

Tending to the flock

The image of God as shepherd of his people is strong in both the Old and the New Testament. Indeed, one of the earliest and most loved images of Jesus in the early Church was of him as the Good Shepherd who so loves his sheep that he lays down his life for them.

In the Roman catacombs, the ancient cemeteries outside the city of Rome where the early Christian martyrs were buried, we find very early images of the Good Shepherd. He is shown carrying a lamb on his shoulders. Holiness, goodness and grace radiate from his youthful figure. His sheep gaze trustingly at him and graze peacefully in his care. They know him, they recognise his voice, and they know that he will protect them from danger. He knows each of them by name and will never desert them.

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd must have been a great source of consolation for Christians in the face of persecution. Indeed, a common prayer in the early Church for those who had died was that they should be taken to heaven "borne on the shoulders of the Good Shepherd".

Two thousand years later, Christians continue to find the image of the Good Shepherd deeply consoling and comforting, especially in times of trouble and distress. Psalm 23 is one of the most loved and prayed of all the psalms, often used at funerals. It speaks to us so powerfully of the unfailing tenderness and steadfast love with which God cares for us, individually and as a community. Psalm 100, proclaims his kindness and faithfulness and in it we rejoice that we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

But let us reflect for a moment about us as the sheep of his flock! Now, those of us who have grown up in the country and watched sheep dog trials, or waited on a country road while a flock of sheep is moved by a farmer and his sheep dogs from one side of the road to the other, know how stupid and wayward sheep can be and how much patience and skill it takes to manage them! Though we human beings are blessed with capacity for intelligence and insight, we too, like sheep, often behave in scatterbrained and foolish ways.

But no matter how foolish or scatterbrained or uncooperative we might be, our Good Shepherd shepherds us, looks out for us, comes to find us when we are lost, and carries us when we need to be carried. He loves us and cares for us with an everlasting love. How very blessed are we to be the sheep of his flock! May the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd remind us to keep our eyes on him, to listen to him, and to hold firm to our faith and our trust in him.

Anne Hunt
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Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish



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Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C

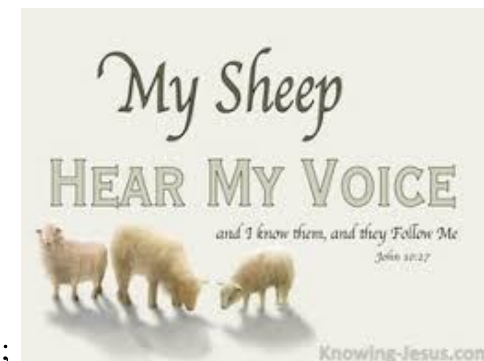
12 May 2019

Today's Reading:

Acts 13:14,43-52;

Apocalypse 7:9,14-17;

John 10:27-30



Next Sunday's Readings:

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C

Acts 14:21-27; Apocalypse 21:1-5;

John 13:31-35

Weekend Mass times:

Saturday 6:00pm Vigil Lindisfarne,

Sunday 8.30 am John Paul II

10.30 am, 6:00pm Corpus Christi

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 10:45 am Queen Victoria Home

Wednesday 12:00noon Corpus Christi

Thursday 10:00am John Paul 11 Rokeby

Friday 9:30am Corpus Christi Bellerive

Dear Parish Family,

Today is Mothers' Day.

It is a day that we celebrate and thank our beloved mothers for the roles that they play in our lives. I thought of reflecting on the pains of child-bearing but since I haven't experienced and will not experience it, I feel inadequate to fully reflect on this. Then the thought of reflecting on the good meals that mothers prepare came to mind, but unfortunately, I am not the best cook and so I can't truly reflect on this either.

One thing that I cannot fail to reflect upon is the beauty that lies in the lives of all good mothers. A beauty that is so precious, yet not all mothers have been appreciated for their beauty. This beauty is not found in dresses and make-ups. It is about the unspeakable love that mothers carry in their hearts from the moment of our conception. It is about the warmth of their presence. It is about their advice and companionship. So I say, thank you dear mothers.

In today's Gospel, Jesus assures us that he is our loving guardian (the true shepherd) and we are his sheep. He says: "I know my sheep and they follow me. I give them eternal life" (John 10: 27-28). Perhaps not everyone who reads this will be able to celebrate this day with their mothers physically since they are no longer in this present life. Here in this gospel, our Lord is addressing you. Dear friends, celebrate your mother even though she is dead, pray to her and ask her to pray for you because she is in the loving hands of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Once again, happy Mothers Day.

Fr Fidelis Udousoro – Assistant priest

SACRAMENTS PARENT MEETING: An information evening for parents of children intending to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this year will be held in Corpus Christi Church on Wednesday 22nd May at 7pm

MOVIE NIGHT: "Summer in the Forest" is a film about Jean Vanier and the L'Arche Community screening at the State Cinema on Wednesday 22nd May at 6pm. Booking essential (\$26) at www.summerintheforest.com.au. Enquiries: John Coleman 0401 489 728

GRACEFEST: Joy, Faith, Music, Fellowship, Talks, Discussion, Prayer for under 35's. Featuring Fr. Rob Galea– Thursday 9th May 5:30 -8:00pm St Mary's College (entry from Brisbane Street) Entry is free but registration is essential: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gracefest-with-fr-rob-galea-tickets-59416014900>

WALK WITH CHRIST – Hobart City, Sunday 23rd June 1:15 to 3:00 pm. Celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ by walking with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through the city of Hobart. Be at St Joseph's Church (Harrington St) by 1.15 pm, and walk with us to St Mary's Cathedral for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction concluding at 3:00. There will be a 'cuppa' afterwards. If you can't do the walk come to the Cathedral at 2:00 for prayer and Adoration.

SRI LANKA APPEALS:

"Catholic Mission" are running a special appeal to support the people of Sri Lanka to rebuild their churches damaged in the terror attacks on Easter Sunday. To donate go to www.catholicmission.org.au and scroll down to the Sri Lanka appeal.

"Aid to the Church in Need" supports over 200 million persecuted Christians around the world, and they also have an appeal for the churches of Sri Lanka. Leaflets are in the foyer.

Catholic Bishops' Statement on the federal election: The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. The statement is available at www.catholic.org.au

Bible Study: Genesis to Jesus - An Overview of the Bible. The Verbum Domini Institute is offering a survey of the bible from the Catholic perspective. Starting with the narratives of creation and Noah's ark, we will trace the history of salvation as it unfolds in a series of covenants that God makes with his chosen people. The course covers the pivotal events and characters of the Old Testament leading up to their fulfilment in Jesus and his Church. **When:** Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm, 15th & 29th May, 12th & 26th June. **Cost:** \$20 for study guide. **Where:** Murphy Room, Diocesan Centre, 35 Tower Rd, New Town. **Register:** 6208-6236.