



Sacred Heart Parish Church
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale
 81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360 (P. O. Box 107)
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 Phone 67221103

PRIESTS: FR JAMES POOVATHINKAL MS. P.P., VF
 FR JAYARAJ GORANTLA AP
PPC Chair: Mrs Sharon Hollis
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger—67224066

Parish Secretary: Mrs Noela Turner—67221103.
Office Hours
 Mon & Fri 8am—1pm; Thurs 8am—12 noon



PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

We will be printing a number of bulletins for pickup from the presbytery verandah.

If you wish, you can leave your planned giving envelopes at the presbytery in office hours. We have decided the box is not secure enough.
 Office hours : Monday 8am—1pm; Thursday 8am-12noon; Friday 8am—1pm.

Fr James will be offering private Mass in the Church every week day at 9am for all parishioners and you are encouraged to pray privately at this time. Mass offerings will be accepted at the presbytery.

Sunday Mass 9am

Sick calls as usual. Please call 67221103 OR 0428126703 if you would like Fr James to come for confession, communion etc. He is free to do this now with the easing of the restrictions in NSW allowing 2 visitors.

This is a great time to get involved with the life of the Church around the world. Two websites of note are
 Cath News <http://cathnews.com>
 and also
 Where Peter Is.
<http://wherepeteris.com>

OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION:
 We as a PARISH, try to live out our
VISION: To continually form a Christ-centred community based on the Gospel Values expressed through SERVICE in peace, justice and love.
MISSION: To know Christ more, His life and His teachings. To imbibe Christ's message of love and service. To try to share generously what graces and



Holy Souls in Purgatory, Sr Leo Clancy, deceased members of the Clancy family

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
 All those with the Corona Virus, Terry Hopgood, Joan Hiscox, Paul Saint, Debrah Brown, (sister of Margaret Jones) Kerrie O'Keefe, Carmel Hooper, Sr Leo (Josie) Clancy, Alana Goldman, Lloyd Fleming, Rhonda Lee Watts (daughter of Phyllis Nichols) John Sanders, David Sanders, Rex Parry, Jeanette Rennie, Danny Dickins, Katrina Newbigin, Bob Kneipp. Brian Barker, Linda Redondo, Marie Ward, Margaret Wales, Dorothy Ball, Mary Porchedda, Denise Taveira, Joanne Essey, Graham Tom, Fred Baight, Mary Jordan, Agnes Hannigan **the sick members of our parish whose names are not listed here.**

We Pray for the Recently Deceased & Anniversaries
 Murray Marshall, Sr Theresa Noon, Cleo Campagner, Nolene Lane, John Harmon (brother of the Harmon family) Gail King, Teresa (Clancy) Conroy, Fr Bernie Melville, Pat Stewart, Athol & Marjorie Reeves, Pat Clancy, Sr Anne O'Brien rsm (aunt of Shayne O'Brien) Eileen O'Brien, Sr M. Bernard Morton, Phil Harris, John Moore, Alan Matthews, Thomas Hanley, Paul Witherdin, Mary Robbins, Peter Hoynes, Susan Hoynes, Kath Denovan, Yvonne Hawkins, Lindsay Dale (father of Tony) John Lennon,

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
 O Mary you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and feasting after this time of trial. Help us Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
 Under your protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

MAY 3, 2020—FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / YEAR A

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My dearest 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

Good Shepherd Sunday Prayer for Priestly Vocations

Father, in your plan for our salvation you provide shepherds for your people.

Fill your Church with the spirit of courage and love.

Raise up worthy ministers for your altars and ardent but gentle servants of the gospel.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. Amen.

**St John the Baptist,
 Pray for us**

**St John Vianney,
 Pray for us.**

This May, during the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis has invited the faithful to renew their love for the Most Holy Rosary, a prayer fully immersed in the Gospel. In this article, Vatican News looks at the dedication of various Popes throughout the centuries to this ancient devotion.



Prayer to Patroness of Diocese

Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia
 Our Lady of the Rosary, Patroness of the Diocese of Armidale Mother of God and Queen of the Angels
 We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.
 Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our Diocese, for our nation and for the world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your Son Jesus and of all his holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
 For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
 May your Son deliver from all evil.
 Amen.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR PARISH

Those who contribute by envelope and would like to convert to direct debit are invited to come during office hours to fill in their forms (social distancing will be observed). If you would like to continue with your envelopes, please leave at the presbytery. If possible leave in office hours. Alternatively you may like to make the transfers yourself: Please make sure you put your name in the reference section
 First Collection: Presbytery for priest upkeep
 BSB 082105 A/C 001023550
 Second Collection: Church for running costs
 BSB 082105 A/C 001001010
 We are sure that you will understand that normal running expenses will have to be met and ask for your usual generous support.

Thank you to those who have responded already. Your support is greatly appreciated.

GOSPEL

Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

03 MAY 2020

JESUS: SHEPHERD AND GATE

To appreciate today's Gospel and the images it features, we have to understand something of shepherding practices in Palestine at the time of Jesus.

In applying to himself the image of shepherd, Jesus presupposes the intimate knowledge that should exist between a shepherd and his sheep. Sheep from various flocks would be penned up at night in communal sheepfolds. At daybreak, shepherds would come to the gate, call, and gather their sheep to lead them out to pasture. While during the night the sheep were all mixed up together, the shepherd could rely on the fact that his sheep would recognise his voice, separate themselves from the rest, and willingly follow him through the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus contrasts a 'good shepherd' like this with others who come only to steal, harass, and ultimately bring about the loss of sheep that do not belong to them.

Jesus goes on to identify himself with the 'gate' of the sheepfold. This adds a fresh dimension. If the sheep are to flourish, they have to go out each morning and find pasture. Yet, if they do not return to the fold at night, they will be at risk. So daily they have to come and go through the gate. The gate is their means of access to both protection and growth.

As 'Gate' Jesus performs this function for the community. Through continual interaction with him in prayer and worship its members find life and growth.

In this sense he 'has come that they may have life and have it to the full' (v. 10).

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)

1. 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. **R.**

2. 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. **R.**

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



4. 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.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because 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 but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

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