

Blessed to be part of 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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Masses:

NEW Saturday Vigil:

5.15pm

NEW Sunday Mass:

10.30am

Novena Prayer:

Every Friday at 9am
Mass

Exposition:

Every Thursday

9.30am - 6.45pm
with Benediction at
6.45pm

Anointing Mass:

First Friday of each
month at 9am Mass

May 7th

Saturday Vigil

at 5.15pm

Fr Bernard

May 8th

Sunday Mass

at 10.30am

Fr Bernard

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

Parish Office: 575 9296

Parish Priest: Fr John Dunn

Dcn Mark Rivalland: 021 482 555

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9.30am-12pm

Wednesday: 1.30-5pm

E-Mail: office@glendowiecatholic.org.nz

Parish Website: www.glendowiecatholic.org.nz

Parish Administrator: Karla Nobre Milosevic

Pastoral Worker: Maureen Keenan (Home)5754354

Redemptorist Website: www.cssr.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mother's Day

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 May 2022

Dear Father, we approach your throne on behalf of the mothers whom you have entrusted with the care of your most precious little ones.



We thank you for creating each mom with a unique combination of gifts and talents. We thank you for the sacrifice of self each mom gives for her children.

We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. We ask you to be their living water. We ask you to be their source of spiritual and physical strength. We pray that the same grace that flowed from Father to Son to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children.

Most of all, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being.

May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. Amen



SEMINARY COLLECTION

VOCATIONS SUNDAY - 8 MAY

The 4th Sunday of Easter is known as

Vocations Sunday or **Good Shepherd Sunday**, and is marked as the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**.

While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God's people - vocations to Holy Orders (*the priesthood and diaconate*) and to the religious life, while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call. **The money collected help towards the fees for the Auckland students for the priesthood.**

The envelopes are on the table in the foyer.

We remember in prayer our parishioners whose anniversaries occur during May : Molly McKessar, Gloria Paredes, Martha O'Shea, Sydney Smith, Marie Hollies, Angus Hally, Michael O'Shea, Marcella Alward, John Barr, Grace MacDonald, Robert Petrie, Ven Alward, Fr Bernard Daly CSsR, Fr Roderick Ryan PP

Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter 14 & 15 May

1. Acts 14:21-27 **2.** Apocalypse 21:1-5 **3.** Gospel John 13:31-35

ROSTER	Saturday Vigil Mass 5.15pm	Sunday Mass 10.30am
Welcomer		
Greeters		Lietta Latu
Musicians		Samoa Community
PowerPoint		Fiona Wilson
Children's Liturgy		
Prayers of the Faithful	Heather Manickum	Altar Linen - Sue Rivalland
Ministers of Communion		Emma Diack
Readers		Emele Palu Mathew Bland
Cleaners	Harriet and John Howard	
Grace Joel	10.30am David Manickum and Maria Kneebone	

NEW MASS TIMES

as we move to having ONE Priest serving both Mother of Perpetual Help and St Ignatius Parishes, we have to adapt our weekend Mass timetable to allow Fr John to travel to and celebrate both Mass times. We are trialing the following schedule from May 2022.

We appreciate your patience and support while we all adjust to this new timetable.

- 1st Saturday of the month – **Mass at St Ignatius**
- 2nd Saturday of the month – **Mass at MPH Parish**
- 3rd Saturday of the month – **Mass at Sacred Heart College**
- 4th Saturday of the month - **NO VIGIL MASS**
- 5th Saturday of the month (*if any*) – **Mass at Sacred Heart College**

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS – NEW Mass Time: 5.15pm

SUNDAY MASS – NEW Mass Time: 10.30am

Saturday Vigil Mass LOCATIONS for the month of May:

7th May - 5.15pm at MPH Parish

14th May – 5.15pm at Sacred Heart College

21st May – NO SATURDAY VIGIL MASS AT ALL

(Instead: Sunday Mass at 5pm at St Ignatius Parish)

28th May – 5.15pm at Sacred Heart College

Every fourth Sunday of the month, in addition to the 9am Mass at St Ignatius Parish, there will be a Sunday 5pm Mass focused on youth and their families.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mondays and Tuesdays – **8.30am Mass at St Ignatius Parish**

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays - **9am Mass at MPH**

Eucharistic Adoration at MPH Parish every Thursday following Mass with Benediction at 6.45pm

Every first Friday there will be an Anointing of the Sick Mass at 9am at MPH Parish