



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.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In Jesus' time, the shepherd lead from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the *thief* from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a *brigand*, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly.

Alleluia!

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Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

3 May 2020

First Reading 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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

*(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

or

(R.) Alleluia.

- 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. (R.)
- He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

- You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

- Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 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.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 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

3 May 2020

Today is the 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. (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020)

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.

Let us also pray during this mass for the souls of all the priests of our Diocese and all those who have served in our parish and in our Diocese.

Pope Francis – Message for 2020 Word Day of Vocations

'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.'

'The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice – like marriage or special consecration to his service – calls for courage. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear".

'Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations.'

What can I do?

Each one of us can do something for the future of the Church in our nation. We all want and need more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. What can I do? The most important and essential thing that each of us can do is to pray. Intentionally, regularly, insistently. Make a decision today to include a prayer for vocations in your daily prayers.

On Line ideas

At this time when we are communication with people on line much of the time, it is an opportunity to enter into the world of young people, and engage with them in a new way. The Masses that are being streamed may be one of the few times that they may engage with the Church; the posts on social media, the new and innovative ways of pastoral ministry – these are all opportunities to spread the message of vocation in a new way.

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IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Margaret McConville, Angela Proietto

RECENTLY DECEASED

Wal Donovan

ANNIVERSARIES

Lewis Camilleri, Cesidio Danese, Rocco Cornacchia, Michele Cornacchia

All priests who have served our parish and Diocese.

MONTH OF MAY – MONTH OF ROSARY

Month dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary

Though not able to come together to pray the Rosary at St Peter's Church, we encourage you to have a family Rosary at home every day during the month of May. Hopefully we will be able to come together again soon.

The Family that prays together, Stays Together.

Let us pray to our Blessed Mother Virgin Mary.

SELF-ISOLATING? OUR PARISH IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

If you are in need of some assistance with shopping, being taken to appointments etc, please call the Parish Office on 9337 4141. We have volunteers who can assist. If you are feeling a bit lonely and would just enjoy a friendly chat over the phone, please let us know. We are here to help where we can.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – PROJECT COMPASSION

Please return your Project Compassion donations by Tuesday, 12th May or call the Parish Office to arrange for pick up from your home.

COVID-19 Crisis Appeal. This year, Caritas Australia is running an urgent appeal as a Project Compassion extra wave. Many in Australia are doing it tough, but we are asking those who feel able to assist in aiding the many throughout the world whose lives and families may well be devastated by the pandemic.

Details:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/covid-19-crisis-appeal>

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Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson & Mrs Sherrill Johnson

A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.

Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.