

Giving life willingly

Jesus emphasises that, in giving his life for his sheep, he is doing so of his own will. It is not just by force of circumstances. His death is to be the living proof that "the greatest love a person can show is to give one's life for one's friends". This is the proof that Jesus truly is a Good Shepherd.

As Jesus himself says in the Gospel today, "I lay down my life of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again." And so it was. The Second Reading contains part of an address Peter gave in the Temple after he and John had cured a crippled beggar at the Temple's Beautiful Gate. The healing of the man in the name of the crucified Jesus through the agency of Peter and John is the proof that Jesus is risen and working among us.

All of this is intimately linked with the second theme of this Sunday. Not only is it Good Shepherd Sunday, it is also "Vocations Sunday". On this day we are especially asked first of all to pray that the Church may be provided with the leaders needed to do its work of spreading the Gospel.

But the problem is a wider one. We have for too long given a much too narrow meaning to the word 'vocation'. We tend to limit it to a calling to be a priest or a member of a religious institute. But, in fact, every single one of us has a vocation. For most of us, probably, it is what we are now doing be it as spouses, parents, teachers, doctors, civil servants, running a business, salespersons... or whatever.

Nevertheless, each one of us should be asking ourselves today:

Is what I am spending my energies on every day my real vocation?

Is this what God wants me to be doing with my life?

How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith?

What contribution am I offering to making this world a better place for people to live in?

To what extent am I a spreader of truth, of love, of justice, of freedom, of tolerance and acceptance...?

And, if I am in a position which would be difficult to change (as a spouse or parent or holding a particular job), how, within that situation, is God calling me to greater service of my Church and my community? Am I giving something through my life or am I just using society (and even the Church) to get what I want?

God is calling every single one of us to work for the Gospel. For a small number it may be as a priest or religious – and that call can come at any time in one's life. But there are hundreds of other ways of serving the Church and helping to build up the Christian community. Where is God calling me to make my own unique contribution based on the particular talents God has given me?

If every single one of us were to answer that question sincerely and to act upon it, I am confident that our Church would have all the leadership it needs.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR

Pastoral Associate

School Principal

Fr Michael Kong

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School:

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Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

MASS TIMES

Saturday 6.00 pm (Vigil for Sunday)

Sunday 8.45 am & 10.30 am

Wednesday 9.15 am

Thursday 7.00 pm

You can register through the parish website <https://stolivers.org.au/>
& Click "Join Sunday Mass"

Confessions Saturday 10 —10.30 am (*Held outside at back of church between church and presbytery*)

Baptisms 2nd Saturday of the month (by appointment)

Marriages By appointment with at least 6 months notice

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday	Christian Meditation	7-8 pm Parish Centre (contact Chris Rowland 0411 440 746)
Tuesday	Italian Ladies Prayer Group	10.00 am Meeting Room
	Charismatic Prayer Group	7.30 pm Church
Wednesday	Drop-In Centre	1 - 3 pm Church/Parish Centre
Thursday	St Vincent de Paul	5.30 pm Meeting Room (<i>last Thursday of the month</i>)

FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 11AM: Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)
6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and

<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 24/25 APRIL 2021

- Entrance Antiphon:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.
- Response to the Psalm:** **The stoner rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.**
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!
- Communion Antiphon:** The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life
for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia!

Please remember in your prayers the following:

- Those who have died:** Guiseppe Carbone
- Anniversaries:** Mauro Aparo, Edorado Pertile, Fabiola Pertile
- Those who are ill:** Gina, Scerri, Maria Coreno, Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech,
Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy,
Eileen Squires, Lamberto, Adelaida & Luisa Cruz,
Vicenta Santos

24/25 April

1/2 May

READERS:

Sat 6 pm	N. Farrell [L], W. Cahill [R]	A. Breen [L], C. Rowland [R]
Sun 8.45 am	M. Carabott [L], B. Messina [R]	B. Messina [L], M. Tamayo [R]
10.30 am	O. Aquino [L], B. Watts [L]	R. Cassidy [L], C. Grech [R]

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat 6 pm	C. Rowland	M. Pascoe
Sun 8.45 am	M. Bolitho	T. Baltatzis
10.30 am	S. Harrison	E. Monaco

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

Vocation Sunday

Today is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us:

There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends.

May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

Saint Joseph: The Dream of Vocation

'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes.'



Corpus Christi College and Catholic Theological College

Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal

Support the training of priests for tomorrow's Church

Your (tax deductible) donation will support the living arrangements and education for the Corpus Christi College seminarians.

Donate via our website: www.ctc.edu.au



Please return the project compassion box. You can place it in the box provided at the altar steps on the right side of church or drop off at the parish office on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9am and 3pm.

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.

COVID19 INSTRUCTIONS People must carry a fitted face covering at all times. Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors, but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained. Please come 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass starts.

Please visit our website for the newest update from the Archdiocese regarding liturgical guidelines: <https://stolivers.org.au/>