

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Diamond Creek: Angela Caccetta, Thelma Gill, Noela Atkinson, Lyn Stark, Novan Nguyen, Kay Christian, Catherine Leonard, Di Galea, Les Gale, June Saunders, Marjana Susec, Lucy Cassin, Paul Croft.

Greensborough North: Jo Herbert, Helene Grech, John Muscat, Noel Casemore.

We pray for those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of April that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom

Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy, Alan Ridsdale, Mary Cho Nguyen, Prisca Rosario, Osvaldo Porcaro, Lina Bertuna, Margaret McCarthy, Dino Bianchin, Bill Schultz, Brian Brown, Alessandro Sacchetta, Reg Cummins, Pat Hart, Iris Hartley, Joy Joseph, Roy Kilkenny, Anastasis Rendina, Sylvester Ellul, Ray Money, Rod Nettleton.

COMMUNITY LIFE

LADIES DINNER AT SACRED HEART Friday 4th May 7pm in Parish Hall. \$30ph carvery & dessert.. Come on ladies put it in your diary and start organising a table of friends for a good night of chat and giggles and catching up with old friends. RSVP 1st May to Pat in the Parish Office on 94381159 **Raffle tickets available after 9.00am Mass**

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Sacred Heart fundraiser 2018 Entertainment Books: \$70.00 book or digital. Only 4 books remaining. Please contact Pat 9438 1159

SENIOR MOMENTS Wednesday 2nd May; Lunch and Neil Diamond Show at the Greensborough RSL. Car pool 11.30am from the Parish Centre.

ST. MARY'S MATURE AGE GROUP Our next outing to Woop Woop on the 9th May 2018, with 2 course lunch at the Cumberland Hotel. Cost is \$47 Members & Non Members \$54. Bus will be leaving William Street entrance at 9.15am and returning home at 4.30pm. Bookings are required before each event so please contact Geraldine 0438148896, Angela 9444 6298 or Kay 9435 5736 if you are interested in attending.



PARISH COUNSELLOR This is a brief message for the St Thomas community to let you know that I will be working in the Parish again this year. You can find me at the Parish House every Tuesday during school term and I can be reached through the Parish Secretary on 9434 7373 or by contacting the Dandenong office of Catholic Care on 8710 9600. If you simply leave your name and phone number I will return your call as soon as possible. The service is offered to individuals and couples and is strictly confidential.

REMOVAL OF TREES due to the increasing movement in the pavers due to tree roots the Parish Finance Committee decided that it best to remove the trees before work commenced on repairs to the forecourt area. We intend to replant the area with trees that hopefully won't impact on the pavers.

MARY ON LEAVE Mary will be on long service leave from the Parish Office for the next few weeks. During her absence Lisa Leahy will be in the office to attend to all Parish matters. If no-one answers the phone please feel free to leave a message and Lisa will contact get back to you.

DIAMOND VALLEY MEN'S GROUP A newly formed group is starting up at the Diamond Creek Living and Learning Centre, 119 Cowin Street, Diamond Creek., every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm-9.00pm. This a chance for men to come together to talk, listen and share, all are welcome. If interested please feel free to contact: Ray 0413 185 722.

FORMATION IN FAITH

RCIA: If you are interested in learning more about your Catholic faith or perhaps looking at becoming a member of the Catholic Church please contact Mandy through either of the Parish Offices

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE in this month's issue they look at what and where people call home. The articles open the doors on peoples thinking of where home is and what it means to some people. The magazine is available in the Gathering Space at \$4 per copy.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

SAINT OF THE WEEK: Thursday: St Mark. Saturday; St Peter Chanel

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS will be celebrated at Sacred Heart on Friday 25th May at 9.15am.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION HOSTS: Gluten, Wheat, Dairy & Corn Free Communion Hosts are available for those who require them. Please see Father before Mass to arrange.

52nd WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS Message from Pope Francis Dear Brother and sisters, This the fourth Sunday of Easter offers us the figure of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep: he calls them, he feeds them and he guides them. For over fifty years now the universal Church has celebrated this Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS

In every Parish, there are two collections and two separate accounts,

The Presbytery collection/account (1st coll.) provides the pastoral stipend and living costs of the Priest.

The Church collection/account (2nd coll.) provides for the maintenance, office and staff expenses of the Parish

First Reading 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.'

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.

or:

(R.) Alleluia.

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)

Second Reading 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.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

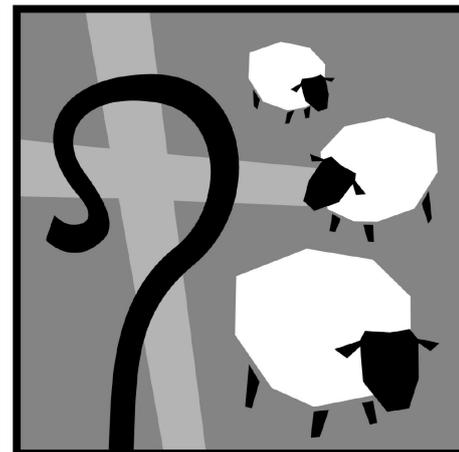
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:11-18

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.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphorical language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.

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