



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

26 APRIL 2026

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 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.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

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

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. **R.**



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. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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 are 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.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95238407 ✉ elsternwick@cam.org.au
📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Wednesday and Friday 10:00am
Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am
Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163
In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am
Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA
Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues
Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Tue 28 Apr: St Peter Chanel
Wed 29 Apr: St Catherine of Siena
Sat 2 May: St Athanasius
Sun 3 May: 5th Sunday of Easter

Thanksgiving



St Joseph's Feast Day

The Feast of St Joseph the Worker falls on Friday 1st May. Feast Day Mass at 10am will be at St Joseph's Church.

The celebration will be extended to the weekend Masses: Saturday 6.30pm and Sunday 10.30am.

After the Mass on Sunday 3rd May, please join us for refreshments.
All welcome.

Mother's Day Book

Our Mother's Day Book is placed on the altar-rail or table in front of Our Lady's statue in the church.

Please write the names of mothers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Mother's Day.

There will be a special blessing for all mothers at the weekend Masses on 9 and 10 May.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 32:5-6)

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Paul Donohoe

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: Fr John Winson, SAC

Death Anniversary: -



One year anniversary of Pope Francis: 21 April 2025



Pope Leo XIV prays at the tomb of Pope Francis in the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome.

The anniversary of the death of Pope Francis is a time to recall a pontificate that began with humility, and continued that way for 12 years.

For all his humility and care for the weak, Pope Francis was a vibrant, joyous person who helped guide the world through low points and high.

Pope Francis modelled the Church as 'a field hospital that takes in the weakest people: the infirm.' 'The sick hold a privileged role in the Church and in the priestly heart of all the faithful. They are not to be cast aside. On the contrary, they are to be cared for, to be looked after. They are the objects of Christian concern.'

We continue to give thanks for a pope who for more than 12 years shepherded us with such joyful and humble dedication.

Middle East Emergency Appeal: 2 - 3 May



Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East.

Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care.

Please visit: www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal or scan the QR code.



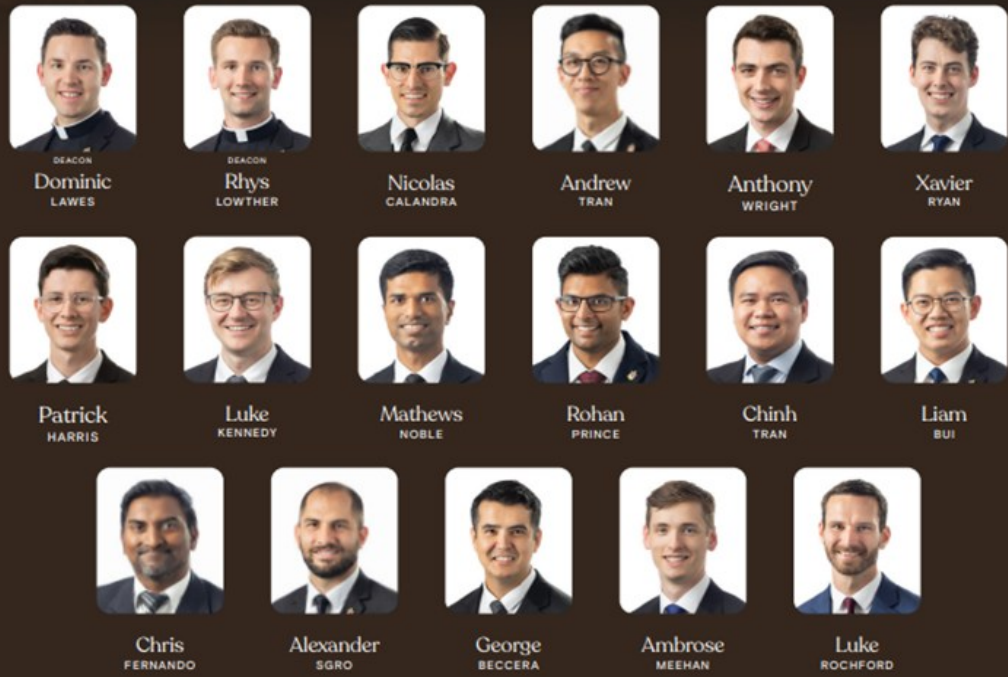
Anchored: Helping Kids Thrive - Free Webinar

Parents and caregivers of children 12 and under are invited to 'Anchored: Helping Kids Thrive - Developmental Changes and Digital Wellbeing' on Tuesday 28 April 2026 (7pm - 8pm). Facilitated by Kristen Roe from Real Talk, this practical and faith-centred webinar will help parents and caregivers of children aged 12 and under better understand key stages of childhood and adolescence, and how current culture impacts children; set healthy digital boundaries; and respond with confidence and care. Register: www.trybooking.com/DKLFS

Good Shepherd Sunday

We pray for our seminarians and all those in formation to priesthood and consecrated life that our prayers may support them in their vocations

PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE PRIESTS



Save for a Greater Reward

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account. With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

5.35%* p.a. for a 12-month Term Investment.

***Rate subject to change. Interest paid at maturity.**

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call the CDF team on 1800 134 135 for more information.



Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25th April



The Youth & Young Adults' Group will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

This Saturday after the 6:30pm Mass, there will be a light supper & fellowship at St Joseph's Presbytery, followed by a discussion on "Defending Our Catholic Faith".

Please continue encouraging the young people of both our Parishes to attend.

Rosary by Youth

Our Young People will lead the Rosary to celebrate the month of May, the month of Mary.

7pm every Friday during the month of May commencing 1st May at St Anthony's Church. Everyone is welcome.



Small Group Discipleship

Training is being offered by Everett Fritz of Andrew Ministries, who has developed a program for mentoring to young people in small group sessions.

If interested in learning more, please follow the link below to watch a video in which he gives a short introduction to the program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn8AUkT4UmY> Online training sessions will be offered through the parish on four consecutive Saturdays from 11am – 12 noon, starting on 9th May. To register, please email: elsternwick@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe.

4th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Good Shepherd / Vocation Sunday!

Dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord

Jesus, by his words and example, has proved that he is truly our Good Shepherd. He said, "The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." We know that Jesus, in caring for us, laid down his own life; and having risen to new life, he still cares for us. There is none like Jesus who can be called "The Good Shepherd" By calling Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we also imply that we are his "sheep".

Sheep are weak animals. They, being prey animals, are also defenseless. Left alone, the sheep cannot survive. The sheep need a shepherd to care for them and to protect them, and so do we. In saying this we do not mean to underestimate our abilities, nor deny our self-esteem. No one can deny that in spite of our manifold abilities, health, wealth and intellectual capabilities our existence heavily depends on God. In fact, everything that we need to sustain our lives comes from God.

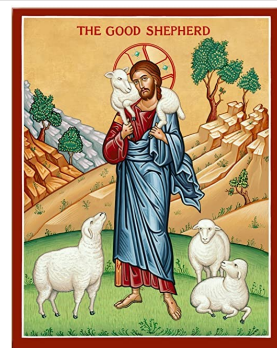
Therefore, on this Good Shepherd Sunday, we acknowledge God's role in the life of everyone, and express our gratitude. Though we are compared to weak and defenseless sheep, we are called to be like "leader-sheep". Leader-sheep are a special breed of sheep found mostly in Iceland. They have the intuitive quality of sensing danger in advance. Whether the danger is from predators or an avalanche or bad weather, the 'leader-sheep' get to know the impending danger and quickly lead the rest of the flock and the shepherd to safety.

Despite our inadequacies, we are called to be like the leader-sheep in one way another. Whatever may be our state of life, we are to lead and protect each other. For this reason Good Shepherd Sunday is also called Vocation Sunday. 'Vocation' means 'being called'. We are being called to care for one another in the name of Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Fr Leenus.

Q: What sort of a person was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A: He was Ruth-less.



Permanent Diaconate Information Session

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and the 50s, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service.

This info session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. Wives most welcome. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison, Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with your full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.

Event Date: **Saturday 2 May 2026 10.00am–11.30am**

Venue: **Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne**



Young Men of God Movement Conference 2026

17-19 July at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre.

A men's weekend away to deepen your faith, strengthen brotherhood and grow in leadership. Inspiring speakers, fellowship and food.

Give God permission to lead you on the path of authentic, Christ-centered living.

Open to all men 18yrs and above.

Registration: Fr Terrence 0426-897764

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited.

Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS

PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.

Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture

readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder &

Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms,

A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New

translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010,

International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.

All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout,

commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026.

No 2140. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

THE BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERD

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally from John 10, about the 'Good (or, literally, 'beautiful') shepherd'. Today's selection focuses on the image of the *gate* of the sheepfold. In our culture, gates and doors are important. They provide us with security and access to what is inside—a house, a building, a room. And through entering the door or gate, we come to be with others, with whom we (usually) identify or know, perhaps family members and friends. In the Gospel, the one who enters this gate is the shepherd of the flock—an image familiar to John's Mediterranean audience and in a world where shepherds were male and female. The shepherd is a protecting and loving figure who is familiar with each sheep—calling each one by name. The shepherd leads the sheep who follow because 'they know his voice'. This image of the sheep 'knowing' the voice of the shepherd accentuates the deep and abiding intimate relationship between the sheep and shepherd.

In the final part of the Gospel, Jesus reaffirms his mission of protection and his intent to bring freedom to those who listen to his voice. Perhaps, by the time of the Gospel's writing, the community was already experiencing division, difficulty and others presuming to speak in ways that claimed authority but were in fact 'thieves and brigands'. The Gospel concludes: Jesus has come 'so that they may have life and have it to the full.' This desire for the fullness of life echoes in each of our hearts as we allow the voice of the 'Beautiful Shepherd' to guide, protect and nurture us.

Fr Michael Trainor