

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**YEAR C**

**8 May 2022**

**LITURGY AND BULLETIN**



**OPENING PRAYER**

*Almighty and ever-living God,*

*give us new strength from the courage of Christ our shepherd, and lead us to join the saints in heaven,*

*where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,*

*one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them, Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,

so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.’

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

**SECOND READING:** A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, ‘These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God’s throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.’

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said:

‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.’



**Reflection on the Gospel of John 10:27-30ybu Richard Leonard**

The point of the shepherd analogy in the Gospels, of course, is about the importance of intimacy. A sheep in those days is similar to the central role some domestic cats and dogs have in our homes. They are members of the family. Shepherds in Jesus’ day belonged to nomadic tribes that moved with their small flock throughout Israel. Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. In an agrarian society every sheep was a vital economic unit. To lose one caused trouble not only to the individual, but also to the tribe. To lose a flock was financial ruin for a generation. As a result when Jesus invokes the image of the shepherd he draws attention to the intimate knowledge and care the shepherd has of them.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus’ lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.

The possibility of being stolen away from the Christian family is a real one. We know many people who, for a variety of reasons, have left the fold and been seduced into pursuing other leads. Whereas every Sunday we affirm that we cannot find a better way to live than following the Way, the Truth and the Life which is Christ present here and now. No one can suggest it is always easy to follow the Gospel and hang in here with one another. Jesus was never under any illusions about what following his lead may cost, but he underlines how much we need each other to survive in this world.

In this Eucharist, then, let us steal a few moments to experience again the intimate love of the Risen Lord who knows, claims and loves us. May we respond by following his lead by enfolding all our world in our care and welcoming all his children into his flock.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for Pope Francis and for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: that their joint appeal will move us all to care for the earth, our common home. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who bear public witness to Christ, that the testimony of their lives will give courage and hope to all who live in the shadow of death. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for children traumatised by war: that they will get the long-term help they need to recover from their terrible suffering. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all Red Cross staff and volunteers, that the service which they, and all humanitarian agencies render will make the world a safer, healthier and more peaceful place. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for mothers, grandmothers and all who have played a motherly role in our lives, that they be blessed for the loving care they have shown us. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for young Australians preparing to vote for the first time in this month’s election, that they will consider carefully what is best for this land and all its people. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially especially Ian Vardanega, Ross Lawless, Bob Haigh, Richie Simpson, Paul Fa’Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers: that they will cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased – Elva McMillan and Val Laurie… for our own deceased relatives and friends and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will praise the glorious Lamb of God in eternal joy. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Father, eternal shepherd,*

*watch over the flock redeemed by the blood of Christ*

*and lead us to the promised land.*

*Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Weekday Mass:** suspended until Mick returns.

**Meditation:**  Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

**Social Justice Group:** Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 10.30am, at the Presbytery

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**Dear Parishioners,**

**Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal –** Collection for formation and education of our seminarians

We have three seminarians studying for the priesthood. There are other young men too, considering the priestly calling. Let us invest in the future of our Church by financially supporting them.

Please join us in generous giving. You can make a gift today:

By envelopes

By giving at: www.cgcatholic.org.au/goodshep

By calling: (02) 6239 9801

**May Jesus, our High Priest, raise up a whole generation of new priests in our Archdiocese!**

**Ecumenical celebration of Pentecost** to be held in the National Theatre on Sunday 5 June, commencing at 10am. Please put this date in your diary. It was a huge success last year so we hope for bigger and better this time.

**Fr. Mark Croker’s Jubilee celebration in Gungahlin:** Fr Mark would really like to celebrate his jubilee with all his Holy Spirit Parish and especially his old friends from earlier parishes as well.

I extend an invitation to all those in your parishes who remember his time with them to come to Holy Spirit Parish to celebrate with him at 9.30 am Mass on Sunday, 8 May, followed by a morning tea. Our street address is: 93 Burdekin Ave, Amaroo. We would love to see everyone there.

Alison Weeks, Chair Gungahlin PPC.

**Parish Dinner to Mark Completion of Repairs to the Roof: There is still time to book in!** The dinner will be held at the Braidwood Services Club on Saturday 14 May 7.00PM for 7.30PM, cost $25 per head. Please RSVP asap to [braidwood@cg.org.au](mailto:braidwood@cg.org.au), phone 4842 2444 or text 0430 169 849. We hope that as many of our parishioners as possible will attend to celebrate this significant achievement! Our local member Nicole Overall and her husband Tim will be among the invited guests.

**Are there any more Caritas Australia Project Compassion boxes to come back? I need to conclude the banking process.**

**Church cleaners needed:** I have had a lovely new parishioner volunteer to help clean the church. It would be great if there was a volunteer who would partner with her. Please contact Helen on 0430 169 849.

**Offerings acknowledged with thanks:** 1st: $147. 2nd: envelopes: $17. Loose: $125. Thank you also to those parishioners who contribute online and annually.

**Readings for Mass:** 1st: Acts 13:14,43-52. 2nd: Rev. 7:9,14-17. Gospel: John 10:27-30.

**Readings for next week:** 1st: Acts 14:21-27. 2nd: Rev. 21:1-5. Gospel: John 13:31-35.

**Ministry Rosters for our Masses**

**Date Acolyte Welcomer Readers Music/PP**

7 May James Geraldine Wendy M-B/Ann T Helen H

14 May Felix Helen P Michael/Cathy F Helen H

21 May Geoff Cathy F Rod/Bobbie Helen H

28 May James Geraldine Wendy H/Germaine Helen H

**Ministries of Service: 6 May 13 May 20 May**

Altar Decorating: Cathy F Helen P Margaret

Cleaners: Pauline & Rod Helen P & Judith

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other, Helen Hart

The picture below was sent to me by one of my children. It can be found on Facebook.

