



St. Emile de Vialar Catholic Church

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3 May 2020

**4th Sunday
of Easter
Year A**

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading: *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14, 36-41)*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd in 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: (Ps. 22)

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. (R.)
- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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: *A reading from the first letter of St 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: *A reading from the Gospel According to 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 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 recognize 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.'

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

MASS INTENTIONS

All the Masses that our Priests are celebrating in private are being offered "*pro populo*" - for the intentions of the people of God.

Note: Mass intentions envelopes & notices for bulletin are to be submitted/emailed to the office by Wednesday 6pm.

Live stream of Masses

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth www.perthcatholic.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/perthcatholic>

PASTORAL CORNER

We understand that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Hebrew Scriptures, and the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd gives many a deep sense of comfort and security. What particular images of Jesus have you found most helpful to you in your faith journey?

As we travel our journey of faith, many people will have guided us and protected us. Can you recall the special people in your life, the attributes that they had and how they used their gifts to care for you and others? Jesus assures us that as his followers we will have life to its fullest, and for many in our society today this is a vain hope. How would you describe 'life in its fullest' to someone?

During the coming week seek our opportunities to protect or shepherd someone who might be feeling a bit lost or helpless.

While you are unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion you may wish to pray the following prayer

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 here and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Strong in the Face of Tribulation

In these uncertain and troubled times comes this most impressive resource for all of us. Pope Francis has released a book that can be downloaded for free and can be used as a Prayer Book in this time of tribulation. Titled ***Strong in the Face of Tribulation***, the book also contains suggestions for Catholics who are unable to receive the sacraments due to restrictive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The book, which was released on 21 April, is available in English, Italian, Spanish and French and will be updated several times a week "with new homilies and other interventions made by the Pope.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf>

Below is an extract from that book: A Prayer for our Lady's intercession especially in this month of May, the month of Mary.

Prayer for Liberation from the Pandemic to Our Lady of Divine Love

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the cross, united with Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

He who took our sufferings upon Himself and burdened Himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

Sub tuum praesidium: We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger. O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Edited by the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See

STRONG IN THE FACE OF TRIBULATION



**The Church in Communion:
A Sure Support in Time of Trial**



Updated: 19th of April 2020

A Reflection on the 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Fr Jean-Noël MARIE

I will give you shepherds after my own heart, to feed you with knowledge and understanding.

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter we hear about sheep and shepherds. At a time when we have been confined to our homes and physically disconnected from the rest of our community and our "shepherds" we may feel right now like sheep without a shepherd. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

Nowadays we often lock our doors more than we used to do in the past and now even our church doors are locked as part of our nation's concerted effort to keep us safe and secure. But Jesus who is the gate through which we enter into the kingdom challenges us most of all to keep the doors of our own hearts open so that he may enter in and lead us out of ourselves towards those restful waters that we thirst for.

The French translation of Psalm 22(23) resonates with me in a deeper way: ***"Tu es mon Berger, O Seigneur, rien ne saurait manquer ou tu me conduis."*** And it goes like this: ***"You are my Shepherd, O lord; where you desire to lead me, I shall lack nothing."*** (Psalm 23:1)

The image of the shepherd is also used to describe the role and mission of kings, Priests, teachers, parents and all those within our community who assume a leadership and guiding role. They are also called to model their style of leadership on that of Jesus the Good shepherd who is also the lamb of sacrifice, the suffering servant. With the vocation to lead and shepherd others comes suffering and self-sacrifice. The choices and decisions that need to be made for the good of others sometimes may go against the grain of popular expectations. In his First Letter St Peter reminds us that Jesus never lied; he never retaliated to insults and never threatened even when he was being tortured. Sometimes the prudent shepherd needs to keep his sheep within the enclosure to protect them from wolves and predators and those alluring voices.

Such voices within our community and sometimes within our own inner circle can be very seductive and they may sound good and pious but they are misguided, misinformed and plainly misleading and harmful to our faith and our Christian values. Due to our lack of intimacy and knowledge of the Good Shepherd we allow ourselves to be deceived and be led down the garden path. Especially during this time of insecurity and confusion, more than ever, we need to be more guarded, more vigilant and more faithful. Our humility and sense of obedience are currently being sorely tested.

In this time of confinement and restlessness let us continue patiently and with humility, through constant prayer and penance to attune the ears of our hearts to the gentle voice of the Good Shepherd because we truly believe that where he desires to lead us, we shall lack nothing.

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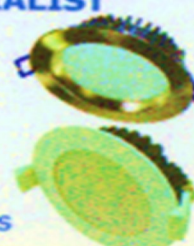


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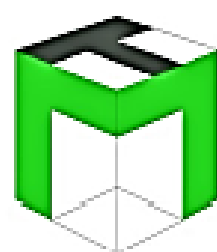
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