

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 John 3:1-2

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

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

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

John 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

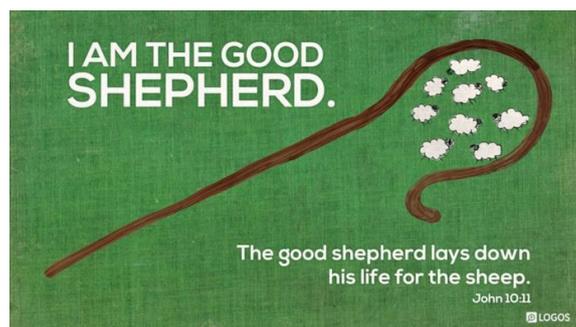
Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down 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 this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Next Sunday Readings

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel John 15:1-8



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

The Catholic Church in the Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
 Phone: 97542141
 Office Hours: 9.30am–2pm Tuesday to Friday
 Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave

The Parish of St Thomas More and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Our Parish Vision Statement:
We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....

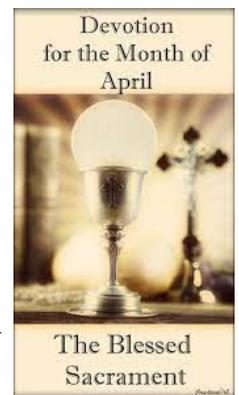
CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk
		Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Main Road	17 Terry Avenue, Belgrave	59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B - 20th/ 21st April, 2024

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Two major themes emerge from the readings: an image of the one who saves; and the power of salvation itself. The one who saves is not a mighty warrior who comes in military array. In fact, he is the one who was rejected, who was hunted down, humiliated, tortured and hung naked on a tree, there to die in shame. The one who saves is the cornerstone of the building, holding it together, forming a firm foundation so that the structure will not collapse. The one who saves is a lowly shepherd, entrusted with sheep, not with the affairs of state. The one who saves is an unlikely saviour. This characterisation should give us pause. Is it possible that we have been looking for a saviour in the wrong places?

God's saving power flows from steadfast covenant love. It broke open the world in the death and resurrection of Jesus and it overflows as healing grace. The saving power in the name of Jesus, a name that itself means 'saviour' (cf. Matt 1:21), is for all people, even for those sheep who do not yet belong to this fold. Furthermore, it is for all time; God's mercy endures forever. Through our baptism we can bring the saving grace of God to a world in desperate need of healing. We can do this in our families, in our local communities, in the workplace, in so many situations of our lives.



<https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Apr21/0/RefDiBer>

WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.

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Parish Office:	Jeanette Wicks 97542759	St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully Principal: Ms Cathy Livingston Phone: 9758 2000
Sacraments :	Monica Rayner	
Child Safety Contacts:		
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:		
Chairperson	Evie	
Monbulk:	Sue Luxford	
Belgrave:	David Bhoynz	
Gembrook:		
Emerald:	Evie and Irene Reed	

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Kevin Colliss.

Vera May Berry, the wife of Alfred (dec) and the mother of Jane, Simon, Patrick and Laura.

- Funeral mass for late **Vera May Berry** will be on Tuesday, 23rd April at 11am at St. Thomas More church Belgrave.

Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Fr Bob Maguire, Carl Galloway, Louise Sullivan, Rosa & Guiseppe Frazetto, Evelyn (Lauris) Fraser, Frank Carville.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Rebecca Jane Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Maureen Lyons, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

- **Sick List: If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97542141.**

Those who wish to visit Jane Schellenbach, please meet her at (Menarock aged care) Room no.10A Sherbrook, Upper Ferntree Gully.

Thank you.

Baptism



Let us welcome **Ella Mitchell** into our faith community. May she be richly blessed throughout her life constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

For details relating to Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2024 — Month of April

For the role of women — We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2024>

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday May 12 is Mother's Day and we are once again calling all makers; bakers; sewers and growers to help us have another 'craft table' day on that Sunday.

If you are in anyway able to help us stock this event with home made items for selling on that day we would be most grateful.

The need to somehow raise funds for the various needs/ projects around the parish centres is never ending and this is one small way in which we can be involved.

Many thanks in advance,

Marianne Kuyper



Catholic Theological College

Sign up for one of 9 short, online sessions.

Engaging Your Faith: May 2024

*Theology, Scripture, Meditation,
Spirituality, Science & Faith.*

Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.

For more information and to register:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/



St Paul's Monbulk TERM 2 - PREP TASTER DAYS

Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's!

COME ALONG!!!

Invitation to: 3yo, 4yo and 5yo pre school children

9.30-10.30am

Thu 2 May - BEAR HUNT

Wed 15 May - MATHS MADNESS

Thu 30 May - SCIENCE FAIR

Wed 12 June - LET'S DANCE

Please register: 9756 7201

email: office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au



21 April (Fourth Sunday of Easter)



Today is the World Day of Prayer for 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.

Catholic Vocations Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002
Australia PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia Telephone: (03) 9926 5733



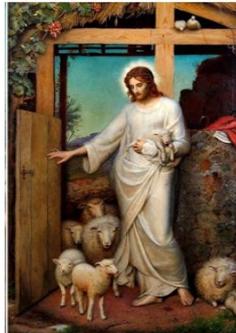
Email: vocations@cam.org.au
www.vocations.melbournecatholic.org

4th Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because that is the theme of the Gospel.

That had previously been the Gospel of what we today call the Third Sunday of Easter but, during the revision of the Lectionary (the Church's book of readings) after Vatican II, the Gospel of the Good Shepherd was pushed off one week to allow more Gospels of Jesus' post-Easter appearances to the Apostles to be read (e.g., Jesus on the Road to Emmaus last Sunday).

Today also marks a shift in the post-Easter Gospel readings. Whereas the previous two Sundays focused more on concrete events in terms of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, the emphasis today and for the upcoming Sundays moves to Jesus' teaching about his impending Ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. (It makes a column about "Scripture and Art" harder to write, as few artists paint abstract theological concepts.) The First Readings remain historical accounts of the life of the early Church from the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus as Good Shepherd, the guardian of the sheepfold, is also an ecclesiological text: this is a theology of the Church. The Church is Christ's sheepfold. There are no lone sheep: the sheep who wanders from the flock, from the sheepfold, is in danger. He's not free, out to "define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe and of the mystery of human life." He's lost, exposed and in danger. He needs to be rescued. He needs to be saved. There is an order to the sheepfold, and it's the Good Shepherd who maintains it.



He's the gatekeeper. He opens ... and closes. His voice is normative: the sheep "hear his voice" and follow him. The sheep know to listen for the voice they know, not the stranger's siren call.

In grouping them as a flock and keeping them in a sheepfold, the Good Shepherd does not suppress their freedom or trample on their "autonomy." The Good Shepherd and the Gate guarantee the safety of the sheep, not out of mean considerations but "that they might have life and have it more abundantly." As the Second Reading puts it, Christ is "the shepherd and guardian of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25) who has brought you back from the strays.

The image of the shepherd had a long and mixed tradition in the Bible. We hear an echo of that in the Responsorial Psalm — "the Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23). Shepherds already appear in Bethlehem. The Bible also recognizes Bad Shepherds, whom Jesus today calls "thieves and marauders" that only divide and confuse the sheep. Elsewhere, Jesus makes clear the sheep are "his," i.e., they belong to him, and it is that relationship — and not the relationship of a hireling — that makes a Good Shepherd.

Today's Gospel speaks of how the sheep should act, but it's also an important lesson for shepherds: bishops, priests, all who have leadership roles in the Church. Their responsibility is to be like the Good Shepherd, speaking his voice and protecting the integrity of his sheepfold, out front leading.

Jesus is also, paradoxically, both Shepherd and Sheep. He is the "Lamb of God," the spotless Lamb offered on the cross who takes away the sins of the world. This theme is captured in today's painting, by the late 19th-century British artist Sybil Parker. Her "Door of the Fold," an oil painting from 1895, presents Jesus in his gatekeeper function, the one who opens the door of the fold. Under his right hand — the hand of authority — five sheep venture out, taking in the environment but in trust toward their Shepherd. At his left foot, a sheep lies down in peace (see Psalm 4:8). A little lamb — a recovered lost sheep? — reclines on Jesus' left arm. Jesus looks with care at his charges. A priest has noted the correlation between the Good Shepherd and his role as the sacrificial Lamb of God. Note that, over Christ's shoulder, the wood of the sheep shed forms a cross. To his left are elements of his Passion: the rock hill (of Calvary), the scarlet robe, the inscription.

The purity of the scene — Christ in white, the sheep washed white as wool, contrasts to strong color of the crimson robe: "Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as wool; though they be red as crimson, they may become white as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

In the rafters are grapes and wheat, allusions to the Eucharist, where that sacrifice is perpetuated. Two doves nestle in the woodwork, reminding us of the two turtle doves offered at Christ's Presentation, the stipulated sacrifice of the poor (Leviticus 14:22, Luke 2:24).

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/scriptures-and-art-good-shepherd-sunday>