

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, /
Creator of heaven and earth, / and in
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, /
born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under
Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and
was buried; / he descended into hell; /
on the third day he rose again from
the dead; / he ascended into heaven, /
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty; / from there he
will come to judge the living and the
dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the
holy catholic Church, / the communion
of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, /
the resurrection of the body, / and life
everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread
and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to
each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that
my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to
God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at
your hands for the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and the good of all
his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these
paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work
within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER

After the Preface, we sing or say:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: When we eat this Bread and drink
this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by
divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...
R. Amen.
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are
those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed by the
Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and
reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy
Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

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

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

MATTHEW

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

26 APRIL 2026

THEY KNOW HIS VOICE. At times it can be hard to recognise the voice of Jesus as there are many who claim to speak in his name. A useful guide is to look at people’s actions. We can listen to those whose lives reveal the qualities of Jesus: love, compassion, justice, self-sacrifice. They are the good shepherds in our midst.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us
acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as
the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You have poured out on your people the
Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to
eternal life: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on
us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on
earth peace to people of good will. / We
praise you, / we bless you, / we adore
you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks
for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly
King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord
Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, /
you take away the sins of the world, /
have mercy on us; / you take away the
sins of the world, / receive our prayer; /
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, / have mercy on us. / For you
alone are the Holy One, / you alone are
the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, /
Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in
the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. 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, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.
R. Thanks be to God.

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

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



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.
R. Thanks be to God.

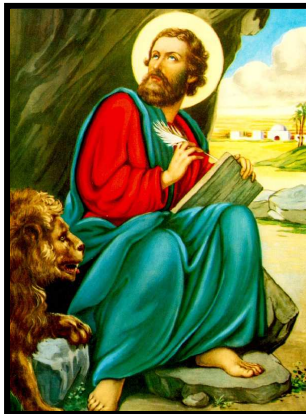
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good
shepherd, says the Lord; I know my
sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 10:1-10

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
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



St. Mark's Parish, Fawkner

St. Mark's Parish is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children, people and vulnerable adults.

Parish Priest: Fr. Colin J. Xavier

9 Lee Street, Fawkner, 3060

Phone: 9359 3111 Fax: 9359 3102

Email: fawkner@cam.org.au

Website: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/fawkner>

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 3:30pm

Principal: Peter Wilson

St. Mark's Parish School

Phone: 8335 4100

Email: principal@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

"I will not forget you... I have carved you on the palm of my Hand" (Is 49:15-16)

Weekday Mass Times:

Monday to Saturday: 9:00am.

Weekend Mass Times:

6:00pm: Saturday Vigil Mass.

10:00am: Sunday Morning Mass.

6:00pm: Sunday Evening Mass.

First Sunday of the Month:

Renewal of Marriage Vows.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 9:30am and 5:15pm.

Or feel free to phone Fr. Colin.

Every Thursday of the Month:

5:30 - 7:00pm: Hope Café (Free Dinner).

First Wednesday of the Month:

7:00pm: Baptism Preparation Meeting.

First Saturday of the Month:

10:00 - 11:30am: Working Bee.

Parish Advisory and Safeguarding

Committee: Fr. Colin Xavier, P. Wilson, A. George, L. Rahme, L. Grech, D. Abela, E. Bathan.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH, MASS TIMES

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am. Saturday: 5:30pm.

Sunday: 9:00am and 10:30am (Italian).



Are you planning a Marriage in the near future?

If so, in order to avoid disappointment, it is most important to first make an appointment with the Parish Priest prior to making any other bookings.



Do not leave your mobiles, purses, wallets, handbags unattended - others may think it is an answer to their prayers...

BEQUEATHING

Would you like to remember the Parish in your Will? Property, Money, Artwork, Plants...

There are many ways you can be remembered.

Do contact the Parish Office (03) 9359 3111 for further information. May God bless you!

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC PARISH

A warm welcome to new parishioners.

Please let us know that you have joined our community and if there is anything we can do for you.

New to our Parish? ☐

Changing address? ☐

Need Thanksgiving Envelopes? ☐

Please Complete the details below and place in the collection plate at Mass or send to the Parish office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____



PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more.

Help parents to be good examples to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians. Encircle our families with your loving care.

To the sick and the weak grant health, to the aged bring serenity, and to those in sorrow, joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

QR CODE AND ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR THE THANKSGIVING PLEDGE



To make a thanksgiving payment, parishioners simply scan your MelbCatholic QR code with your mobile phone camera and follow a few easy steps. This QR code is unique to St. Mark's Church. Alternatively please make a direct transfer to our Parish Account.

Account Name: St. Mark's Church

BSB: 083-347

Account No: 825284554

Account Name: St. Mark's Presbytery

BSB: 083-347

Account No: 673272043

We thank you for your continuous support and help!



Next Weekends Rosters:

2nd May (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

3rd May (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: D. Borg & P. Betham.

Extraordinary Minister: R. Mirabile, F. Cortara & G. Canfailla.

6.00pm: Reader: L. Pegorin.

Church Cleaning:

30th Apr (Thu) Team 4
A. Campana

Counters:

28th Apr: L. Grech.
9th May: J. Degran, E. & A. Bathan.

Thanksgiving: \$485(Env) \$651 (Loose). Presbytery: \$224 (Env) \$628 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!

Pilgrim Virgin: 18th Apr - Tulino Family. 30th Apr - Stephan Family.

Recently Deceased: Teresa Robbins.

This Weekend: Good Shepherd Sunday / World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Next Weekend: Working Bee - Please come along and help around the Church.

Next weekend We will have a special collection towards the **CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.**

Easter House Blessing: Those who wish to have their homes blessed during this Easter time please contact the Parish office.

"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion."



Pope at Mass in Equatorial Guinea: 'Story of our lives finds meaning in Gospel'

Pope Leo said Through Scripture, God reveals to us the meaning of our lives, shows us His love, and encourages us then to spread it to all. Our problems do not disappear in the Lord's presence, but they are illuminated. Just as every cross finds redemption in Jesus, so too the story of our lives finds its meaning in the Gospel.

In Jesus, we are given an astonishing prospect, God gives Himself for us. Do I trust that His love is stronger than my death? By deciding to believe in Him, each of us chooses between inevitable despair and the hope that God offers. Our hunger for life and justice is then satisfied by Jesus' words: 'The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

He encouraged "the living Church in Equatorial Guinea" to carry on "the mission of Jesus' first disciples with joy." "As you read the Gospel together, proclaim it with passion," he underlined. "And as you celebrate the Eucharist together, bear witness through your lives to the faith that saves, so that God's word may become good leaven for all."

"All of us are called to this evangelization from the moment of our Baptism, the sacrament of fraternal unity, the cleansing water of forgiveness, and the source of hope," he emphasized. "Through our witness, the proclamation of salvation is made visible in action, service, and forgiveness—in a word, it becomes the Church!"

CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. It is the Church's mission in action, empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. You can donate using the appeal envelope or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.



Parish Positions: **Administrative Assistant** - Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Balwyn, Camberwell, Deepdene, Surrey Hills & Wattle Park. **Pastoral Associate** -Parishes of Sorrento, Dromana & Rosebud. **Youth Ministry Leader** - St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Caroline Springs
Pastoral Associate - St. Bernadette's Parish, Sunshine North
Catholic Development Fund (CDF) Chief Credit Officer, East Melbourne. Further details can be found on the Archdiocese website at: Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic



THE MIRACLE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.

On Sunday 3rd May, 2026 at Hope Café at 11:00am. A Special Free Religious Movie for Children of all ages. (Parents are welcome). Refreshments and drinks are served.

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE FOR 2026 PARISH MASS COUNT

This Annual Parish Mass count taken in May is important for pastoral planning activities by the Archdiocese. This year the four weekends of 2-3 May, 9-10 May, 16-17 May and 23-24 May have been selected for the count.

With sadness I once again announce the passing away of **Teresa Robbins**, She was a simple lady with a great love for her parish, the parishioners and the mission of St. Vincent de Paul. Her Funeral Mass: Thursday, 30th April at 12 noon. **May her dear soul rest in gentle peace.**

We do not want to stray from the fold, we want to be with our shepherd and guardian. Only shepherds enter through the sheep gate; true shepherds come by way of Jesus, call us forth, and lead us in right paths. Those who would call to us and lead us that do not come by way of Jesus are thieves and robbers, leading us astray.



GOOD SHEPHERD

Royal inscriptions often depicted kings as good shepherds of their people despite the devastation and suffering from war and famine. So, when Psalm 23 begins, "the Lord is my shepherd", or Psalm 100:3 says, "We are His people, the sheep of His pasture," they challenge such political rhetoric.

Nevertheless, the ego-boost of shepherd kingship repeatedly got out of hand. In Ezekiel 34 the prophet launches a blistering attack against shepherds of Israel who eat choice cuts and wear fine wool without feeding the sheep. "You have not ... healed the sick, bound up the injured... sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them," (vv. 3-5).

Jesus adopts a similar tone in today's gospel (Jn 10:1-10). Of course, his role as the "good shepherd" goes beyond the feeding, healing and protecting tasks of Psalm 23. He will suffer and die, "so that free from sin we might live for righteousness," as 1 Peter puts it (1 Pet 2:20b-25). Like a sacrificial lamb, Jesus takes no part in the verbal contests of power politics: "...no deceit in his mouth...no insult...he did not threaten." 1 Peter presents its meditation on the Passion as an example for Christians. Those committed to doing good in a "corrupt generation" (Acts 2:40), only listen to their shepherd's voice (Jn 10:3).

Psalm 23 transitions from God as shepherd to God hosting a banquet with its laden table, anointing oil, and overflowing cups (v. 5), representing salvation in the house of the Lord (v. 6). .) More likely, enemy observers are witnesses to the "goodness and kindness" that always follow God's faithful. "Kindness" refers to God's faithful love that remains open even in life's final moments (Lk 23:39-43). (Pheme Perkins, Ph.D. Catholic Spirituality Boston College).