

## *Laying down our lives for others*

One of the 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. A young man, he is shown carrying a lamb on his shoulders. His sheep gaze trustingly at him and graze peacefully in his care. They know him, they recognize 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 especially in the face of persecution. 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 of all the psalms, often used at funerals. It speaks to us so powerfully of the steadfast love with which God cares for us, individually and as a community.

Today's reading from John's gospel stresses three characteristics of the Good Shepherd: he knows his sheep and they know him; he does not desert his sheep when they are endangered; and, even more than this, he lays down his life for his sheep. This last characteristic is stated not just once but *four* times in today's short gospel reading. Such is the Good Shepherd's bountiful and unfailing love, care and commitment that he lays down his own life for his sheep. There is surely no greater love than this. It is particularly touching that this year, when in our Sunday reading focuses on Jesus' teaching that he is the Good Shepherd, we in Australia and New Zealand mark Anzac Day. We remember, give thanks, and pay our heartfelt respects to those many men and women who have served in wars in our nation's name, and especially those among them who, in service to our country, laid down and lost their lives. We are the beneficiaries of their great sacrifice. Let us never forget!

Notice too that Jesus, in today's gospel, explains: "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd" (Jn 10:16). As we strive for unity, in whatever sphere of our lives, let us not confuse unity with uniformity. Let our aim be unity *in diversity*.

*May the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd remind us  
to keep our eyes on him, to listen to him, and to place our trust in him.*

Anne Hunt  
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## MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

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**Office Hours:** Mon - Fri: 9.30am-12pm  
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 April 2021

On May 1st, 1955,  
Pope Pius XII declared May 1st to be  
the liturgical Feast of St Joseph the Worker.

*God our Father, creator and ruler of the  
universe, in every age you call man to develop  
and use his gifts for the good of others.*

*With St Joseph as our example and guide,  
help us to do the work you have asked and  
come to the rewards you have promised.*

*St Joseph pray for us!*

*Amen.*

Blessings on the Feast of  
St Joseph the Worker

**Masses:**  
**Saturday Vigil:** 5.30pm  
**Sunday:** 8.00am & 10.00am  
**Monday-Saturday:** 9.00am  
**Anointing Mass:** First Friday of each month at 9am Mass  
**Prayer of the Church:** **Saturday:** 8.45am & **Novena** at 9am Mass

**Reconciliation:** **Saturday:** After 9am Mass & 4pm afternoon  
**Rosary Group:** **Each Friday:** 3:30pm in Parish Centre  
**Exposition:** **Every Thursday** 9.30am - 6.45pm with Benediction at 6.45pm



# newsletter

## Brother Frank's 90th Birthday

is on Tuesday 27 April  
and  
we will be celebrating after  
5.30pm Mass on Saturday May 1  
with wine & cheese evening.  
Please join us!  
*All Welcome*



# Farewell Mass

## REDEMPTORISTS FAREWELL MASS

**May 16th at 10am**

The Farewell Mass for the Redemptorists will be held  
on 16 May at 10am.

We request that all the volunteers who were  
participating in any way in the Mass (Prayers of the  
Faithful, Offertory, etc.) to please take part as  
originally planned, and to let Dcn Mark know if you  
are unable to do so.  
*Liturgy Committee*



## ANOINTING MASS

**Friday 7th May at 9am**

An Anointing Mass for the sick is held on the first  
Friday of the month, followed by morning tea.

*All welcome.*

## WEEKDAYS MORNING TEA

There is a shared morning tea after the weekday masses on Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays & Thursdays, and on the first Friday of the month.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR GRACE JOEL

We need volunteers for Grace Joel.  
If you are a Eucharistic Minister and are interested in this  
volunteer work, please contact the Parish Office.



We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur  
during April: Maureen Bevin, Joseph Shalfoon, Douglas Barnett, Kevin Hayes,  
Monica Crookbain, Daniel Sloan, Tony Squirrell, Anne Stanhope,  
Kazimierz Borowski, Richard Phillips

## Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter 1 & 2 May 2021

**1. Acts 9:26-31 2. 1John 3:18-24 3. Gospel John 15:1-8**

<b>ROSTERS</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>		Chester Rivera	Maggie Mujica
<b>Greeters</b>	Greg Curry Sarah Curry	Sue Rivalland Judith Bilderbeck	Kathleen Ward Richard Pain
<b>Musicians</b>	Filipino Singers		MPH Parish Choir
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Filipino Singers	Helen Wright	MPH Parish Choir
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>		
<b>Prayers of the Faithful</b>	Cristy Pontiveros		
<b>Ministers of Communion</b>	Brian Houston Heather Hart	Don Bilderbeck Frank Blewman	Angela Shields Sheldon Bland
<b>Readers</b>	Tina Evangelista John Evangelista	Bernie Culpan Karl Schweder	Therese Arahill Lina Kau Kau
<b>Cleaners</b>			
<b>Grace Joel</b>	10.30am David Manickum & Maria Kneebone		
<b>Sacramental</b>	<b>Progr Offertory Procession: 10.00am - School Holidays</b>		