

21 April 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER YEAR B

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 Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

Response: Lord, let your face shine on us.

Second Reading from the first letter of John 3:1-2

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 10:11-18

NEXT WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First: Acts 9:26-31

Resp Ps:

21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

Second: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:4-5

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.

**APPEAL TO HELP THE CHRISTIAN FAMILIES
ARRIVING FROM GAZA TO AUSTRALIA**



This weekend we are having an appeal at the request of Mago and her family. Mago represents a Charity called Palestinian Christians in Australia.

Catholic families living in Gaza have lost their houses, their belongings, their memories. they only have their faith and belief in God.

In the Holy Family Church in Gaza about 600 people are living, having taken refuge after their houses were bombed. 400 people are living in the Orthodox Church.

Since the start of this year, around 150 christian refugees have already arrived in Australia, mostly in Sydney.

The Palestinian Christians in Australia Charity has helped them to settle into leased apartments. Priority is given to find housing for families with school age children. Thanks to the donations received from other churches, an accommodation drive and other sources we have managed to help 15 families so far.

50 more Christian families have visas and are preparing to travel soon to Australia. PCIA needs your help to welcome the families who have been displaced by the war.

At present most families have settled around Liverpool. 1 family is living in Denham Court.

We are expecting 6 families to arrive to St Andrews within the coming month or so.

Thanks for your donations. Any small amount can contribute toward the goal of housing those families who have lost everything. Please collect the accommodation drive flyer after Mass.

Worship: Mass and Devotions

| Sunday Mass | Weekday Mass | Devotions |
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| Saturday Vigil: 6pm | Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am | Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am |
| Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm | Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm | Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm |
| Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am | Fri and Sat Mass at 9am | Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm |
| Samoaan Mass: First Sunday of May at 12 | Healing Mass: first Satur- day of each month at 9am | Reconciliation: Sat 11am |

Prayer intentions

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

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

For our recently dearly departed: Sennie Masian, Francisco Carmona, Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anthony Mangos, Anthony Binny, Hilda Young, Fr Tadgh Tierney ocd, Veni Menezes
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



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

Parish Associate:
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Ministry Drive: You are called to serve.

In our Parish Pastoral Plan we are called to Ministry/Service: "Giving of ourselves: Our community enables every member to use their unique gifts and skills in ministry, giving of themselves in service to others".

What gifts and skills can you share in our parish community.

Stop at the ministry table after mass and ask about the many practical ways you can support our parish community

All ministry volunteers currently serving on a roster are requested to recommit for the next 6 months till the end of November.

Readers Training Refresher on Sunday April 28 at 11am.

All readers are encouraged to attend.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation;

preparation classes commence on Saturday May 4 at 4pm.

Registrations are being accepted via the Parish office.

High tea in honour of our mothers is to be held on Sunday May 5 from 10am in the parish hall. This is a fundraising event. The cost is \$25 per person.

Call 0434 705 176 to book a table.

The next fundraising team meeting is on Wednesday 24 April at 7.30pm.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Childrens Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.

Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Parish Fiesta July 14: The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 April at 7.30pm.

Banquet: Pentecost Intensive 2024 Friday 17th May - Wednesday 22nd May @ Carmel House, Varroville; Join the MGL Sisters for Pentecost 2024 as we discover the depths of God's love through our Banquet Intensive and accept the invitation to radical intimacy with the Trinity. Feast on God's powerful love for you, open up to the gifts of the Spirit, savour times of powerful input, prayer, and practical workshops, and find the charismatic generosity of God unleashed in your own life of mission and discipleship. Enquiries: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com; Registrations: <http://www.trybooking.com/CNSXA>

*Serve Him
by serving
His people.*



Holy Gospel according to John 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern 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 my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Reflecting on Jesus' discourse on the good shepherd, Pope Francis suggests we focus on three verbs: hear, know, and follow.

Firstly, we are called to 'hear the voice of the shepherd'. This, as the Pope points out, means being open to listening. Too often, the Pope says, 'we are overwhelmed by words and by the urgency to always have something to say or do.' We need to make time and space and effort for the good shepherd's voice to cut through our frenetic business and our own noisemaking.

Secondly, we are called to contemplate what it means to be known by the good shepherd. This knowing, the Pope points out, means more than knowing superficial facts about us like what we did yesterday. The sort of knowing Jesus speaks of is much more profound: God understands; He loves.

Thirdly, having heard the good shepherd's voice and accepting that we are known and loved, each one of us is called to follow the good shepherd. 'What do those who follow Christ do?', the Pope asks. 'They go where he goes, along the same path, in the same direction.' This means seeking the lost, giving practical aid to those in need, and being compassionate to all.

Ultimately, we are called to allow ourselves to be shepherded. Sometimes this means being called out of our wayward tracks, at other times it might mean moving on from familiar pastures. Either way, we are called individually, but not to travel alone.