

## Good Shepherd Sunday World Day of Prayer for Vocations

### Holy Gospel according to John 10:27-30

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;  
I know them and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life;  
they will never be lost and no one will ever steal  
them from me. The Father who gave them to me is  
greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the  
Father.

The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful Mothers in  
our community.

### Mother's Day Prayer Poem

Dear God above in heaven bright,  
I thank You for my mother's light;  
Her gentle ways and loving care  
Are blessings that I cannot compare.

On this Mother's Day I pray,  
Bless her heart in every way;  
With joy and peace throughout her years—  
May she know Your love and calm her fears.

*By Anonymous*



### Readings for this week

#### 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 13:14, 43-52

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 99:1-  
3. 5. R. v.3  
(R.) We are his people, the  
sheep of his flock.

**Second Reading** from book  
of Revelation 7:9, 14-17

#### 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 10:27-30

#### Communion Antiphon

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

### Next Week Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C

**First Reading:** Acts of the  
Apostles 14:21-27

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps  
144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

**Second Reading:** Revelation  
21:1-5

**Holy Gospel:** John 13:31-35

## Mass and Devotions

### Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoa Mass: 1st Sunday of June at 12noon

Maori Mass: 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

### Weekday Mass

- 9am each day except Thursday; It is at 7.30pm
- Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

### Devotions & prayer groups

- Adoration with the Rosary:
- Saturday at 9.30am
- Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass & devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm
- Divine Mercy Devotion: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm
- Reconciliation every Saturday at 11am.
- Faith Circles: every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom
- Holy Family Fellowship: every 4th Saturday at 7pm.
- Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.
- Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month
- Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.
- Children's Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm
- Ascent Youth Ministry meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30p.

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Our Christian vocation or “calling” begins in our baptism, lived out either in single life, marriage, ordained ministry or consecrated life. The motto Pope Francis chose for himself as Bishop and Pope, *miserando atque eligendo*, means “having mercy, he called him”, and the Pope constantly reminded us of the joyful message he experienced in his own life: in spite of our weaknesses and sins, Jesus, our Good Shepherd, has looked upon us with perfect love and mercy and called us to follow him. Each year the Pope writes a message to the whole Church for this day. In his final message for this day Pope Francis wrote:

*“Dear friends, the world pushes you to make hasty decisions and bombards you with a constant blare that prevents you from experiencing a silence that is open to God who speaks to the heart. Have the courage to pause, to listen to what your heart tells you, and to ask God about his dreams for you. The silence of prayer is indispensable if we are to learn hear God’s call amid the specific circumstances of our lives and to respond consciously and freely.”*



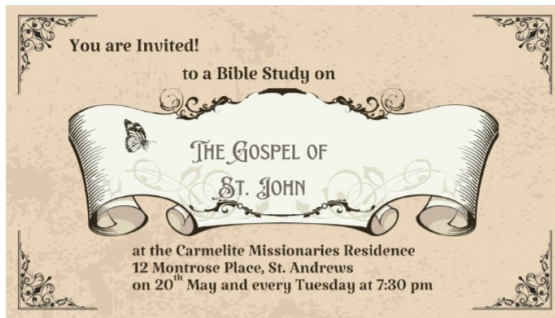
Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people 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.

Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit.

Join the Universal Church today in observing the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, as we ask the Lord to send laborers into His harvest! This day is a reminder to pray for and support those discerning the priesthood, religious life, and other vocations in the Church.

Fr Duane Fernandez, Diocesan Vocations Director, would love to speak with you to help you to discern God’s call in your life. Contact him at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## Parish Notices



**Sacramental Preparation** will be commencing on 24th May 2025 for children wishing to make First Holy Communion. Confirmation and Reconciliation preparation will be held later in the year. You can register at the parish office for all sacraments including Baptism and Marriage. Information booklet available, ask the welcomer as you leave.

**COMPANIONS gathering May 31 from 10 to 2.** We meet to pray and reflect on aspects of our parish life. We can find resources to help to make decisions about when to take up a ministry, change ministries or finish in one. There are no outside requirements. We hope in each year to have two formation meetings and a one day retreat. All are welcome. Registration is required for numbers for setting up, handouts and morning tea and lunch. Please contact the office.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast day and Fiesta celebration is on Sunday 13 July 2025;** We're excited to announce that our Parish Fiesta will be celebrated on Sunday, 13th July. In preparation for this joyful occasion, Novenas will be held from the 4th to the 12th of July. We invite all parishioners to mark their calendars and join us in prayer and celebration. As we prepare for the Fiesta, we are also looking for volunteers to help with the various activities and arrangements. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact the Parish office. Your time and talents will be greatly appreciated! More details about the Fiesta will be shared in the coming weeks. For now, please save the dates. We look forward to celebrating together as a parish family.

**Rosters are due for renewal in June.** Please contact the parish office to make a commitment to one of our rosters and also if you need to update your contact information and availability for the next 6 months. There is a desperate need for more volunteers to clean the church each weekend. The 5pm Mass requires additional welcomers. Please consider if you can help out on the roster once every 4—6 weeks. Contact the parish office for more information.

## Prayer intentions



### **For the sick and homebound:**

Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez.

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

### **For our recently departed:**

Peter Presdee, Pope Francis, Reg Bucknell, Marites Vinoya

### **Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Anthony Mangos, Hilda Young, Joe Spinnato, Frank Lopresti

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*

## Our Rosters

18 May 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Paul & Lori Q	Gabriel, Bianca H, Antony P	Terry & Maree
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana D	Orly	Stuart & Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Mark M, Carlos U	Allan R & Aida R	Gloria & Evangeline
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Berna P	<b>CLOTW</b>	
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret McD & Jeanne H	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Feiloakitohi Family

**Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese** Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at [dow.sh/stayingconnected](http://dow.sh/stayingconnected) or visit [dow.sh/weekly\\_bulletin](http://dow.sh/weekly_bulletin) to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION BY MARY COLOE PBVM

**I give them eternal life.**

*Jesus – the Good Shepherd*

Throughout the Fourth Gospel a consistent question put to Jesus is, 'Are you the Messiah?' When the crowds ask this, they are thinking of a political leader like King David who would free them from the rule of Rome. Jesus does not accept the title 'Messiah' on these terms. In today's Gospel, we are given the only image of a Messiah that Jesus will accept, that of the Good Shepherd who knows his flock and gives them eternal life.

The issue of leadership lies behind this image. David was a shepherd and was regarded as Israel's greatest leader. This is why the shepherd image was later applied to Israel's kings by a number of Prophets. The shepherd image was later applied to God as the one who would really nourish, care for, gather and protect the sheep.

In Ezekiel 34 we read:

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

Because of Jesus' unique union with God, Jesus can call himself the Good Shepherd.

John 10 continues a dispute that began in chapter 9 following Jesus' cure of a man born blind. The Jewish leaders could not accept that this was an action of God, since this cure took place on the Sabbath day (John 9:14), and it involved Jesus making clay to put on the man's eyes. The Pharisees drove the blind man out of the Synagogue and then enter into an argument with Jesus. In this context Jesus uses the imagery of the good shepherd and the hired hand who leaves the sheep when trouble comes. When Jesus speaks of himself as the Good shepherd and compares the Pharisees with the hired hand, he is really challenging their leadership.

In Australia, where flocks of sheep number in the hundreds, it is hard to have a real understanding of this image. In the land of Israel, a family might have a very small number of sheep, perhaps only seven. Being so small in number each sheep is known to the shepherd. In the winter months, the sheep come indoors to protect them from the bitter cold and to provide the family with warmth from the heat of their bodies – in a sense they are part of the family. The sheep do know the particular sound of their master's voice, just as the shepherd knows the individual markings and characteristics of his sheep.

The sheep/shepherd image tries to express that we are each known and valued by God.



### Contact Us

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Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:

Sr "Jill" Girлие Sudario, CM

### Office Hours

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Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://varroville.dow.org.au)

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.