



St Patrick's Parish

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3rd & 4th May 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:1-6

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

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 10:1-10

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PARISH PRAYER LIST



Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: John Wright

Sick: Joan Keuken, Angela Del Guidice, Lynne Fleming, Jo Payne, Kim J, Cherie, Izaak, Anne-Maree Sullivan, Jim Reid, Peter & Aurelia Di Ciero, Tony Cunningham, Claudette & Gilbert, Florens, Luigi Mazzotti, Kate, Tim Lawson, John Hopper, Cassandra, Mary and John Hamilton, Carmel O'Healy, Michelle, Pat Robb, Robert Taylor, Nancy Leonard, Brian Walsh, Michael Paola, Barbara De Vincentiis, Emma, Wayne, Julian Monteiro, Dolly Maher, Salvacion Santos, Ricky, Giovanna Zammit, Michael Jordan, Anne Moroney, Catherine Fields, Sam Lawson, Trish Macpherson, Geoff, Grace Quinlivan, Bianca, Mary Ovens, Stephen, Gael Holliday, Rob Meridith, Bill Meyer, Cathie & Jose Grima, Darren McInnes, Rose Roberts, Roman De Angelis, Tedi & Santi

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into
my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my
heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself
wholly to You. Never permit me
to be separated from You.**

Amen.

4th Sunday of Easter – “Good Shepherd Sunday” – By Fr Francis

The fourth Sunday of Easter has in recent times been given the name “Good Shepherd Sunday.” In chapter 10 of John’s Gospel Jesus proclaims himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. The image of Christ the Good Shepherd, is among the earliest in Christian iconography, popular at a time when Christianity was still an underground religion. For example, the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome contains a fresco dating from about 250AD, depicting the classical image of the good shepherd carrying a sheep upon his shoulders. It is a consoling image of God that brings together strength and tenderness, as he seeks out the lost sheep.

Even as Our Lord speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, he warns the flock of false shepherds – ‘hirelings’ who don’t really care for the sheep but merely want to use them for their own advantage, and will abandon them at the first whiff of danger. St Augustine in his lengthy ‘Sermon on the Shepherds’ rails against the shepherds of his own day who seem to think only of the ‘milk, wool and meat’ the sheep provide, while doing nothing to nurture or protect the flock. Perhaps it has always been so. The Church continues to reel from the pain caused by these false shepherds, more so than ever in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis. These false shepherds have brought such a profound sense of betrayal, outrage and devastation to the flock. It has (quite understandably) shattered the trust of so many ordinary Catholics. The Church can and must denounce these false shepherds. The stain of dishonour these men have inflicted upon the Church affects all the faithful, not least those who continue to serve in ministry. Indeed, there are still many faithful shepherds who quietly go about doing their part to build up the Kingdom of God. These faithful shepherds have persevered in their calling because they can recognise

the unique gift of the priesthood for the good of the world, in spite of its tarnished reputation in the eyes of the public.

On this day, ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’, Corpus Christi Seminary would ordinarily send seminarians into the parishes to speak about vocations. Clearly that won’t be happening this year! Given my recent arrival to the Lilydale and Healesville parishes, I thought I could tell a little of my own vocation story. I hope you don’t think it too self-indulgent of me! I was born and grew up in Ballarat, the seventh of nine children. My parents were both very strong in their faith. In the Denton household Mass was a non-negotiable, not that I minded, as it gave me the opportunity to serve Mass with my brothers. The Catholic faith permeated my up-bringing in a quiet, gentle way. We prayed the morning offering in the car on the way to school; we always said grace before meals; and every night Dad and Mum would herd us together to pray a decade of the rosary together. My parents also made a point of offering hospitality to priests. Here I was able to see first-hand the kindness and goodness of the many priests who were honoured guests at our table. On account of this I grew up with a very favourable impression of priests. There was one Redemptorist priest, Fr Patrick Murray, in particular who left a deep impression. He was a truly joyful and kind-hearted man, who showed a genuine personal interest in everyone he met. He was also a gifted preacher who instilled a love for Mary and the saints in his homilies, and offered the Mass with great care and reverence. Once in secondary school my faith continued to grow, albeit in a private way. My Dad gave me his old tattered edition of the ‘Imitation of Christ’ by Thomas à Kempis. It sat on my book-shelf unread for about two years before I picked it up. I soon formed the ritual of reading a chapter before bed. It offered some serious spiritual nourishment and gave my prayer life a new interiority.

The first stirrings of ‘the call’ began in these years with the simple conviction that God had a plan for my life.

It wasn’t until I started university studies that the seed of God’s call began to germinate. There was both an excitement and a restlessness in my soul as I strove to fathom who God is and what his plan for me might be. During my university years I was drawn to the study of literature and art history. Studying the masterpieces of Western culture had the unexpected effect of deepening my appreciation for the role of the Church in shaping western culture and values. I was always drawn to the transcendentals of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness. Paradoxically, it became increasingly clear to me that the modern secular world of the university was actively subverting these transcendentals by privileging ugliness and disorder over Beauty, relativism and subjectivism over Truth, and inverting the normative distinctions between Good and evil. The University culture’s hostility to Christianity was palpable, yet it proved to be an important challenge to my faith, one that prompted me to examine my own core beliefs as I found myself increasingly defending the Church and her teachings which I was now being forced to understand for myself. During these years I was able to develop my passion for painting, and while at university I had been asked to restore some old, flaky wall-paintings in my old school chapel of St Patrick’s College, Ballarat. This became a summer job, and so at the age of 19 for two months I was spending about nine hours a day in a chapel painting. This was like heaven for me, and I recall feeling I could happily do this for the rest of my life! I experienced a peace in my soul, and a joy in being able to serve God in beautifying his church. I thought often of the words the crucifix spoke to St Francis: “Go Francis, rebuild my church which as you can see is falling into ruin.”

In fact, the life of my patron saint, Francis of Assisi, had captivated me from childhood. So, I began to explore the possibility of the religious life. Whilst discerning this call, I worked in retail to save up my pennies and then went backpacking around Europe with some good Catholic friends. The trip coincided with the 2005 World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany with the newly elected, Pope Benedict XVI. This Pope made a deep impression on me, which continued to grow in the years ahead as I read more and more of his vast theological corpus. I returned from five months in Europe with a strong sense of needing to commit to God's call. By the end of the year I had begun a postulancy with the Capuchin Franciscans. This was a wonderful period of prayer, community, study and apostolic works. The goodness and faith of the friars was very edifying. Above all else it gave me the space to stop to hear God's call. Through this year, I really grew in an understanding and appreciation of the priesthood, such that, at the end of the postulancy it seemed clear to me that even though the Capuchins weren't quite the 'right fit' I might be called to the diocesan priesthood. The following year, in 2007, I joined Corpus Christi seminary which finally brought me great peace. At last I felt this was where God wanted me. My time in the seminary was not without its challenges. There were times where it was 'touch and go' but in his providence I'm quite certain God used these trials to purify my own intentions. My ordination to the priesthood on 27th June 2015 brought to a close a long chapter of sincere soul-searching motivated by the desire to know and do God's holy will. I'm quite convinced that in this embrace of the Divine Will lies our truest peace and fulfilment. I thank God for entrusting me with a share in the precious gift of the priesthood, and pray that sustained by His grace I might serve him worthily and well, all the days of my life.

On this day the Church invites all the faithful to pray for priests and especially to pray for vocations to the priesthood. Perhaps our privation of the Mass and Sacraments during this coronavirus pandemic might have one positive effect - it might serve to sharpen our awareness of just how precious the gift of the priesthood is. Without the priesthood the Church would find itself permanently deprived of the consolation of the Mass and the Sacraments. Our reality for the past month might well become the long-term reality for future generations of Catholics if we fail to nurture and promote vocations to the priesthood. Please pray for me, for all our priests, and indeed for many more holy vocations so that the prophesy of Jeremiah might be fulfilled: *"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding"* (Jer 3:15).



Fr Francis Denton



From Debbie's Desk

Anzac Day was just as different this year as everything else seems to be at the minute. I looked up and down our dark street at 6 am to see little candle lights scattered in driveways as far as I could see. A trained bugler lives in our neighbourhood, and he played note perfectly. With our candles in our hands, whole families listened to the Last Post together, with the tiny lights of the Southern Cross above us in the dark sky, just beginning to lighten with the

gathering dawn. So beautiful. Silently, we prayed for all who have been affected by wars everywhere. I thought about darkness and light, and how light always overcomes the darkness it touches. Our Easter Vigil Mass is filled with celebration of the light defeating the darkness of ignorance, and pain. The Easter fire is blessed, and we usually each hold a candle in our darkened church, while we listen to the readings from the Old Testament. As the Gloria is prayed, the bells are rung, the lights are turned on, and candles on the altar and at the tabernacle are lit from the new Paschal candle. We use a lot of candles in our church throughout the year, a light is kept burning in our church continuously in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Our children are familiar with lighting candles in their classrooms at prayer time. The lit candle reminds us that God is with us in our worship, and that our time with him is significant and remarkable. Here is a suggestion for a special family activity this week, using candles to inspire our thoughts. This is not one for kids to do by themselves! The ingredients needed: Mum or Dad, or both, kids, the dog, 3 birthday candles, and some matches, and a table that is covered with paper so that dripping wax does not wreck anything important. 3 people each hold a birthday candle, and each is lit. Encourage everyone to have a close look at the 3 flames, to see their colours and shapes, to see how smooth and round they are, and to see how alike they are. Over the covered table, each person now brings their candles close to the other two, to allow the flames to join together. Consider what happens to the flames as they join, pointing out how many flames there are now, one single flame, which looks just like the 3 did when they were separate, only maybe a little bigger. Now separate the flames again and hold the candles apart. The 3 flames are still there, unchanged. We can use this exercise to think

about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and about how they are 3 distinct 'persons', but one God. As with so much in our Faith, this mystery may defeat our understanding, but we believe, even though we have not seen. There is only one God. Yet we know that Jesus is a distinct person from his Father, whom he speaks of with love throughout the Gospels, and that he promised at his Ascension to send the Advocate, or Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, to guide and protect his Church. 3 persons, one God. 3 flames, one flame. Have a think about this as a family, or in the quiet of your Covid 19 isolation, and finish off your contemplation by making the Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Our candles will be extinguished, but our unfolding relationship with God goes on forever.



Parish staff are still available by phone to pass on any

information you may need, and to care for your family in this time of stress and uncertainty.

Debbie's phone number is 0448 664 731 and Sharon's is 0448 658 418. Parish email: lilydale@cam.org.au

WHAT YOU CAN DO!!

As we all go into shutdown mode, social isolation is a real danger.

Please set yourself the goal to ring at least one other person you know each day, to help keep everyone connected. The sky is the limit when it comes to how many elderly, sick, lonely or vulnerable people you could speak to by phone. Staying in contact with family and friends is Psychological First Aid, and a lot of fun!

Combined Parish Car Raffle has been postponed. **New Draw Date: 26 September 2020 at 7.15 pm.**
Publication of Winners Date: 30 September 2020

RECONCILIATION

by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

by appointment

Marriages: Please give at least six month's notice.

Baptism: Please contact parish office for details.

PARISH OFFICE

Wednesday: 9.00am - 3.30pm
Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm
Office: 9739 5977
Emergencies: 0448 658 418

PASTORAL WORKER

Wednesday 10.00am- 3.00pm
Friday 10.00am - 3.00pm

COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKINGS

Phone Parish Office on 9739 5977

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If assistance is required please contact the Lilydale Centre on 1800 305 330
Mon-Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm

CARE GROUP

Ann McCann, Debbie Edwards, Sharon Jacob,
Contact Parish Office 9739 5977

thanks for those who are working to help or bring some kindness, joy or humour to others, showing us the light of Christ lives. During this time of isolation as we close our doors, may we continue to keep our hearts open to our family, friends, local and global communities. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen St Oscar Romero, patron saint of Caritas Internationalis, pray for us. Patron Saints of Australia, Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us St Francis Xavier, pray for us. St Therese of Lisieux, pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us



Project compassion boxes can be left at the office on **Wednesday** mornings 9am to 10.30am or you can donate directly to Caritas Australia.

THANKSGIVING CONTRIBUTIONS

Your parish still needs your help to survive financially. Please consider placing your donation in the letterbox slot, to the right of the area under the verandah, outside the Parish Office. **If you wish to donate via electronic funds transfer (EFT), please ring Sharon on 0448 658 418.**

Humour

A Tour bus driver is driving a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. She repeats this gesture about five more times. When she is about to hand him another batch he asks the lady, "Why don't you eat them yourself?" We can't chew them because we have no teeth," she replies. The puzzled driver asks, "Why do you buy them then?" The old lady replies, "We just love the chocolate around them"

Caritas Prayer for the COVID-19

Pandemic May we, who are experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia and are coming to terms with a new reality, remember the words of scripture "Be still and know that I am God". May we, who as adults struggling to process what is happening in our world, remember children who are fearful of a reality they cannot comprehend. May we, who complain about the scarcity of commodities, remember those who are working to maintain the supply chain. May we, who observe the long queues of those seeking support, remember those for whom there is no government assistance or financial aid. May we, who rely on essential services, especially those in the medical profession, remember all those working on the front line. May we, who work to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity, remember those living and working in vulnerable communities. May we, who are working from home, remember those who have no employment or home from which to work. May we, who have access to medical facilities and services, remember those who do not have basic health care. May we, who are beginning to experience border closures, remember refugees who cannot return home. May we give