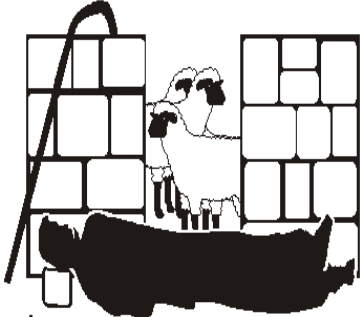


4th Week of Easter

PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Joe O'Shea
PARISH CENTRE: 7 Foote St Dromana 3936

*The Holy Scriptures
are our letters
from home*



Please address ALL correspondence to:
PO Box 126 Dromana Vic 3936

☎ (03) 9401 6314 website: <http://perpetualhelp.org.au>
e-mail: dromana@cam.org.au

Office Hours: Tuesday & Friday 10am – 4.30pm



3rd – 9th May 2020

I AM THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP Newsletter, Prayers & Reflections

● **Fr Joe to Retire:** After extensive discussions, proposals and counsel, and in consideration of health issues, the Vicar General has agreed that I should **retire on 30th June** this year (two months hence). Fr John Paul Mount will then become the Administrator of Dromana Parish in addition to his appointment as Parish Priest of Rosebud Parish. I am working with Fr John Paul to work out what my continuing role might be in Dromana Parish. There is every chance that I might continue to say the weekend Masses at Dromana and some weekday Masses. It has been a privilege to serve, and hopefully to continue to serve in a new way, all in the Parish of Dromana. ✍ *Fr Joe*

● **Hear Archbishop** Comensoli's Message at

<https://bit.ly/MessagefromAPAC>

● **Keep in Touch:** See our website: <http://perpetualhelp.org.au>

► **COVID-19 Pandemic: ALL PUBLIC liturgies, including celebrations of the Mass, are suspended until further notice.**

Website <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> has Mass online; TV Mass 11am Sun. C31(44).

Information about COVID-19 is found at: www.cam.org.au/coronavirus

NOTE: The Sunday Obligation of the Faithful will not apply during this time of suspension.

● **Support Your Parish:** We need to continue to support our Parish while we have no collections at Masses. Those who use sacrificial giving envelopes might consider dropping their envelopes off at the Parish Office (in the box by the presbytery door) or:

- Making a **direct deposit** payment through your bank to :

1st Collection (Fr Joe) OLPH Dromana Presbytery Account BSB 083 347 Acc No: 904378858

2nd Collection (Parish) Dromana OLPH Church Account BSB 083 347 Acc No: 650781814

Please include your name or envelope number (if you have one) as the reference.

Or • **Credit Card** via our new Payment Portal: [CDFpay for Our Lady of Perpetual Help](#)

All donations will be graciously received. We need finance to continue to pay the bills of our Parish.

● **Project Compassion:** Please bring Project Compassion boxes or set of envelopes to the parish office or put them in the box beside the office door or visit www.caritas.org.au to make a donation

● **COVID-19 Appeal:** Caritas Australia is asking for urgent donations to help those families living in poverty to access hygiene knowledge, health supplies, soap and clean water that will save their lives. See details at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/covid-19-crisis-appeal>

FAMILY PRAYER at HOME – 4th Sunday of Easter 2020

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Christ is the gate to life eternal, the Good Shepherd!

Leader: Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **All:** Amen

➤ **FIRST READING: Acts 2:14.36-41**

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

➤ **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**



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

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. ℟

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. ℟

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. ℟

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. ℟



➤ **SECOND READING: 1st Peter 2:20-25**

You had gone astray 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 sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!**



➤ **GOSPEL: John 10:1-10** *I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

► Think about the readings. You can use Lectio Divina on p3 for reflection on the Gospel.

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is the gate. Let us make our prayers through Him to the Father.

For the Shepherds of our Church: our Holy Father Pope Francis, our Bishops and pastors. May they reflect a Father's love and care for all whom they serve. Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

For our world at this time: that Christ the Good Shepherd may bring hope, strength and healing to all who suffer. Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

For our Church: that the Good Shepherd may heal those in pain, and strengthen those in service. Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

For vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our parish community. Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

For our seminarians and all those in formation to priesthood and consecrated life: that our prayers may support them in their vocations. Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

Special intentions.....local needs..... Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

For the dead: especially for our deceased family and friends and for those priests who have served our parish and Diocese. May they enjoy the reward of their labours. Lord Hear Us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, Your Son came to lead us to you. Hear the prayers we make in his name, confident of your care for us at all times, but especially now. Through Christ our Lord. **All:** Amen.

Leader: Jesus opens the way to eternal life, so let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: **All:** Our Father

Leader: May God bless us and keep us safe on our journey through this time of Pandemic.

All: In the name of the Father, ✙ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches. We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Joseph, Protector of the Church, pray for us.

● **Sell Raffle Tickets:** Due to the current COVID -19 restrictions, the combined Churches raffle has been granted an extension. ☉ **Ticket Sales Closing Date: 11th September** ☉ **Draw Date: 26th September at 7.15 pm** ☉ **Publication of Winners Date: 30th September.**
We still have over 80 Books of Tickets to sell. Get books of tickets from the the Parish office during office hours. Ticket butts can & should be returned to the Parish office or the drop-off box beside the presbytery door ASAP. *We need to make this Raffle a fundraiser for our Parish !!* ✍ Fr Joe

**Readings of next Sunday:
5th Sunday of Easter, Yr A**

1st Reading: : Acts 6: 1-7
Resp. Psalm: Ps 32: 1-2. 4-5. 18-19
2nd Reading: 1st Peter 2: 4-9
Gospel: John 14: 1-12

WORD of God – are we Listening better ?

→ **Use these notes** to pray through **Lectio Divina** on the text of this Sunday's Gospel:

Lectio: Our Sunday Gospels come from the Gospel of John for the rest of the Season of Easter. The Lord is risen; how now are we to recognize him? Our text comes after the cure of the man born blind. Without faith we can be blind; i.e. blind to who Jesus is. Jesus will use the words: "I am"; i.e. Jesus is identifying himself as God. For the blind (e.g. those plotting against him) this is seen as blasphemy and proof that he must be done away with. Jesus uses the image of sheep with which his audience would be familiar. Sheep have poor forward eyesight. Sheep compensate for poor vision with excellent hearing. Jesus should not be done away with but he is essential to us (i.e. sheep – with poor forward vision). In this COVID-19 Crisis, we have poor vision of the future !! **For us**, if we are to go out and live our lives in true freedom – Jesus is the 'gate'.

Read: 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.'

Meditatio: Who is Jesus for me? To what 'voices' do I listen? Is Jesus present to me through the Scriptures?

Have I let influences lead me in ways that sap my life? Am I growing in faith or letting it slip during this present crisis? Have I a clear vision of where I am going? Can I see the danger in 'fake news' – where, and from whom, do I seek the truth? Is it with Jesus that I feel safe? Do I trust that it is Jesus who will open the way for me to life and life to the full?

Oratio: Pray that our listening maty be improved – that we can hear the voice of Jesus. Pray for those who have have no one to trust. Pray that those in authority will not lead people astray. Pray that social interaction may be nourished and not obscured in these times of social distancing. Pray for safety and health security. Pray for courage till we can return to life to the full.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Stand at your gate a consider what Jesus is asking of you at this time. ✍ Fr Joe

*** Please pray for those who are sick especially:**

Carl Rooney (Fr Joe's nephew), John Jose, Raelene Watt, John Coughlin, Mike Henry, Denise Vidoni, Mark Burns, Jenny Brewer, Hank Morris, and all those who need our prayers. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.



(Because we respect your privacy – For people to be named on the list of the prayers for the sick: their names must first be submitted on an AUTHORIZATION FORM available from the Parish Office.)

+ Please pray for those who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, and for all who have died. May they rest in peace.

✦ Please pray for 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 out 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, 3/5/2020)

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.

Lord, stretch out his hand, take hold of us, and save us. May we take heart, and not be afraid! Lord, Jesus be at our side, when we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives.

Lord help us to know what are our fundamental life choices - like marriage or special consecration to your service – give us courage to answer your call. You know the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boats of our hearts, may your words: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear", reassure us. Amen.

● More Prayers etc for 4th Sunday of Easter:

See p 5-7 for Prayers & Activities for Children

See p 8-11 for Readings & Prayers for Adults/Families

✍ Brisbane Liturgy



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FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK



Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A

2 May 2020

"I am the gate of the sheepfold."

Something to Think About

You probably don't know any shepherds, but there were lots of shepherds in Jesus' time.

All the people understood that a shepherd's job was to feed his sheep, protect them from harm and patiently guide them on the right path.

Jesus is like a shepherd to all of us. He knows each of us very well, he loves us and looks after us. We listen to Jesus' voice and we follow him, just as sheep follow their shepherd.

The Story

In the time of Jesus, shepherds led a very difficult life, being constantly on duty. The sheep required constant surveillance and needed to be protected against danger and wild animals. The shepherd knew his sheep - often calling them by name. The shepherd led the way and the sheep followed wherever he went. The sheep knew the voice of the shepherd and would not answer to the voice of a stranger. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd and leads us as a shepherd leads his flock.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

10:2-5, 7-10

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it.

The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognise a stranger's voice, and they run away."

Then Jesus said: "I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep.

Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video:

[The Good Shepherd](#)



THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Mealtime Prayer



Family Discussion

Have you ever heard someone's voice and recognised that it belongs to someone you know?

Take turns to talk about the 'shepherds' in your lives – the people who care for, nurture, and love you. What qualities do these people have that make you think of them as 'shepherds'? What can you do to become 'shepherds' to people in your lives?

Family Activity

In the gospel, Jesus said the shepherd calls each of the sheep by name. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and knows each of us by name. Find out the story of each person's name – why their parents chose their name. Pray for each member of the family by name.



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**CUT OUT THE SHEEP AND PUT THEM IN THE PEN WHERE THE SHEPHERD
WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THE WOLF AND THE ROBBER**

EASTER 4 – YEAR A
© Liturgy Brisbane 2019



JESUS - THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

Fourth Sunday of Easter
2 May 2020



Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings and Commentaries

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as “Good Shepherd Sunday” because every year the gospel reading is on this theme. It is taken from one part or another of Jesus’ discourse in chapter 10 of John’s gospel. In Year A the theme is also found in the responsorial psalm and the second reading. Every image of Jesus offers insight into the inexhaustible mystery of his person. The word of God provides us with such a wealth of images that sometimes they seem to collide with one another. In Eastertide, for example, Jesus is both lamb and shepherd. Only last week the author of 1 Peter wrote of Jesus as a lamb whose blood had won our salvation; in today’s passage he describes Jesus as “the shepherd and guardian of our souls.” This play of images is meant to inspire, not confuse, us. They allow us to inhabit the mystery and find our home in it.

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 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

Ps 22:1–6

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

or

R. Alleluia.

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.

First Reading

After a repeat of the introductory verse from last Sunday's reading, today's reading from Acts tells us what happened as a consequence of Peter's Pentecost address. Peter brings his speech to a forthright conclusion: "The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ". So persuasive was Peter's preaching that many – "about three thousand" accepted his arguments and asked to be baptised.

The success of this inaugural sermon needs to be seen in the context of the whole book of Acts. From start to finish it is a success story. Whatever setbacks are experienced along the way, the spread of the gospel proceeds unfailingly according to God's plan and under the impetus of the Holy Spirit. Luke's purpose is to provide written testimony to this work of God. This explains why he idealises events and experiences such as Peter's preaching on Pentecost day.

The tone of the reading, therefore, is one of certain conviction. There is an energy about the story that should be easy enough for the reader to communicate. As it alternates between action and animated dialogue the sense of urgency is palpable. Even though the story is both ancient and artificial it still throws down the gauntlet to us today. What is our response to the good news?

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm for today is the same as the one we prayed on the 4th Sunday of Lent, Psalm 22/23. Today's context is very different. Now we are celebrating the victory of Christ over death. He is the shepherd who has himself gone through "the valley of darkness" and "prepared a banquet" for us; with him we shall dwell "in the Lord's own house . . . for ever and ever". There is every reason for us to rejoice.

All the same it is worth repeating what was said about the psalm back in Lent. The challenge for readers, apart from dealing with verses of different lengths, is to proclaim the all-too-familiar words as if they had just been discovered. They need to bring a firm freshness to the text and avoid any hint of sentimentality. The images are strong and plentiful: shepherding, green pastures, restful waters, the valley of darkness, a banquet, the Lord's own house. One after the other they build up a heart-warming sense of God's personal and protective love. This should be a joy to read.

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.

A reading from the holy 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 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.'

Second Reading

The second reading today begins with an admonition which some may find disconcerting. It advises patience in enduring punishment that is unjust. Readers who are curious enough to turn to their Bibles for more information may be even more disturbed. They will find that these words are addressed to slaves.

The letter counsels slaves to accept even harsh treatment from their masters, seemingly in the hope that this will bear Christian witness to them. The author goes even further, claiming God's approval for slaves who submitted to punishment that was inflicted on them because of their Christian faith. The early Christian community did not directly challenge the social institution of slavery; to do so would have incurred the wrath of imperial Rome. For better or for worse, prudence dictated accommodation to the status quo.

The example of Christ is invoked to justify the advice given to slaves. In verses that recall the figure of the suffering servant in the prophet Isaiah, the author highlights Jesus' refusal to resort to violence. This short summary is in full accord with the gospel accounts of Jesus' passion; he did not resist the suffering unjustly meted out to him. Readers would be best to proclaim this text with empathy and pathos. Lovers of Handel's *Messiah* will recognise familiar words.

Gospel

In Year A we hear the first section of chapter 10 of John's gospel. Later sections are used in other years. While today's passage does not use the term "good shepherd", Jesus does present himself as a shepherd who knows his sheep by name and is known and trusted by them.

Along with the image of shepherd Jesus also speaks of himself as the gate of the sheepfold. These are not conflicting or mutually exclusive images. They complement one another to give a fuller picture of the endlessly fascinating figure that Jesus is.

Both images reflect shepherding practice in the Palestine of Jesus' day. Flocks were small, conditions were harsh, and the survival of the sheep depended on the personal devotion of the shepherd to his task. Jesus' audience would have readily identified the implicit reference to the true and false shepherds of the people of Israel (as portrayed, for example, in Ezekiel 34 – a text well worth reading).

For many people the final verse of this reading is a precious gem that crystallises the whole gospel: "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full".

Concluding Prayers

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)

or

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches. We have been invited to
pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)*