand that due to these very uncertain times, financial circumstances of our parishioners might have changed. Please contact us promptly if this is the case and you need to alter your giving or need other practical support. If you have any queries about the above, please contact the Office on 94803398 for assistance.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



Prayer for Vocations

O God, who chose the apostles
of all nations,
And who by Baptism and
Confirmation has called us to build up
your Holy Church,
We implore you to choose
from among us, your children,
Many priests and religious who will love
you with their whole hearts
And will gladly spend their lives to
make you better known
and loved by all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son.

We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people.

Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage 2020

When the disciples left Jerusalem some might enquire 'what did they do?' 'where did they go?'. Our pilgrimage to the upper room in many ways will resemble the disciples'.

Whether we are in a real pilgrimage or a virtual pilgrimage what's important is not so much the 'where' and the 'how' it's about 'who'.

Our time together on this pilgrimage is about to 'who' we are moving towards, with each step and each talk. Just as the disciples did, we will encounter our risen Jesus on our pilgrimage many times before we arrive in the upper room for Pentecost.

Register NOW for FREE at pentecolspilgrimage.com and get unlimited access to talks provided twice per week.

Pray the Regina Caeli

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.
Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world
through the resurrection of Your son, our Lord
Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through
the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



SmartLoving - Breakthrough

All marriages go through periods of stress and disillusionment, especially when we in isolation. Every husband and wife needs to be proactive in keeping our marriages healthy by addressing the hurts we have accumulated and resolving any resentment.

SmartLoving BreakThrough Online will teach you how conflict arises in intimate relationships and show you how to take simple steps to heal any wounds, dissolve resentment and restore hope.

For information and to learn more, visit:
<https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>

Collections

1st Collection: \$485.00
Direct Debit for April: \$1420.00
2nd Collection: \$110.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Praying during the COVID-19 lockdown

I invite you to a meditation prayer with Father Richard Shortall SJ. It takes about 24 minutes. You will find it here: <https://email.jesuitcommunications.com/t/d-l-mijyutk-qituddttu-p/>

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