

4TH SUNDAYOF EASTER YEAR A

30 April 2023

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

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
- 2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)
- 3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.

 My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and quardian of your souls.

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 10:1-10.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'



Reflection on the Gospel of John 10:1-10 by Greg Sunter

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

Historical Context - A line of shepherds

When Jesus used the image of himself as a shepherd, he named himself as belonging to a Jewish ancestry that associated itself with shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were all shepherds. David, the second King of Israel, was regarded as the greatest king in Jewish history. His humble beginning, captured magnificently in the sculpture by Michelangelo, was as a shepherd boy guarding his flock with a slingshot. The kings of Israel were charged to 'shepherd' their people rather than to lord it over them as the pagan kings did.

Scriptural context – Psalm 22/23

Today's responsorial psalm uses Psalm 22 (sometimes referenced as Psalm 23), 'the Lord is my shepherd'. It is a very popular psalm and is often reproduced on Christian posters and other artworks. It was also a popular psalm and image at the time of Jesus. For Jesus to describe himself as the good shepherd caused great distress among the Jewish officials. They saw Jesus as being blasphemous for the psalm makes clear that *the Lord* is the shepherd. Jesus quite deliberately makes clear that he and the Father are one: the Lord is the shepherd and Jesus is the good shepherd.

Gospel Focus - Life to the Full

John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage. Having life to the full does not imply life filled with every convenience, comfort and wealth. Rather, it is about living a life filled with purpose and intent. If we fail to live with purpose and meaning then our life is a hollow shell of what it could be. Jesus came that we may have life – a life that is at its fullest when it is lived in such a way as to be an expression of what Jesus taught and lived.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, may continue to guide the Church as a shepherd cares for his sheep. (pause) In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the world, that all will know a culture of peace and nonviolence. (pause) In your glory: **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community may serve our neighbours through practical action. (pause) In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That governments and organisations will work together to provide food security to prevent the catastrophic loss of life which is threatening parts of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and other areas. *(pause)* In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That men and women in the armed forces will be kept safe while serving their country and be supported after their service is finished. (pause) In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be comforted through God's merciful love, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Jenny Bodman, Eadadoin (pronounced Aideen) Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers. (pause) In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will live in the safety of eternal life, especially Terry Wilson, Simon Jeffery, Jill Burke, Tony Shepherd, Babs McNamara,... and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. (pause) In your glory:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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: Mondays: 9am - 3pm; Fridays: 9am - 12pm

Weekday Mass: No Tuesday Mass until May. **Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Krawarree Mass: May (date to be advised) at 11am.

Funerals: Jill Burke: Friday 28th April at 10am in St. Andrew's Uniting Church

Michael Williams: 5th May at 2pm – graveside service in Braidwood Lawn Cemetery

Simon Jeffery: date to be advised in St Bede's Church

Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal – Collection for Formation of our Seminarians:

This weekend we especially give thanks for the vocations that have sprung from our own communities – those young men whose families and lives are planted in our local parishes and who, God willing, will return as ordained priests to serve here. Please give a generous <u>donation</u> today or begin a <u>monthly donation</u> to support the education of our seminarians. Special envelopes are provided in the church or donations can be made on-line at <u>bit.ly/goodshepherd2023</u>

Thursday 4 May | Marist College Canberra | 7-8.30pm

All invited to an *Evening of Dialogue* which creates space for a respectful exploration of what is needed for humanity to flourish. The night will consist of keynote speakers, a Q&A session and an opportunity for open discussion. Keynote speakers include Dr Hugh Mackay (Social Psychologist and Author), Lara Kirk (Marriage, Family and Relationships Manager), Michael McGirr (Mission Facilitator at Caritas Australia and Author) and Professor Br David Hall FMS (Marist Brother and Dean of the ACU La Salle Academy).

Free Registration: https://bit.ly/41AKHAZ

First Thursday Lunch at the Club is on May 4, commencing at 11.30pm. Bookings essential for the bus.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: Tuesday 2nd May at 10am. All parishioners are invited to attend. There is much to discuss. A cuppa will be provided.

Mothers' Day Breakfast: All women are welcome to come along to a Mother's Day Breakfast on Saturday May 6^{th} in the CWA rooms. 8.00-9.30am. Let's get together to enjoy each other's company and conclude with prayers of thanks and celebration for the mothering roles in our lives.



Parish Dinner: Saturday May 27th is Curry Night (following Mass). There will be a selection of lovely homemade curries (mild) for you to enjoy! So please join us at the Servicemen's Club for a friendly evening to welcome winter! Cost \$30 per person (to be confirmed)

RSVP by Monday 22nd May with exact cash in envelope to: Helen H, Germaine, Cathy or Joy.

Readings for Mass: 1st: Acts 2: 14, 36-41. 2nd: 1 Peter 2:20-25. Gospel: John 10:1-10.

Next week: 1st: Acts 6:1-7. 2nd: 1 Peter 2:4-9. Gospel: John 14:1-12.

Ministries for our Mass:	29 April	6 May	13 May	20 May	27 May
Welcomer: Acolyte:	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine	Cathy F
Reader 1:	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Ann T	Bobbie
Reader 2:	Cathy F	Tommy	Germaine	Wendy H	Tommy
Ministries of service:	28 April	5 May	12 Ma	ay 20 M	<u>lay</u>
Altar Decorating:	Cathy	Margaret	Joy	Hele	n P
Cleaning:	•	Pauline & Wendy M	1-B	Felix	(

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H

3rd Sunday: volunteer please 4th: Phil Owen

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

Take care of each other,

Helen

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.