

Fourth Sunday of Easter

21 April 2024

World Day of Prayer for Vocations



The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

John 10:14

THE GOOD SHEPHERD!

Jesus reveals his mission and ministry is about 'laying down his life' for us. This is mentioned four times in our short Gospel. He does this freely following the command of the Father. He is deeply in tune with the Fathers will for him and he embraces this completely. In our lives we are called to lay down our lives for others. In family life there is great sacrifice and service of each other. The sacrificial love is required when we put the needs of others before our own needs.

The scriptures, this weekend, also mention Jesus as the 'stone rejected who becomes the cornerstone'. This is mentioned in the first reading and repeated in the psalm. It is a dramatic reversal of fortune and is the work of the Lord. Jesus becomes the keystone and the foundation of the saving and healing work that is done in his name. God raised him from the dead and we are saved and healed through him.

The final theme I see in today's readings is being 'known' to God. In knowing and being known by the Good Shepherd we 'listen to his voice' and are drawn into the one flock. To truly know someone is to open ourselves up to them and share who we are with them. God through Jesus is calling us into the mystery of God's love. When we are open to this we do the will of the Father as Jesus does. May the Good Shepherd lead and guide us always.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ, Fr Michael, Parish Priest

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries, secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.



Anzac Day ~ Thursday 25th April 2024
Reflect on the sacrifices our countrymen and women have made in times of conflict.

Dawn Service: 5:45am Council Chambers
Drummoynes Cenotaph
1a Marlborough Street
Drummoynes

followed by a sausage sizzle

Anzac Day Mass St Mark's at 9:30am
Morning prayer of the Church
15 minutes prior to Mass
followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre
All Welcome



FIRST EUCHARIST | HOLY COMMUNION

Enrolment applications will be available from
now and close 3 May 2024.

Applications are available to collect from
the Porch of the Parish Office.



First Holy Communion

St. Mark's Parish

*United in Baptism,
Nourished by the Eucharist,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,
We Form a Vibrant and Caring Community,
Living and Proclaiming the Gospel,
Reaching Out to Those in Need,
Journeying Together, Growing in Faith.*



Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year B

Entrance Antiphon

(R.) The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Cf Psalm 32:5-6

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

While Peter and John were speaking to the people about the resurrection of Jesus, the captain of the temple arrested them and placed them in custody. The next day the rulers, elders and scribes assembled. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. "This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Acts 4.7-12

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118.1+8-9, 21-23, 26+28-29 (R.22)

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. **(R.)**

2. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. **(R.)**

3. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. **(R.)**

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.



Second Reading

1 John 3.1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

We will see God as he is.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10.14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

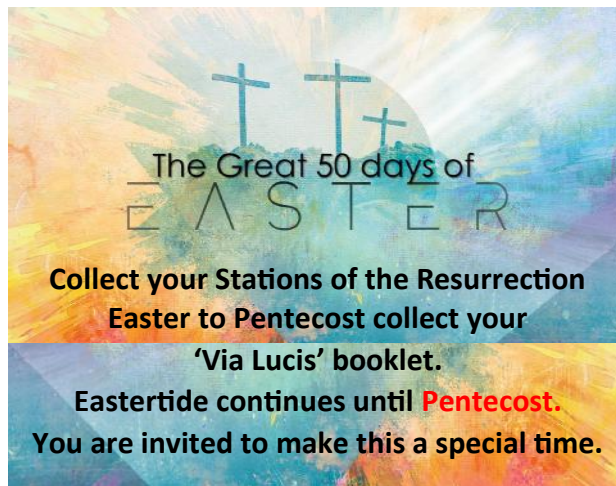
Gospel

John 10.11-18

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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 the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."



Baptism

We welcome into our faith community this Sunday through the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Mark's

Sophie Astrid Wever &

Tobias Jerome Wever.

and we congratulate their parents.

God bless you.



Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year B

Apostles Creed

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.

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Let us bring our prayers before our Heavenly Father.

Reader: Let us pray for all who are called to look after the flock of Jesus.

(pause). Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for all members of the flock of Jesus, that they may recognise his voice and follow him.

(pause) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray that peoples of all religious traditions in our society may live together in harmony and respect.

(pause). Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for all those who suffered injury at Bondi Junction and at Wakeley, that they may be quickly restored to health. *(pause)*. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for those who were killed at Bondi Junction, and for the comfort of their family and friends.

(pause). Lord, hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Almighty and ever-loving God, you have given us the confidence to call you Father. Increase your spirit of love within us and bring us to our promised inheritance. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen

Communion Antiphon

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

DISMISSAL: EASTER SOLEMN

Deacon/Priest



Go in peace, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



The Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) in English

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.



Regina Coeli in Latin

V. Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.

R. Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

V. Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.

R. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.

R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia

Oremus.

Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui, Domini nostri Iesu Christi, mundum laetificare dignatus es: praesta, quaesumus; ut per eius Genetricem Virginem Mariam, perpetuae capiamus gaudia vitae.

Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen



R E-gi-na cae-li * laetá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui- a quem me-
ru- isti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surré-xit, sic-ut di-xit,
alle-lú-ia: O-ra pro no-bis De- um, alle-lú- ia.

Archdiocese of Sydney Clergy Conference

At the beginning of April Fr Michael joined fellow priests and newly ordained from the Archdiocese. They were welcomed by Archbishop, Anthony, to their 2024 Clergy Conference.

Sharing their gifts, insights and time included Timothy Costelloe SDB, Archbishop of Perth, Greg Homeming Bishop of Lismore and David Ranson Vicar General Diocese of Broken Bay and Parish Priest.

This year's theme was 'Synodality Serving Renewal: Enabling the Holy Spirit to Guide their Missionary Response to Contemporary Challenges'. The concept of synodality or 'journeying together' is an important one in the life of the Church and the pontificate of Pope Francis. At its heart is the willingness to listen, dialogue, and share so that all of the faithful might assume co-responsibility for the Church's mission.

The program included workshops, Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Pastoral and Wellbeing as well as guest speakers, sponsored market day, dinners, free time, Lauds, Mass, Adoration, Sacrament of Penance and more. Clergy were encouraged to reconnect and get to know others.

The Archbishop asked that the Holy Spirit guide them towards fulfilling the evangelising mission of the Gospel and inspire them to live out their vocation more fully as disciples of Christ and ordained ministers of His Church.

Fr Michael led the Clergy Conference Liturgy Committee ensuring daily the liturgy was prepared, vibrant, meaningful and inclusive.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 61st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**
Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace



Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think of mothers and fathers who do not think first of themselves or follow fleeting fads of the moment, but shape their lives through relationships marked by love and graciousness, openness to the gift of life and commitment to their children and their growth in maturity. I think of all those who carry out their work in a spirit of cooperation with others, and those who strive in various ways to build a more just world, a more solidary economy, a more equitable social policy and a more humane society. In a word, of all those men and women of good will who devote their lives to working for the common good. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.

A people on the move

The polyphony of diverse charisms and vocations that the Christian community recognizes and accompanies helps us to appreciate more fully what it means to be Christians. As God's people in this world, guided by his Holy Spirit, and as living stones in the Body of Christ, we come to realize that we are members of a great family, children of the Father and brothers and sisters of one another. We are not self-enclosed islands but parts of a greater whole. In this sense, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations has a synodal character: amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all.

At this point in time, then, our common journey is bringing us to the Jubilee Year of 2025. Let us travel as *pilgrims of hope* towards the Holy Year, for by discovering our own vocation and its place amid the different gifts bestowed by the Spirit, we can become for our world messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family, united in God's love and in the bond of charity, cooperation and fraternity.

This Day is dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the Father the gift of holy vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Prayer – as we all know – is more about listening to God than about talking to him. The Lord speaks to our heart, and he wants to find it open, sincere and generous. His Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the entire will of the Father. In this present year, devoted to prayer and preparation for the Jubilee, all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope. For "prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope is there, but by my prayer I open the door" (*Catechesis*, 20 May 2020).

Pilgrims of hope and builders of peace

Yet what does it mean to be *pilgrims*? Those who go on pilgrimage seek above all to keep their eyes fixed on the *goal*, to keep it always in their mind and heart. To achieve that goal, however, they need to concentrate on *every step*, which means travelling light, getting rid of what weighs them down, carrying only the essentials and striving daily to set aside all weariness, fear, uncertainty and hesitation. Being a pilgrim means setting out each day, *beginning ever anew*, rediscovering the enthusiasm and strength needed to pursue the various stages of a journey that, however tiring and difficult, always opens before our eyes new horizons and previously unknown vistas.

This is the ultimate meaning of our Christian pilgrimage: we set out on a journey to discover the love of God and at the same time to discover ourselves, thanks to an interior journey nourished by our relationships with others. We are *pilgrims because we have been called*. Called to love God and to love one another. Our pilgrimage on this earth is far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering; on the contrary, each day, by responding to God's call, we try to take every step needed to advance towards a new world where people can live in peace, justice and love. We are pilgrims of hope because we are pressing forward towards a better future, committed at every step to bringing it about.

This is, in the end, the goal of every vocation: to become men and women of hope. As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges. These include the baneful spectre of a third world war fought piecemeal; the flood of migrants fleeing their homelands in search of a better future; the burgeoning numbers of the poor; the threat of irreversibly compromising the health of our planet. To say nothing of all the difficulties we encounter each day, which at times risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism.

In our day, then, it is decisive that we Christians cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God's kingdom of love, justice and peace. This hope – Saint Paul tells us – "does not disappoint" (*Rom* 5:5), since it is born of the Lord's promise that he will remain always with us and include us in the work of redemption that he wants to accomplish in the heart of each individual and in the "heart" of all creation. This hope finds its propulsive force in Christ's resurrection, which "contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us, we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 276). Again, the Apostle Paul tells us that, "in hope we were saved" (*Rom* 8:24). The redemption accomplished in the paschal mystery is a source of hope, a sure and trustworthy hope, thanks to which we can face the challenges of the present.

To be pilgrims of hope and builders of peace, then, means to base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out, will never be in vain. Failures and obstacles may arise along the way, but the seeds of goodness we sow are quietly growing and nothing can separate us from the final goal: our encounter with Christ and the joy of living for eternity in fraternal love. This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily: even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace and fraternity. May no one feel excluded from this calling! Each of us in our own small way, in our particular state of life, can, with the help of the Spirit, be a sower of seeds of hope and peace.

The courage to commit

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: "*Rise up!*" Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! Let us be passionate about life, and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live. Let me say it again: "Have the courage to commit!" Father Oreste Benzi, a tireless apostle of charity, ever on the side of the poor and the defenseless, used to say that no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one is so rich as not to need something to receive.

Let us rise up, then, and set out as pilgrims of hope, so that, as Mary was for Elizabeth, we too can be messengers of joy, sources of new life and artisans of fraternity and peace.

WORSHIP WITHOUT FEAR

A Statement from the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP

The stabbing of Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and Father Isaac Royel is shocking and has caused distress to many in the community.

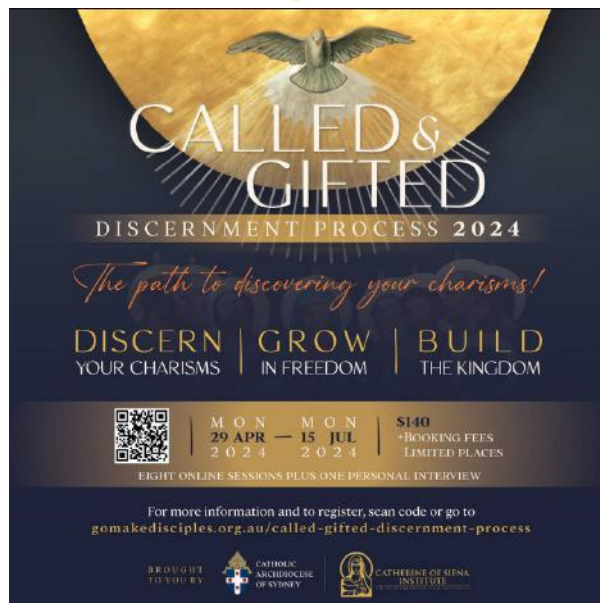
Houses of prayer have traditionally been places of peace and solace, refuge and sanctuary and so the video footage of the attack upon a religious leader during a religious service inside a church has been especially confronting. The images of the violence that subsequently occurred outside the church are also confronting.

We have seen these types of events in other countries but, up until now, Australia has been largely free from this type of blatant violence in and around places of worship.

Every person in this country, be they bishop or priest, rabbi or imam, minister or congregant, should be able to worship in safety, without fear that they might be subject to acts of violence while gathering in prayer.

I urge the faithful to not respond to these events with fear, avoiding places of worship because they are worried about further attacks, nor with anger, engaging in acts of reprisal or revenge. The best response to violence and fear is prayer and peace.

On behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and in solidarity with other religious leaders, I offer prayerful support to Bishop Emmanuel, Father Royel and all others affected. May the God of peace reign in our land.



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DISCERNMENT PROCESS 2024
The path to discovering your charisms!
DISCERN | GROW | BUILD
YOUR CHARISMS | IN FREEDOM | THE KINGDOM

MON 29 APR — MON 15 JUL 2024
\$140 + BOOKING FEES
LIMITED PLACES
EIGHT ONLINE SESSIONS PLUS ONE PERSONAL INTERVIEW

For more information and to register, scan code or go to gomakedisciples.org.au/called-gifted-discernment-process

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CAMINO of ST JOSEPH
26/27 APRIL 2024
AN OVERNIGHT WALKING PILGRIMAGE FOR MEN IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER.

WWW.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/MAXIMUS
@MAXIMUS_MENS_MINISTRY_NETWORK

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

SPAREY CENTRE EVANGELISATION MAXIMUS

St Mark's Parish Diary

Pray Pope Francis Intention for the month April

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this monthly intention.

For the Role of Women.

"Let us pray that the dignity and richness of women be recognized in all cultures, and for an end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world." Amen.

† Applications - First Holy Communion

Enrolments for First Holy Communion are open and close on Friday 3 May. Applications available from the Parish Porch.

† Thursday 25th April - Anzac Day

Anzac Day Mass will be celebrated at 9:30am.

† Friday 26 April - CWL Meeting

Our monthly CWL meeting is at 1:00pm. Bring a lite lunch to share from 11:30am. All welcome. Parish Centre.

† Sat 27 April | Sun 28 April - CWL Mother's Day Raffle



TICKETS
\$1 each or
6 for \$5

Mother's Day Raffle

On Sale
27 | 28 April
& 4 | 5 May

† Monday 29 April - St Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine was a third-order Dominican, peacemaker and counsellor to the Pope. She is the co-patron of Italy and of Europe.

† Tuesday 30 April - Term 2 Begins

We welcome all our students back to school for Term 2.

† Month of May - Mary, Mother of God

During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month."

† Friday 3 May - Applications close

First Holy Communion Applications close.

† Friday 3 May - Mass of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

Philip was born at Bethsaida and started as a disciple of John the Baptist. After the Baptist's death he followed Christ. James, a cousin of the Lord, was the son of Alphaeus. He ruled the Church at Jerusalem; wrote an epistle; led an austere life; and converted many Jews to the Faith. He was crowned with martyrdom in the year 62.

† Saturday 4 May - Anointing Mass

Our 12:00pm Mass will be celebrated for the sick followed by a light lunch with Fr Michael in the Parish Centre. Bring a plate to share.

† Saturday 4 May | Sunday 5 May - CWF Appeal

Our CWF Appeal will be held on this weekend and is responsible for collecting funds for the purpose of supporting the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

† Saturday 11 May - Eucharistic Retreat Day

This day will help you grow for and devotion to the gift of the Holy Eucharist. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Cost \$15
St Martha's - 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1162316>

In our thoughts this Easterlike Season



In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our St Mark's community:

Nawal Boulos, Pat Crowe, Joanna McGill, Pat Kenna, Looi Im Heok, Christiane Biady, Anne Johnson, Lucie Betteto, Isobel Boccalatte, Fay O'Halloran, Santa Iacono, Wendy Madden, Rocco Zoccali, Bishop Peter Ingham, Patricia Ryan, Patricia Ficarra, Milly Di Blasio, Lina Giannandrea, Immaculata Di Palma and Giuseppina Pinto. *God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. ~Amen~*

Remembering those who have gone before us.

Francesco Ianni, Daniel Lao, Benedict Marsh, Concetta Porfida, Maria Zoccali, Bernice Minns, Carmel & Jack McEnally, Kitty & Bernard McCabe, Sr Ann McRae, Gamal Biady Pauline Brown, George Brown, Irene and Richard Cartwright,

Recently Deceased. Heather Burbidge, Clare Williams, Fr George (Jimmy) Wilkins and Margaret Dawes-Smith. *May all the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

Funeral: The funeral of parishioner Heather Burbidge will be held at **St Mark's Catholic Church on Tuesday 23 April at 10:30am.** Heather was a founding member of St Mark's Catholic Women's League and with her husband Peter were involved in many ministries of the Parish. *May she rest in peace in God's care.*

St Mark's Drummoyne, Great War Memorial 1914 - 1918

We honour their spirit as we ask you to remember them in prayer.

Edmund Henry (Jack) Collins

Private No. 4268, 29th Battalion. Died 23 Mar 1917

Joseph Ignatius Connell

Private No. 6619, 8th Field Ambulance. Died 26 Oct 1917

John Stephen Coolahan

Lieutenant 5th Machine Gun Company. Died 3 May 1918

Bernard Patrick Dawson

Private No. 2125, 2nd Battalion. Died 6 Aug 1915

Michael Hawley: Private No. 3538, 53rd Battalion. Died 19 Jul 1916

Peter Bernard Joseph O'Reilly:

Lieutenant, 38th Battery 10th Field Artillery Brigade. Died 6 May 1917

Arvan James Prichard: Lieutenant 22nd Machine Gun Company. Died 18 Jul 1918

James Stuart Duncan Weir: Private No. 2867, 4th Battalion. Died 26 Jul 1916.

Colin Geoffrey Wilson: Private No. 1303, 33rd Battalion. Died 28 Jul 1918

John Michael Joseph Wills: Private No. 7099, 13th Battalion. Died 8 Aug 1918

Rest we forget



St Mark's Drummoyne Masses

Monday & Friday 8:00am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am
Wednesday 7:30am
Saturday 12 noon



Saturday Reconciliation 11:30am - 11:55am

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm

Sunday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.

COLLECTIONS: The passing around of the collection bowls has been reinstated after the pandemic to ensure the Parish continues to meet our financial obligations.
1st Collection (Priest of the Archdiocese) - follows the Homily
2nd Collection (St Mark's Parish) - follows Prayers of the Faithful

TAP MACHINE NOTICE:

Our Tap Machines have been upgraded from the 3G network.

Each machine has \$10, \$20 or \$50 set amount, or you can choose your own amount.

The machine does not issue receipts.

Thank you for your donations.

Catholic Women's League Sydney

AT THE HEART OF WOMEN

St. Mark's Catholic Women's League Annual Mother's Day Raffle:

On Sale at all Masses Weekend of
27 | 28 April & 4 | 5 May

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00
you are reminded to bring along cash only.

1. A Tefal Healthy Air Fryer & Grill.
2. A gift pack of skin care pampering and rejuvenating kit.
3. \$100.00 Mastercard gift card.
4. \$50.00 Mastercard gift card.

Prizes announced on Mother's Day.

Funds raised will support grass roots projects and go directly to the community.



St Mark's Catholic Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047

Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Website: www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au



St Mark's Church Hearing
Loop installed

Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on the pew for others to pick up.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael McLean PP
Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Minns OP
Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR
School Principal: Mrs Melissa Lentini

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone during the Mass.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

21 April 2024

Gospel Reflection: 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 metaphoric 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.

Historical Context – The GOOD Shepherd? The John gospel writer's use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

Scriptural context – The Shepherd Messiah: The gospels go to great lengths to affirm the lineage of Jesus and associate him with the house of David, the first great Jewish king. David began life as a simple boy tending his father's flock of sheep. When the line of kings was instigated through David they were charged with being 'shepherds' of their people. However, down through the line of kings, this care for the people was lost and they ceased to be 'shepherds'. Jesus' claim to be the good shepherd is his claim to be in the line of the true kings of Israel – a shepherd of the people.

Different View – The Australian Shepherd: Australian audiences can tend to struggle a bit with the image of Jesus as the good shepherd. The Australian image of sheep is one of huge flocks of sheep that number in their hundreds and thousands and roam freely over enormous open plains. I guess we also tend to look on sheep as pretty stupid animals that will follow anything anywhere. It doesn't seem to work to put Jesus into this image of vast sheep stations. The idea of a shepherd knowing his sheep individually seems a bit ridiculous in this context.

Questions?

- Q. How does the image of the good shepherd speak to your life and experience?
- Q. Have you ever seen yourself as needing to be the good shepherd for someone else?
- Q. Who do you need to 'shepherd'?
- Q. How might this image be misinterpreted?

Learning moments: Explore the history of the kings of Israel from King David to King Herod – were they ever truly shepherds to the people?

© Greg Sunter



On behalf of Caritas Australia, I wish to express our gratitude for your community's heartfelt generosity and enthusiastic efforts during Project Compassion this year. Your community's support is making a positive difference now and for all future generations, helping thousands of people across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa access vital basics and services. **Thank you once again for your ongoing support.**

St Mark's Project Compassion Collection was:

\$1024.50 from St Mark's Primary School.
\$2550.00 Credit card donations. (Caritas to process)
\$5768.20 Cash boxes and envelopes.
Total collected sent to Caritas: \$9342.70

Prayer of Thanks for Water - Water is Life Giving

Loving God,
Thank you for blessing us with the gift of water, a source of life that is forever giving and renewing. We are grateful for this precious gift that nourishes and sustains all living beings.
We humbly ask for your guidance to inspire our leaders to make decisions with love and care, prioritising the well-being of communities and our beautiful Earth.
May each one of us be touched by your grace, motivating us to look beyond ourselves.
Help us embrace the spirit of generosity and consideration in using water wisely and advocating for equal access to safe, clean water for everyone.
In your loving name we pray,
Amen.

THE Catholic Weekly



- * Assyrian cleric stabbed at altar in Wakeley
- * Bondi Junction attack leaves six dead
- * Archbishop Fisher: Do not be afraid to worship
- * Two new deacons for Sydney

\$2

Available in the Church foyer

Jesus is the good shepherd

4th Sunday of Easter, Year B



Saint Mark

One of the four evangelists who recorded the Good News of Jesus Christ is St. Mark, author of the second Gospel. From early times, his has been considered the first written Gospel (about 70 A.D.).

St. Mark was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), a Levite and a Cypriot.

Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When they reached Cyprus, Christian tradition holds that Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem, (Acts 13:13). This created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and led Paul to exclude Mark on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor.

However, it can be assumed the troubles between Paul and Mark did not last long, because when Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at the time in Rome with plans of visiting Asia Minor, visited him as one of his trusted companions (Col 4:10).

St. Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to a number of churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13).

St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets. Mark's Gospel was believed to be written between 60 and 70 A.D. and was based upon the teachings of St. Peter.

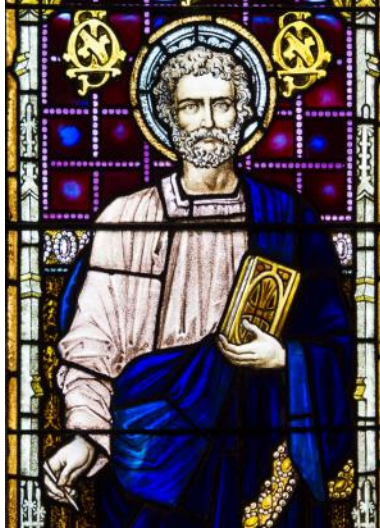
One of the world's most famous piazzas is in front of St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. It was named after St. Mark in 829 A.D. when Venetian agents stole his body from Alexandria in Egypt and took it to Venice. There is an ancient legend that links St. Mark with Venice. As the story goes, St Mark was caught in a storm, and took cover on an island in a small lagoon where the city of Venice is located. It is said an angel, in the form of a winged lion appeared and said, "Peace to you Mark, my Evangelists, rest your body here."




The words were considered prophecy when St. Mark's body was later taken to rest there. The winged lion is the symbol of Venice.

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet has a vision of four creatures, one of which is a winged lion. The four creatures have come to represent the four evangelists. The lion is the symbol for St. Mark, the Patron Saint of Notaries, Lawyers & City of Venice.

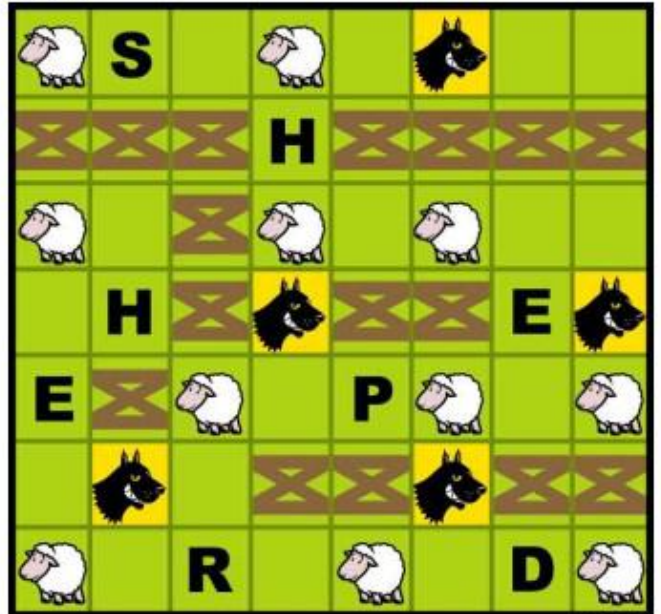
Since the ninth century, April 25 has been celebrated as the feast day of St. Mark. In Australia as this is Anzac Day, St. Mark's feast is celebrated at a later date.

St Mark, Pray for us.



Help gather all the sheep  by connecting them together using only straight lines - including diagonal lines. But do not pass through fences  or wolves . Complete the word below by adding each letter as your connecting line passes through it.

START



FINISH

H	C	L	W	Y	R	R	S	L	V	O	S	Q	D	L	T
C	T	J	I	V	E	Q	N	A	S	L	A	Y	G	S	G
F	G	B	L	B	W	E	N	D	A	Y	X	U	C	D	G
D	N	B	G	K	U	K	S	R	V	W	L	F	E	F	F
S	E	N	O	R	G	T	K	E	E	N	D	G	B	O	J
X	B	E	I	M	I	I	N	H	L	I	F	E	K	Q	M
V	Q	D	P	I	J	D	O	P	Y	S	W	O	L	F	G
R	J	S	T	O	N	E	W	E	O	R	C	E	C	X	N
D	P	E	Q	H	E	Q	A	H	P	J	E	W	O	E	L
O	U	S	G	N	R	N	N	S	M	I	G	T	R	I	V
W	Z	J	K	N	M	H	J	H	N	V	V	D	U	Y	H
O	W	A	Y	A	A	A	T	Y	T	J	L	L	Y	R	W
J	V	A	Y	Z	V	I	R	B	J	I	E	B	S	S	N
P	D	K	O	E	A	T	H	K	H	C	S	E	Q	D	G
E	V	K	B	X	X	I	Y	C	I	Q	X	Q	T	A	H
E	P	N	A	O	M	A	G	O	W	A	S	H	E	E	P
C	D	Q	W	G	Z	N	V	I	X	R	Y	S	V	D	U



children
know
life
one
return
save
see
sheep
shepherd
stone
voice
wolf

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A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Website:** Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection