

Fourth Sunday of Easter -Good Shepherd Sunday

3 May 2020



Readings for this week:

Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10



Readings for
next Sunday

Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12



Liturgical Jottings Letters of St Peter

As the Gospels of third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, Year A, focus on instruction about Baptism and particularly relevant for the RCIA, so too are the Second Readings of the Sunday of Easter Year A. They are taken from the first letter of St Peter. This letter addresses many themes of Baptism. We may call this letter a presentation of post-baptismal catechesis. From the Second to the Seventh Sundays of Easter the themes in the letter are

- rebirth in Christ,
- redeemed by his blood,
- healed by Christ and united by the shepherd,
- made a holy and priestly people,
- Risen Christ is our hope, and
- reception of the Spirit.

Looking at the Readings

The first reading is Peter's speech at Pentecost. We celebrate Pentecost in four week's time, but today we listen to St Peter's talk to the large gathering afterwards. The Lectionary doesn't follow strict chronological order but has a catechetical, theological pattern. The initial preaching of the Apostles after the resurrection is "Jesus is Risen! He is Lord!"

The Second reading (1 Peter) freely quotes the Prophet Isaiah's passage on the suffering servant (Is 53:5-12) and associates the servant with Christ and now with all Christians. By our baptism into Christ we take on Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

This fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. This year we have the opening verses of John Chapter 10, an introduction to the Good Shepherd teaching. This week Christ says: "I am the Gate" to the sheepfold, to safety, to the fullness of life. Next year on this Sunday we read from John 10:11-18: "I am the Good Shepherd" and in year C, John 10:27-30, the conclusion: "I know my sheep, ... they listen to my voice ... and the Father and I are one." Christ's words today, "I am the gate" offers his disciples authenticity, assurance and security over any other influences or powers in our world.

Prayer of the Week

O God, you never cease to call even those far away, for it is your will that all be drawn into one fold. Attune our ears to the voice of the Good Shepherd, who leads us always to you, that we may find under your tender protection life in all its fullness. (1998 ICEL Missal, Year A)

Pope Francis Easter Urbi et Orbi 2020 Blessing

In these weeks, the lives of millions of people have suddenly changed. For many, remaining at home has been an opportunity to reflect, to withdraw from the frenetic pace of life, stay with loved ones and enjoy their company. For many, though, this is also a time of worry about an uncertain future, about jobs that are at risk and about other consequences of the current crisis. I encourage political leaders to work actively for the common good, to provide the means and resources needed to enable everyone to lead a dignified life and, when circumstances allow, to assist them in resuming their normal daily activities

On the Lighter Side

At children's liturgy of the Word, after the gospel was read the leader talked about shepherds leading sheep to pasture, and protecting them from wild animals and thieves. She asked who is our Shepherd today? A child quickly replied: "Jesus!" Then what is our parish pastor? Another quick reply: "he is Jesus' sheepdog!"



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Laurie Noonan, Maria De Cicco
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Kathleen Feehan
	Our sick and their carers	Fr Ted Harte, Cecilia Bannan

World Day of 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 our 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, 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.

Pope Francis – Message for 2020 World Day of Vocations

‘Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us, and save us.’ ‘The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice - like marriage or special consecration to his service - calls for courage. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear”. ‘Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations.’

What can I do?

Each one of us can do something for the future of the Church in our nation. We all want and need more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. What can I do? The most important and essential thing that each of us can do is to pray. Intentionally, regularly, insistently. Make a decision today to include a prayer for vocations in your daily prayers.

A Prayer for Vocations



Lord Jesus Christ, You have told us that there is plenty of harvest in Your Father's garden but the labourers are few. Today we pray for vocations in our Holy Church. Help our parents to mentor their children to realize the call to priesthood and religious service. Help the parents to become good role models to their children like the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph. Guide, guard, protect and govern the children so that they may not be swayed by the evil one who may lead them into sin.

Help our priests and religious so that they may also be perfect role models to the young ones and mentor them to pray and take up the sacred vocation of serving the church of Christ.

Lord, make us Your labourers in Your farm and give me the strength to work for You. Help us do our part and we will get our wages on the last day. Amen

Sandhurst Youth Ministry's Weekday Morning Prayer

To help everyone get their day started while working and studying from home Sandhurst Youth Ministry will be posting weekday Morning Prayer videos at 8:30am starting on Monday 20th April. We will be using a range of prayer styles offering young people the chance to pray in different ways each morning. Videos are posted on the Sandhurst Youth YouTube Channel.

If you are aged 15-30 and would like to be involved in the Weekday Morning Prayer videos, please get in touch with Ruth: ruth.lawlor@sandhurst.catholic.org.au