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07 3349 5130
St Joachim's School
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Seton College
07 3291-5333

St Vincent de Paul Welfare
1800 846 643

Safeguarding Officer
Dot Lomax 0428 172 224

(Safeguarding purposes only)

4th Sunday of Easter

Year A

2nd/3rd May, 2020

Good Shepherd Sunday - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On this Good Shepherd Sunday my memories travel back to Mary Matha Major Seminary in Kerala, India, where I did my theological studies. As you enter the seminary compound your eyes are engrossed with the statue of a Good Shepherd. The then rector, currently the bishop of Samshabad Raphael, used to start his every lecture quoting from the Pastores Dabo Vobis (I will give you pastors out of my heart), the Apostolic Exhortation, and Pope John Paul II on priestly formation.

Pope John Paul II in his introduction maintains that without priests the church would not be able to live out the fundamental obedience which is at the very heart of her existence and her mission in the world. He emphasizes the need for the church to propose to each new generation the vocational call, and help people to discern the authenticity of their call from God and respond to it generously, and give care to the formation of candidates for priesthood. Pope John Paul II considers the future formation of priests (whether diocesan or religious) and their personal sanctification in the ministry as the most demanding and important task for the church for the future evangelization of humanity.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter offers us the figure of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep: he calls them, he feeds them and he guides them. For over 50 years the universal Church has celebrated this Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In this way she reminds us of our need to pray, as Jesus himself told his disciples, so that 'the Lord of the harvest may send out labourers into his harvest'. I think it is worthy to remember and pray for all the priests who served our parish in the past and to pray for more vocations. Adapting the words of Saint Augustine, Pope John Paul II said "For you I am a Bishop, with you I am a Priest".

Each and every vocation is a response to the cry, sacrifice and prayer of so many people in the church. I never thought that I would be in Australia doing my ministry, yet here I am and happy to be a part of this mission vocation for which I am indebted to God and to his people.

You can be a good shepherd to your family, community and nation especially in this situation in which you have to protect yourself and your loved ones by caring and serving on different levels. Since the Church 'is by her very nature missionary', the Christian vocation is necessarily born of the experience of mission. Hearing and following the voice of Christ the Good Shepherd, means letting ourselves be attracted and guided by him, in consecration to him; it means allowing the Holy Spirit to draw us into this missionary dynamism, awakening within us the desire, the joy and the courage to offer our own lives in the service of the Kingdom of God.

The Virgin Mary, model of every vocation, did not fear to utter her 'fiat' in response to the Lord's call. She is at our side and she guides us. With the generous courage born of faith, Mary sang of the joy of leaving herself behind and entrusting to God the plans she had for her life. Let us turn to her, so that we may be completely open to what God has planned for each one of us, so that we can grow in the desire to go out with tender concern towards others. "May the Virgin Mary protect and intercede for us all".

Every blessing,
Fr Joson Antony MCBS

Readings: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

READINGS FOR SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

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 your 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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25

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 were 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:1-10

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 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.'

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, for the Gospel is always taken from St John, where Jesus speaks of himself as the 'Good Shepherd'.

A shepherd leads his flock and Jesus is the shepherd who leads his followers. The sheep know his voice, trust him, and will follow only him. In the same way, we also keep today as Vocations Sunday, when the Church prays for new 'good shepherds' to lead our Christian communities, especially at this difficult time.

In the **First Reading**, Peter proclaims to the crowd that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. They are invited to have faith in Christ, and by repenting and being baptised, they will be forgiven. Peter reminds them that God's promise is for everyone.

This familiar **Psalm** demonstrates the hope and trust of the psalmist in the Lord who is my shepherd, and who cares for me providing guidance, comfort and rest.

In the **Second Reading**, Peter continues encouraging the people to follow Christ's example and to put their trust in God, particularly when times are difficult or unjust. By dying on the cross he has healed us and brought us back to God.

Jesus tells his disciples – and us – that he is the gate of the sheepfold; it is in following him that we can have the fullness of life.

(Gospel)

In your prayer this week, you may want to take time to speak to Jesus as your shepherd and reflect on what that means for you. On this Vocations Sunday, perhaps you can also consider how you are responding to the way Jesus is calling you, and pray that others also hear his invitation.

Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham

Continuing on our faith journey during this time of isolation
 when our faith will sustain us through challenging times
 If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open

WE REMEMBER

We remember Jill Power and Eileen Campbell. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

SUPPORT OF OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

We would like to thank you for your continued support of the Parish during these difficult times.

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

We are open and available to help you. If you are in need of help for anything during this time please remember that you can call the parish office for assistance.



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Today is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us: Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives. (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020)

Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

What can I do?

Each one of us can do something for the future of the Church in our nation. We all want and need more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. What can I do? The most important and essential thing that each of us can do is to pray. Intentionally, regularly, insistently. Make a decision today to include a prayer for vocations in your daily prayers.

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Register now at PENTECOSTPILGRIMAGE.com to get free streamed access until May 31st. Receive talks twice a week from an exciting collection of high profile local and international Catholic speakers, priests and prelates. Join thousands around the globe journeying toward Pentecost and the upper room. Just as the disciples did, along the way we will encounter our risen Jesus.

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CATHOLIC LEADER – COMMITTING TO ACCESS OF STORIES

Go to: www.catholicleader.com.au

- Pastoral carers, like hospital and prison chaplains, relish zoom sessions to keep ministry alive.
- Our prayer for today and the future is for the peace which only Christ can give the world.
- COVIDSafe App has launched, here's how it works
- Catholic volunteers set free from captivity in Baghdad



PARISH FACEBOOK

Fr Joson has been catching up with parishioners where possible. Check out the parish Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hpmgparish/> and see how members of our community are dealing with our current situation. Maybe you can share things that you are doing to keep busy, entertained or spiritually engaged.

Also visit our Parish Youth Ministry, Abundance, Facebook page as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/Abundance-Youth-114497676854096>

LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES FROM ST STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL

www.archbne.org/bzw

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Mass for You at Home - Sunday at 6:00am.

SHALOM MEDIA

<https://shalomworld.org/watchlive/?region=masslive>

TWO MINUTE HOMILY

Each week there is a 2 Minute Homily, presented by one of our archdiocesan priests: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/>

EVANGELISATION BRISBANE – DAILY REFLECTIONS

For a theological reflection on the gospel of the day go to: <http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

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“We have a Lord who is capable of crying with us, walking with us in the most difficult moments of life.” *Pope Francis*

For the
souls
of our
young
folk
or not so
young.

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 Q Q V L I A P C R E P E Y L O H N
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 N N I M I P Y N A B J L G E V V D
 E H T N U N Y W A O Q T P Y N Q H P
 K Q G H N N L U K M H A L L L Z O
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 O U X S E H I O B P M Y Y N N Y B
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Word Search

Mass in Catholic Church

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| Prayers | Amen |
| Peace | Hymns |
| Greeting | Wine |
| Alleluia | God |
| Communion | Body |
| Eucharist | Holy |
| Liturgy | Reader |

Maybe now you could find extra words

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