

30 April 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Entrance Antiphon

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

First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

Second Reading

from the first letter of St Peter 2:20-25

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

Communion Antiphon

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

Next Week

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Year A

First: Acts Acts 6:1-7

Response:

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

Second: 1 Pt 2:4-9

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

This Sunday is “Good Shepherd Sunday” and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

While we should always support and celebrate all vocations and will do so more explicitly in the first week of August, this Sunday has a special focus on Priesthood and Consecrated Life. Let us pray in particular for the present need for more priests to serve the parishes of Wollongong Diocese. Prayer cards are available with pictures of our 7 seminarians as well as a prayer that all would respond to the loving call of Jesus, our Good Shepherd wherever he may lead us. If anyone would like help discerning a vocation to Priesthood, Religious Life, Marriage or Single Life, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Ordination to the Priesthood Joshua Whicker who grew up in the Parish of Campbelltown, and Justin Uzabeaga who served on Youth Mission Team in our Diocese, are to be ordained to the Priesthood by the Most Rev Christopher Prowse, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, for the Missionaries of God’s Love order, this Friday 28 April at 7pm at St Christopher’s Cathedral in Canberra. Please pray for these two young men as they are ordained and commence their priestly ministry.

This is ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ and a particular focus taken today is leadership. Which voices do we follow? Why do we follow these voices and not others? Authentic leadership is rooted in authority, and authentic authority is the ability to author or bring life to birth. Genuine authority cherishes, guards and encourages the best in life; it provides rest and refreshment; it guides our steps; it nourishes us; it leads us to God. Peter is an example of authentic authority: he proclaims the truth, even if others find it hard to hear; he denounces error, even when this places him in jeopardy; he calls for a change of heart, even when it makes great demands.

Authentic leadership is patterned after the leadership of Jesus. It is gentle and familiar, like the true shepherd; it has won the confidence of those who follow, as did the true shepherd; it is committed to the enhancement of the lives of others, as was Jesus. Authentic leadership is willing to forgo its own needs and to deny its own interests in favour of the needs and interests of others.

Heavy demands are placed on those who follow authentic leadership. Those who follow the Good Shepherd must follow him in the dark valleys as well as to the refreshing streams. They must be willing to relinquish some of their own plans and self-determination and entrust themselves to his leadership. They must never forget that they are following a shepherd who has paid the ultimate price on their behalf. *Diane Bergant CSA*

Next Sunday is our High Tea fundraising event.

Our fundraising team will host a special morning tea with a special focus on Mothers Day, however **all are encouraged to join** and enjoy a social morning with fellow parishioners.

You can reserve a table by calling the parish office or just come along.

The cost is \$15 per person.

Invite your family and friends to join in.



Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: Friday 14 April from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: varroville@dow.org.au

Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Phyllis Cooper, Emmanuel Vella, Hugh Madden, June Wrightman.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Maria Lourdes Inandan, Anthony Binny, Fr Tadgh,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

07 May	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Irene, Gerry & Margaret	Betty & Boby
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana & Elijah	Orly, Luisa & Carlos	Robert
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Allan & Laura	Evangeline & Kavya
Refreshments	Emmarie, Suzanne & Berna	Steve & Sarah	
CLOTW			
Flowers	Vai & Jacinta	Church Vacuuming	Jacinta
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Volunteer

Our Community

Evangelisation and the Acts of the Apostles Bible Study with Dr Mary Healy Begins Friday April 28 at 10:00 am OR Tuesday May 2 at 7:30pm. Cost:\$20 for Course Materials. You are invited to attend this Bible Study DVD series, where we study the Acts of the Apostles and explore topics such as the call of Jesus to evangelise, the power of the Sacraments, the role of charisms for building up the Body of Christ and techniques from St Paul to reach a secular culture. Register via the parish office on 96037373 or M: 0434 705 176.

Fundraising News: Our fundraising team will host a "High Tea" in the parish on Sunday 7 May. The cost will be \$15 per person for morning tea. The cakes can be purchased for those who prefer to take something home. If you would like to help the fundraising team by donating food items or are able to assist on the day please contact the parish office this week.



Bulletin Notices

Fundraising Cash Raffle: We will be selling raffle tickets in our annual major raffle to be drawn at the parish feast day on 16 July. Tickets will be sold after Mass and books of tickets are available to take home and sell.

Sacramental Preparation dates are now available on the parish website. Preparation for First Holy Communion commences on Saturday 6 May at 4pm. Registration to the parish office is essential for anyone wishing to make their Sacraments this year.

Baptism for infants and children under the sacramental age is conducted on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is essential at the parish office. Parents must attend a parent preparation session prior to the baptism date.

Marriage must be arranged by appointment at the parish office. Couples wishing to marry must undergo a marriage preparation course.

Friendship Group is having an outing on Monday 1 May to Manly. For more information and to register please call the parish on 0434 705 176. On Tuesday 2 May the Friendship group will have morning tea after the 9am Mass. All are most welcome to join in.

Liturgy Committee is meeting on Thursday 4 May at 7.30pm via zoom. Please contact the parish for the zoom link.

Alliance of the 2 Hearts will be meeting on Friday 5 May for Mass and devotion from 7.30pm.

The Maori Mass will be next Sunday 7 May at 2pm.

Our Parish Feast Day will be celebrated on Sunday 16 July this year. We will be forming a committee to ensure all the organisational aspects of this important day are prepared in advance. Our first meeting will be held on Monday 8 May at 7.30pm in the meeting room. Please come along to this meeting with your ideas for this year's event.

The Rosters will finish at the end of May. All current serving ministers will be invited to join the rosters for the next 6 months from June – November. All ministries will welcome new members. To sign up please contact the parish office or speak to one of the welcomers in the foyer after Mass today. Discernment and training will be provided if you are unsure where you can serve our parish community.

Have you registered your family with our parish office. If your contact details have changed, please let the parish office know. Also, if you have been attending Mass here and consider this to be your parish, please register your details. Knowing how many active families are in our parish helps us plan for the future.

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council; An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient, and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue, or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://>

dow.sh/parishgiving to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Ageing with Confidence – Free Information Sessions 9.00am-12.30pm; CatholicCare, with the assistance of the Committee for the Aged will be holding a FREE information session for Parishioners. Guest speakers will include representatives from My Aged Care, CatholicCare, local funeral director and solicitor. On Wed 10 May at Campbelltown RSL. Morning tea provided. To register Call: 02 4227 1122 Or online: <https://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/events-calendar/>. For any other information contact Jane Hollier: Email: janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au or Call: 0417 018 152

Understanding Aboriginal Catholic Spirituality Come for an introduction in Aboriginal Catholic Spirituality. Designed as an in-service for SRE Catechists, the talk will be open to all parishioners interested about learning more about Aboriginal Spirituality, and in particular the beautiful Aboriginal Art Resource: Sacrament Series by artist Donna Marie Sadler. At Campbelltown - 15 May; from 9:30am - 1:30pm: Morning Tea will be provided. To register: <https://www.dow.org.au/events/understanding-aboriginal-catholic-spirituality/>

The Journey, 30 April 2023 – Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: Fr Mike Delaney's gospel reflection for Good Shepherd Sunday. Mother Hila says you'll be surprised where you can hear God's voice. Divine Renovation author, Fr James Mellon, continues his conversation with Jude Hennessy, plus the new tool from Alpha for young people. The Journey podcast is available at www.jcr.org.au.

Anointed: MGL Sisters Pentecost Intensive, 24-28 May; Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service through inputs, discussion and practical workshops. Join us for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville. More info & register: www.trybooking/cfbrf.

2023 PILGRIMAGE in the "Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop" You are invited to join Fr David Catterall (Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park) and fellow parishioners from across our Diocese and beyond on a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop. This pilgrimage (that departs Melbourne 16 October 2023 | returns Adelaide 26 October 2023) is a graced opportunity to set out together on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscapes, and spirit of our nations' first canonized saint. You can download the pilgrimage brochure HERE: <http://bit.ly/2023parishpilgrimage>

Caritas: Caritas Turkey is responding to a series of powerful earthquakes. Thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from the disaster. Visit <https://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/> or call 1800 024 413 toll-free to provide much-needed support to our East Emergency Appeal.

Holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

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.



Homily by Pope Francis

The First Letter of the apostle Peter, which we have heard, is a passage of serenity (see 2:20-25). It talks about Jesus. It says, "He Himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls" (vv. 24-25).

Jesus is the shepherd – this is how Peter sees Him – who comes to save, to save the sheep which had gone astray: they were us. And in Psalm 23, which we read after this letter, we repeated: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want" (v. 1). The presence of the Lord as a pastor, as a shepherd of the flock. And Jesus, in chapter 10 of John, which we have read, presents Himself as a shepherd. Moreover, not only as the shepherd, but the "door" through which the flock enters (see v. 8). All those who came before and did not enter through that door were thieves and brigands, or wanted to take advantage of the flock: false pastors. And in the history of the Church there have been many who have exploited the flock. They were interested not in the flock, but in advancing their careers, or politics, or money. But the flock recognises them, has always recognised them, and has gone in search of God on their own path.

But then there is a good shepherd who leads them ahead, the flock advances. The good shepherd listens to the flock, guides the flock, takes care of the flock. And the flock knows how to distinguish between these shepherds, it makes no mistake. The flock entrusts itself to the good shepherd, it entrusts itself to Jesus. Only the pastor who resembles Jesus can earn the trust of the flock, because He is the door. Jesus's style must be the style of the shepherd, there is no other. But even Jesus the good shepherd, as Peter says in the first letter, "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" (1 Pt 2:21-23). He was meek. One of the signs of the Good Shepherd is meekness. The Good Shepherd is meek.

A pastor who is not meek is not a good pastor. He has something to hide, because meekness makes itself seen as it is, without defending itself. In addition, a good shepherd is tender; he has that tenderness of closeness, he knows the sheep one by one, by name, and he takes care of each one as if it were the only one, to the point that when he returns home tired after a day of work, and realises that one is missing, he goes out to work again in search of that one, and carries it back home with him, on his shoulders (see Lk 15:4-5). This is a good shepherd, this is Jesus, this is the one who accompanies us all on the path of life. And this idea of the pastor, this idea of the flock and of the sheep, is a Paschal idea. The Church, in the first week of Easter, sings that beautiful hymn for the newly baptised. "These are the new lambs". Similar to what we heard at the beginning of the Mass. It is an idea of community, of tenderness, of goodness, of meekness. It is the Church that Jesus wants, and He guards this Church.

This Sunday is a beautiful Sunday, it is a Sunday of peace, it is a Sunday of tenderness, of meekness, because our Shepherd takes care of us. "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want" (Ps 23). **(3 May 2020)**