

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B

Entrance Antiphon: 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 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

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. **(R.)**

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **(R.)**

A reading from the first letter of St John 1 Jn 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:

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

Jn 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 week's readings:

First Reading:	Acts 9:26-31
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26
Second Reading:	1 Jn 3:18-24
Gospel :	Jn 15:1-8





Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

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Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave
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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 Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Forth Sunday of Easter Year B (Good Shepherd Sunday) — 25th April, 2021

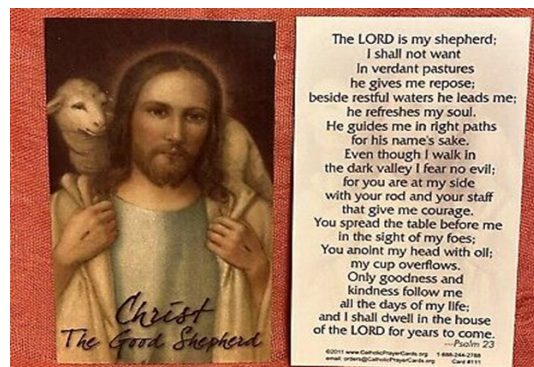
When Jesus spoke to the people of his time, he used images with which they were quite familiar. In his day, anyone walking in the countryside could see shepherds watching over their sheep. Stories about wolves attacking the sheep—and the reactions of those who were tending them, depending on whether they owned the sheep or were merely hired hands—were no doubt commonplace in Jesus' time. And so the parable of the "Good Shepherd" was readily understandable to his audience.

In today's gospel, Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd, and that he gives his life for his sheep. Jesus isn't talking about sheep here, he's talking about people—he's talking about you and me. A lot of people don't like to be compared to sheep. For one thing, sheep are not very smart. Our sheep were always getting tangled up in bushes; once in a while one of them would get its head stuck in the fence as it tried to eat the grass just on the other side of it, even though there was a whole field behind him. Sometimes they could be stubborn. When they got sick, they didn't want to take their medicine. At other times they were timid and fearful.

The sheep in Jesus' time were probably much the same. Maybe that's why he decided to talk about sheep when he was really talking about people. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Despite our stupidity at times, our stubbornness and fear, he loves us and cares for us. He offers what is good for us, even when we refuse it or want to do something else. The Good Shepherd, Jesus tells us, has a personal relationship with each of his flock. He stays with us in the midst of danger and hardship. He will not abandon us. He watches over us. He gently calls us when we begin to stray, and seeks us out when we are lost. I think Jesus' description of himself as the Good Shepherd, with all that entails, can be reassuring to us that the Lord will never abandon us. He will protect us even though we may not see or hear him.

As we contemplate Jesus the Good Shepherd today, St. Pope John Paul II declared the fourth Sunday of Easter a day of prayer for vocations. We pray that many may listen to the voice of Jesus as he calls, that they may enter the sheepfold through him and be safe and have life and live it to the fullest.

Source: <https://www.augustinian.org/homilies>



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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

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

Prayer for the deceased:

Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Campion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Please pray before the Recessional Hymn

St Joseph Prayer



Heavenly Father,

St Joseph set aside his own plans
to embrace your dream for us.

You invited his help in caring
for Jesus your Son, our Saviour,
and the Revealer of your wonderful love.

Enable us to live by your loving plan
and to reflect to the world the light of Christ.

St Joseph, man of dreams
and trusting steward, pray for us.

Lord Jesus,

You grew in wisdom and maturity
as you lived in the family
of Nazareth in daily communion
with St Joseph and Mary your mother.

From St Joseph you learned
the dignity of human work.

Give parents the wisdom
to support their children and to guide them
in the way and work of your Kingdom.

St Joseph, faithful parent
and diligent worker, pray for us.

Creator Spirit,

We see in St Joseph a tenderness
and reverence for all your creation.

We learn from him to approach others justly
and tenderly, and to see our world as endowed
with the glory of God.

Teach us to love one another
and to be of humble service to all of creation,
empowered by your life within us.

St Joseph, wise protector and humble servant,
pray for us.



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Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal Your (tax deductible)
donation will support the living arrangements and edu-
cation for the Corpus Christi College seminarians.

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



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Happy Birthday to Fay Ryan



Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- People must carry a fitted face covering at all times.** Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors (except in particular circumstances, note above), 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.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 100 people Emerald - 60 people
 Monbulk - 80 people Gembrook - 60 people

Invitation to Sr Joan Chittister on The Future of Catholicism - A Virtual Event

JOAN CHITTISTER TO SPEAK ON THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH

We invite you to join Sister Joan Chittister at a free virtual event on Sunday May 2, 2021 that is sure to speak to the deep desires among Australian Catholics for a fresh vision, and new directions for the Church.

Garratt Publishing, in conjunction with the Australian Catholic University, is proud to sponsor this, the first of three convocations, convened by ACCCR (Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform) under the heading, The Future of Catholicism in Australia, in support of the Plenary Council process.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, will send greetings to the Convocation registrants on the day.

Joan's presentation will be followed by small group (virtual breakout) discussions, a plenary session, and her own closing/summary comments.

EVENT DETAILS:

WHEN: Sunday May 2, 2021

TIME: 9.00 – 10.30am (AEST) *For start times around Australian and overseas, see end of blog.

WHERE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

COST: Free

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

RSVP BY: 12pm Friday April 29, 2021

Sacrament Workshop

SACRAMENT	St Thomas More	St Paul's Church
CONFIRMATION ceremony	Sat 29 May 12pm	Sat 29 May 2pm
Workshop - Parent/Child	Tuesday 27 April 6.30-7.30pm	Wed 31 March 3.30pm
Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop	Thurs 27 May 3.30 - 4.30pm	Tuesday 18 May 3.30pm
To enroll please call the parish office during office hours.		
FIRST RECONCILIATION ceremony	Thurs 17 June 3.30 - 5.30pm	Wed 16 June 3.30 - 5.30pm
Workshop - Parent/Child	Wed 9 June 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 2 June 3.30 - 4.30pm
FIRST EUCHARIST ceremony	Sun 22 Aug 9.00 am	Sun 15 Aug 10.30am
Workshop - Parent/Child	Thurs 29 July 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 14 July 3.30pm
Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop	Thurs 12 Aug 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 11 Aug 3.30pm

First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave—1st of May

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary is prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. During the holy hour of Adoration, Priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Lady of Fatima asked for 5 consecutive Saturdays. To learn more about this request from Our Lady we need to learn more about Fatima flyers in the foyer.

First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave — 7th of May

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary Prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. There are twelve promises given to St Margaret Alacoque about the First Friday. We need to do 9 consecutive first Fridays. There are flyers in the foyer.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

