

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

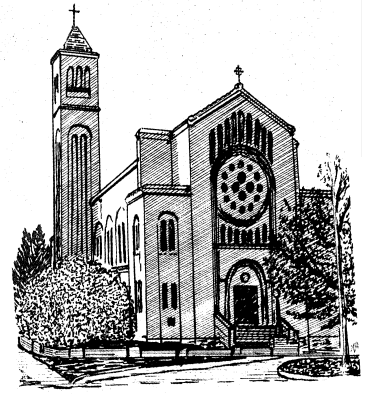
(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

4th Sunday of Easter

— Year A

3 May 2020

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Vicar General: Fr Tony Percy VG
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias



Masses will be offered
without a congregation
present until further
notice.

Confessions by
appointment

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) Emergency Phone for Priests: 0491 072 304
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral

Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>

Parish Secretary: Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm (Working remotely)

Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—Friday, 8am-4pm (Working remotely)

Dear St Christopher's Cathedral Parish Parishioners,

This weekend, the 4th Sunday of Easter we celebrate *Good Shepherd Sunday* and *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*.

The image of Jesus, *the Good Shepherd* is one of the oldest and most enduring images we have been gifted. A Shepherd who protects, gathers and lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). While we don't have copious depictions of the Cross until much later in the Christian tradition, images of *Jesus, the Good Shepherd* emerge as early as the 3rd century. This image painted on the walls of the *Catacomb of Callixtus* in Rome is one of the earliest.

The Gospels never tell us what Jesus physically looked like, but we are given rich metaphorical depictions of Him. Jesus speaks of Himself as the *gate* of the sheepfold, 'the sheep hear his voice' and they follow, 'because they *know* his voice', they *trust* his voice. He is both the Gate and the Shepherd – indeed as Saint Augustine once observed Jesus is both the *home to which we are going*, and *the way by which we go*.

The image of the Shepherd's voice is a powerful one. What is it about a voice? John Henry Newman (d.1890) an English theologian, poet and later Catholic priest, converted from Anglicanism, once wrote how *a text can leave you cold, while voice can melt you're heart!* And when you think about it, it's true. It's one thing to read something in an email, a book or even a bulletin, but when we hear the same thing spoken to us, it has the power to change us.

What is it about a voice? Think of Elvis, Richie Benno, Pope Francis... I still can't go past my own mother's voice... it was and it still is the sweetest thing. A voice of reason, familiarity, comfort, reassurance, affirmation.

The point is, Christianity is not a just set of ideas as many like to imagine, and while it uses philosophy it is not a philosophy in itself; nor some ideology to be adhered to. Rather Christianity in its purest form *is a relationship* with a person; and this person *has a voice*. Christianity's origins are not found in some philosophy or social theory, but in an Eternity without a beginning, an Eternity who has now drawn close and has spoken to us *in a Person, with a human voice*.

Faith comes from hearing. Consider the first disciples, who turned from their boats and tax posts when they heard *this* voice! They heard a voice and followed; a voice which was clearly irresistible and inspiring in some mysterious and mesmerising way.

I have often wondered what this voice sounded like, a particular tonality...? an accent...? the disciples would have never forgotten *that* voice, and nor should we. For this voice still calls today, in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in the Church, and in the depths of the human experience and the human heart. *Don't be afraid to listen*.

It is fitting that we pray for vocations on this Good Shepherd Sunday, because Jesus is still calling many young men to priesthood and young women and men to religious life, today. He is not a God who has simply stopped calling, but do we have ears to hear? The ears of the heart.

In a time of pandemic and isolation this is more important for us to reflect on than ever. A cousin of mine has a young son Patrick. Patrick is four and not a big fan of the car! A few weeks ago they went grocery shopping, and before they left his mum grabbed a magazine from the hallway with a colourful map of the world in it. The shops are a little drive from their house and so the picture was torn into ten pieces and placed on a tray in Patrick's lap. This would keep him occupied for the twenty minute drive, his mum thought 'he can put this map together like a puzzle... in the right order'. 'It would be impossible!' my cousin said. This was a map of the whole world, something very new to little Patrick! About two minutes down the road Patrick, delighted, cried out: 'Mummy, I'm finished'. At the next set of lights my cousin turned around only to find that he was indeed finished. Patrick had a perfectly matched the pieces. Surprise and proud his mum said, 'but how did you manage that!' 'Mummy, it's easy' he replied. 'There a picture of Postman Pat on the back!'

In everything we do the Christian must carry the imprint not of Postman Pat, but of the One who created and Loves us! The image of Jesus! If we base ourselves *in Jesus* all things are possible! Even the new and seemingly impossible puzzles and hurdles which present themselves. All we need do is listen. Jesus is the key to understanding and learning new things. Including ourselves! He is the key to navigating ourselves through the storms and turbulent times. He is the key to the puzzle which our lives can often be, here, at home, in the workplace ... wherever we are. On this Good Shepherd Sunday let us open our hearts once more to hearing the voice of the One who knows us best and has the key to every hurdle or puzzle which confronts us.

These are hard times, puzzling times, but good times, simply because in these moments the voice of the Good Shepherd pierces the darkness of the night ever clear. The Voice of the Good Shepherd is speaking, let us courageously listen.

Father Trenton van Reesch
Administrator, St Christopher's Cathedral Parish



PARISH NEWS

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music: Jaki Kane

RCIA—Fr Trenton van Reesch
Weekly on Thursdays, 6pm

School of Religion

Youth Minister—Chiara Catanzariti
Email: chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 4 May 4th Sunday of Easter
Tue 5 May 4th Sunday of Easter
Wed 6 May 4th Sunday of Easter
Thu 7 May 4th Sunday of Easter
Fri 8 May 4th Sunday of Easter
Sat 9 May 4th Sunday of Easter
Sun 10 May 5th Sunday of Easter

Group gatherings in recess for the moment

Legion of Mary
Wednesday at 6.15pm
Haydon Hall

St Vincent de Paul
Assisting people in need and combatting social injustice in our community

Young Adults
Animating parish and Archdiocesan life through prayer and event participation
Thursday 6.30pm Rosary/Bible Sharing/Fellowship SCC
Geetanjali Rogers

Good Shepherd Prayer Group
Wednesday at 7pm SPC
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation
Saturday at 5pm SPC
"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

Other Communities

Spanish Community
First Sunday of the month at 11.30am SPC

African Community
Second Sunday of the month at 11.45am SPC

Filipino Community
First Sunday bi-monthly at 5.00pm SPC

For details of any of the above, contact the Parish

Distribution of bulletins and notices:

The parish office has been emailing Parishioners who have supplied their email addresses the weekend Parish bulletin. Please ask your fellow parishioner's if they are receiving the parish bulletin and if not, to contact the parish office with their email address. This way they can stay connected via a week bulletin. Anyone not receiving the bulletin can email the Parish office on cathedral@cg.org.au and then receive the bulletin weekly. Please spread the word around. Thank you. Hard copies of the bulletin are left each Friday afternoon at St Peter Chanel's inside Our Lady's Grotto. Please take one home and take a copy for someone you know who doesn't have access to the internet.

Planned giving Envelopes:

If you are not able to make financial contributions to the Parish electronically, please call the office to organise dropping off your Planned Giving envelope on 6239 9846.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – 4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 3rd May is the **World Day of Vocations**. Pope Francis tells us: *Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives. (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020).*

Let us pray for young people in our community, in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them **discover and courageously follow** the call of their vocation.

'The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice - like marriage or special consecration to his service - calls for courage. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear".

What can I do? *'Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations.'* Pope Francis.

Each one of us can do something for the future of the Church in our country. The most important and essential thing is to pray. Intentionally, regularly, insistently. Make a decision today to include a prayer for vocations in your daily prayers.

QKR! AT SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL PARISH



Is carrying cash no longer your style?

Join us in our trialing of Qkr! Similar to swiping your phone at an EFTPOS Machine you can now use our **purpose-built secure parish app** to contribute to our parish community. Payments for 1st (Clergy) & 2nd Collection (Parish) are listed. Please ensure you include your Planned Giving number for 2nd Collection contributions. Contact the Parish Office if you have forgotten your Planned Giving number on 62399846.

Caritas Project Compassion is also currently listed under "Special Appeals". Details of the Appeal are listed within the App payment description.

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn Catholic Development Fund, with the assistance of the

How to still contribute financially to St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

As our churches are not open for Masses due to Corona Virus, our weekend collections are not being taken up. If you would like to contribute to the First Collection, you can make a direct transfer from your bank account.

The First collection is for the support of clergy in the parish and beyond. Each priest in a parish draws a personal stipend from the first collection for living expenses, food and housekeeping. Funds are also directed to:

- Priests in parishes where the first collection is insufficient to meet their stipend
- The support of the Archbishop, Vicar General and Chancellor
- Priests in remote dioceses across Australia
- Clergy Retirement Foundation (in support of sick and retired clergy)

Account Name: CATHEDRAL
BSB: 062-786
Bank Account: 000029248
Reference: FORREST & SURNAME

The Second collection, which includes the planned giving program, is the main source of our parish income. The second collection funds are used for the day to day running of our parish. That is to pay for the repairs, wages, insurance, utilities and the many other expenses incurred to keep our parish functioning. If you would like to give towards the Parish expenses and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral
BSB: 062786
Bank Account: 000015080
Reference: Planned Giving Number and Surname (only for current Planned Givers); or Donation (for donations by parishioner's not registered Planned Givers).

OTHER NEWS

Mass will be live streamed daily

from the St Christopher's Cathedral. Monday to Friday at 12:15pm,
Saturday at 9:00am and Sunday at 11:00am.

For daily reminders emails: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

'Spiritual Communion'

Saints often made an act of spiritual communion when they couldn't receive the Eucharist at Mass.

For various reasons we may be prevented from receiving the Eucharist in the Mass. In these cases the Church encourages us to make an act of "spiritual communion," where we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with him when we are unable to complete that union in the reception of Holy Communion.

Countless saints incorporated this type of prayer into their daily lives. Making an act of spiritual communion for them was an essential part of life and drew them closer to God, daily.

St. Josemaria Escriva encouraged everyone to make a spiritual communion as often as they could, "What a source of grace there is in spiritual communion! Practice it frequently and you'll have greater presence of God and closer union with him in all your actions."

Padre Pio also had a habit of making a spiritual communion throughout the day outside of the celebration of Mass. He desired to be always united with Jesus Christ in everything he did.

Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion that many saints have prayed over centuries. It can be prayed if you find yourself at Home or at work, in the car or in bed, wherever you are - lifting up your thoughts to God, pray it often in these days!

The ultimate goal of our lives should be communion with God and an act of spiritual communion can help a person draw closer to that goal.

***My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.***

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and



Please visit www.catholicvoice.org.au for more resources, prayers and news.

IN THESE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

<http://cg.org.au/cathedral/Home.aspx>

May - Mary's Month:

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

All we need the Virgin Mary's assistance. She leads us through this valley of tears, She's always by our side. The *Memorare* reminds us that, in the journey of life, we're not alone. That the mother of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, protects us.

Reach out, We do care and Love you.

So often we can feel isolated and alone, and these days during the lockdown this terrifying feeling can consume us even more.

This is important to our parish and wider community, you are not alone, you are loved. **Need to talk? 02 616226100.** Or visit <https://catholiccare.cg.org.au/>

Crisis support lines 24/7 Lifeline 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

Men's Line Australia 1300 78 99 78

Family Drug Support 1300 368 186



Webinars—Please consider taking part in two webinars about *Laudato Si*, the encyclical *On Our Common Home*, a key focus in the Pope's personal Christian ministry across the world, and what it means for us all.

The webinars will be at 6-7 pm on 19th & 21st May to help mark the Vatican's *Laudato Si* week. World-class consultant, Jacqui Rémond will present on what *Laudato Si* is about on the Tuesday evening and facilitate discussion on its deep implications on the Thursday. Hosted on Zoom by Belconnen South, the webinars *On Our Common Home* reach out particularly to towns and parishes affected by drought and bushfires, as well as those in Canberra. Please let other parishioners know.

Express interest/RSVPs + Email belconnensouth@cg.org.au OR) Phone/Text 0428 625 110

Heart to Heart eSeminar

Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse for this 10 part live-streamed eSeminar as he leads you to enter more deeply into your relationship with Christ during this time of isolation. <https://youtu.be/l1Fc0Wc3m8kHeart>

We pray for...

Those who are ill: Arianna Vignale, Anna Vincent, Lucy Duncan, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, Lisette D'Cruze, David Kibbey, Jacqueline Khin, Katarina Kish, Mary Brennan

Anniversaries of death: Frank Brennan, Monica Cooper, Carla Pastrello, Peg O'Hehir, Jane Jennings, Stanley & Mollie Jones, Fr Viv Morrison, Alma Sainsbury, Jack Delaney, Kathleen Bennett, Frances Riordan, Allan Read, Max Bradley, Jean Sunner, Mary O'Brien, Mary Hehir, Jennifer Gowing, David Crossin, Sr Leonie Crotty, Peter Xavier, Michael Rheinberger, Marcus Mumford, Anthony Sullivan, Margaret Gillespie, Sandra Altrin, Robert Porra, Carmel Pickard, Thomas Clowry

Recently Deceased: Keith McLaughlin, Peter Becker, Regina Paredes, Hilda Quinones, Shirley Evans, Josip Persic, Don Furner, Henry Tabisz, Mary-Anne McGrath, Rod Frazer, 4 children killed at Oatlands, Roberto Emilio, Bruce Kennedy, Ronald D'Cruze, Brian Kelly, Betty O'Neill, Patricia Smith, David Cusack, Anica Soldo, John

Readings of the Day – 4th Sunday of Easter —Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!*

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

First Reading

Acts 2:14. 36-41

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.

Second Reading

1 Pt 2:20-25

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 guardian of your souls.

Gospel Reading

Jn 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.'