



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.'

## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In Jesus' time, the shepherd lead from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the *thief* from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a *brigand*, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly.

Alleluia!

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# The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

3 May 2020

## First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

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. v.1**

*(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;*

*there is nothing I shall want.*

*or*

*(R.) Alleluia.*

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. (R.)
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. (R.)

2. 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.)
3. 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 1 Pt 2:20-25

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

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 Jn 10:14

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;*

*I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!*

## Gospel Jn 10:1-10

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

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



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**Michaelite** Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA

**Community:** Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

**SUNDAY MASS:** Suspended indefinitely. Check website for streamed Masses.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Suspended indefinitely.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE:** 9809 2757

**Next Week: 5<sup>th</sup> Easter (A)** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12.

## Fr Stan writes ...

This Fourth Sunday of the Easter season is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognise that Jesus is the gate for all the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.



**THANK YOU** for your ongoing support with your donations through our website [www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au) and to those that have posted or dropped off their contribution at the parish office. You can well imagine that running expenses are still occurring despite the lockdown. It is very much appreciated. Again, **THANK YOU!**



St. Alphonsus Liguori's  
*Act of Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.



**Best wishes to our Parish Priest, Fr Stan who celebrates his birthday on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**Fr Stan, we thank you for your ministry in our parish, we pray that soon we will be able to celebrate Mass again in our church – we miss you! We are grateful that Masses are being streamed from our parish to our homes.**

**The last CWF Appeal for this financial year has been CANCELLED. For those with Credit Card authorities – they will not be processed.**



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

### Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal

Online donations are encouraged this year rather than handing in Project Compassion boxes directly to parishes. Visit [www.lent.caritas.org.au](http://www.lent.caritas.org.au) or send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001

### The Flame Café

is open for take away – 6:30am to 3:00pm

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Phone 9888 5286 **Some Mother's Day items from**

**Flame Gifts are available from the Café.**



**PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Fr Peter Morrissey (1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Priest at North Ryde from 1958-1961), Donald Gomes, Laszlo Kazmer recently deceased.**

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Maria & Nino Rossi, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Vincenzo Surace, Antonio & Angelina Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Antonio Fonti, Grazia Fonti, Onofrio Casamento, Domenica Casamento, Joseph Casamento, Sigmund Zelma, Aniela & Edmund Zelma and the deceased members of the Zammit and Zahra families.