

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

03 MAY 2020

THEY KNOW HIS VOICE. At times it can be hard to recognise the voice of Jesus as there are many who claim to speak in his name. A useful guide is to look at people's actions. We can listen to those whose lives reveal the qualities of Jesus: love, compassion, justice, self-sacrifice. They are the good shepherds in our midst.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;

by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach

where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

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 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.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

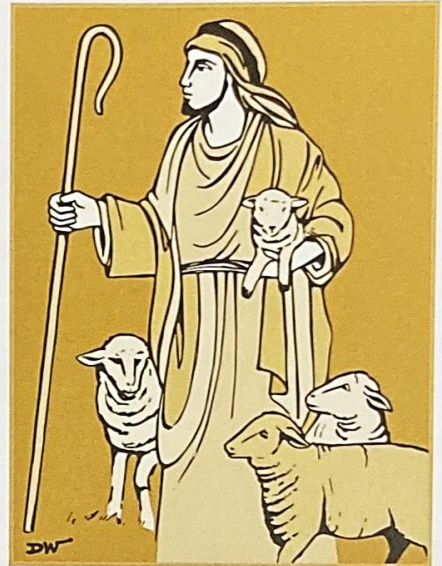
R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)

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 1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 are 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 guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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 10:1-10

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, /
Creator of heaven and earth, / and in
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, /
born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under
Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and
was buried; / he descended into hell; /
on the third day he rose again from
the dead; / he ascended into heaven, /
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty; / from there he
will come to judge the living and the
dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the
holy catholic Church, / the communion
of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, /
the resurrection of the body, / and life
everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread
and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to
each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that
my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to
God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at
your hands for the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and the good of all
his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these
paschal mysteries,

so that the renewal constantly at work
within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink
this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by
divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are
those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed by the
Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and
reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy
Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

JESUS: SHEPHERD AND GATE

To appreciate today's Gospel and the
images it features, we have to understand
something of shepherding practices in
Palestine at the time of Jesus.

In applying to himself the image of
shepherd, Jesus presupposes the intimate
knowledge that should exist between
a shepherd and his sheep. Sheep from
various flocks would be penned up
at night in communal sheepfolds. At
daybreak, shepherds would come to
the gate, call, and gather their sheep to
lead them out to pasture. While during
the night the sheep were all mixed up
together, the shepherd could rely on the
fact that his sheep would recognise his
voice, separate themselves from the rest,
and willingly follow him through the gate
of the sheepfold.

Jesus contrasts a 'good shepherd' like
this with others who come only to steal,
harass, and ultimately bring about the
loss of sheep that do not belong to them.

Jesus goes on to identify himself with the
'gate' of the sheepfold. This adds a fresh
dimension. If the sheep are to flourish,
they have to go out each morning and
find pasture. Yet, if they do not return to
the fold at night, they will be at risk. So
daily they have to come and go through
the gate. The gate is their means of access
to both protection and growth.

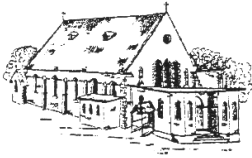
As 'Gate' Jesus performs this function
for the community. Through continual
interaction with him in prayer and
worship its members find life and growth.

In this sense he 'has come that they may
have life and have it to the full' (v. 10).

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – 3 MAY 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

NO PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS OF MASS, THE CHURCH IS CLOSED 24 HRS

Mass is available daily online at www.catholicvoice.org.au
Sunday Mass is aired on ten (Channel 05) Sunday mornings at 6am

SACRAMENTS

Confession	By request, must be in an open space observing the 1.5 metre physical distancing
Marriage	By appointment, must not exceed 5 persons – couple, witnesses and priest
Funerals	Graveside service only, no more than 10 persons including priest
Anointing	By request
Baptism	Suspended until further notice
Holy Communion	Suspended until further notice
Confirmation	Suspended until further notice

If you have any questions or need to speak to a priest please contact the parish on the phone numbers and/or email indicated above and below

PRAYER REQUESTS – PLEASE EMAIL OR PHONE THE PRIESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED. AND ANNIVERSARIES	THE SICK	MASS OFFERINGS
We pray for Beryl Henry, recently deceased and Frank Jones, whose anniversary it is at this time.	Stephen Dean	Remie Field, Frank Jones, Kerrie Letts

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL	PRIESTS / PARISH	PARISH BANKING
Fr George, Fr Namora, Peter Gain, Chris Baron, Anne Saunderson, Craig Ferguson, Kate Howe, Liz Knight	Fr George – 0484 604 273 Fr Namora – 0450 438 444 Madeline Ryan – 0478 000 526	BSB 062 786 A/C 14943 ST PATRICKS PARISH GUNDAGAI

A copy of the Church Bulletin is available on our website each week – www.cg.org.au/gundagai
Please send any notices to gundagai@cg.org.au by midday Wednesday each week for inclusion in the bulletin.

BANKING / PLANNED GIVING

We can, and must, continue supporting the priests and the parish through our first and second collections. These can be done through online banking or by a bank deposit in person. Please note the different accounts and references.

FIRST COLLECTION including Mass Intentions		
BSB 062-786	A/C 000029248	Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund
IMPORTANT! Please reference your SURNAME and PARISH eg. <i>Smith GUNDAGAI</i>		

SECOND COLLECTION/PLANNED GIVING

BSB 062 786	A/C 000014943	Acc Name: St Patricks Parish Gundagai
Please reference your SURNAME and PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER eg <i>Smith PGENV24</i> Please contact the Secretary 0478 000 526 or gundagai@cg.org.au if you need an envelope number.		

NOTICES

ROSARY & ADORATION

A group of parishioners are praying the Rosary, in our own homes, at 11am every day. We are praying for ourselves and our families, our Parish community, our Church and the whole world. Please join us, so we can still pray and “be together”, in these trying times.

“If you say the Holy Rosary every day, with a spirit of faith and love, Our Lady will make sure she leads you very far along her Son’s path” ~ St Josemaria Escriva

Consider ‘virtual Adoration’ - through the following website <https://virtualadoration.home.blog/> or on Facebook through ‘Sacred Heart Parish Griffith Perpetual Adoration’.

“He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined” ~ St Catherine of Siena

FR GEORGE’S GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today being the Fourth Sunday of Easter it has come to be known in official Church circles as "Good Shepherd Sunday". Worldwide, it is also "Vocation Sunday". To a great extent, vocation has to do with those who are called to be shepherds in the Church of God.

Today, in this Gospel, Jesus uses two images when referring to himself: He is the shepherd and He is the gate. Jesus is the good shepherd and He knows his own sheep. «He calls each of his sheep by name» (Jn 10:3). For Jesus we are not just numbers; He has a personal kinship with each one of us. The Gospel is not only doctrine: it is Jesus' personal attachment to us.

And not only He does know us personally. He also personally loves us. “To know”, in St. John's Gospel, does not simply mean an act of our intellect, but an act of adhesion to the known person. And Jesus bears each one of us in his Heart. We must also know him like that. To know Jesus does not only mean an act of faith, but also of charity, of love. “Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him” —St. Gregory the Great tells us, while commenting on this text— “I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love”. And love is proven by deeds.

Jesus is also the gate. The sole gate. “Whoever enters through me will be saved” (Jn 10:9). He is the door of the sheepfold. Anyone who wants to enter the sheepfold must pass through him. There is no other way to get in, like scaling the fence. Only people with wicked intentions enter any place by scaling the fence. All honest people pass through the door. And a little further, He insists: “No one comes to the Father except through me” (Jn 14:6). He who tries hard to do well, will enter through Jesus, whether he is or he is not aware of it. But, because of the gift of our faith, we do know it. Let us be grateful for it. Let us try hard to enter through that gate, which, though narrow, He keeps it wide open. We bear witness that all our hopes are placed on Him.

The sheepfold is the kingdom of God. Jesus is the one who re-opened the door to that kingdom after it had been shut through the sin of our first parents. He did that through his paschal mystery; that is, his passion, death and resurrection. Consequently, anyone who makes it into the kingdom of God does so only because Jesus has made it possible through his paschal mystery. We are the sheep saved by the death of Jesus, our Good Shephard. Do we hear his voice and follow his path? Or do we hear the voice of the thief who “comes to kill and destroy?” Lord help us to hear his voice.

COLLECTIONS APRIL 2020

Second Collection online contributions **\$1450.00**

Thank you for your generosity to keep the parish going during this time.

MAY – MONTH OF MARY

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady. Pope Francis has particularly urged us to pray the Rosary every day during the month of May for her intercession to deliver the world from Covid-19, and turn our hearts, minds and souls back to her Son, Jesus.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and the 58th Annual Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Today the Holy Father has asked all Catholics to intercede for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

- Pray for priests, both living and dead, who have ministered to you throughout your life.
- Keep our parish priests and deacons in prayer throughout the week.
- Encourage your children or grandchildren to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.
- Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God’s call.