

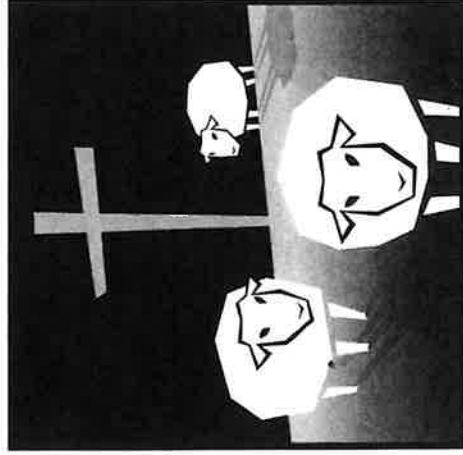


Reflection by Greg Sunter

Shepherds in the first century did not have a particularly good reputation. Whilst the task itself was a responsible one, it was usually undertaken by hired help – usually young men or even boys. Being hired help, they had little allegiance to the flock and were generally regarded as basically untrustworthy and often accused of illicitly selling off the sheep's milk and even the occasional lamb. They lived for months at a time out in the hills with the sheep; often risking their lives in defence of their flock, yet still regarded with suspicion. Shepherds were held in such low regard that they could not appear in court as a witness. Yet, despite this grim picture of shepherds, Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd. With that one word, he acknowledged the reputation of shepherds but utterly dismissed it by describing himself as a shepherd – but a good shepherd. He chose to describe himself as the worst of all occupations but raised the status to unimpeachable heights.

In describing himself as the good shepherd, Jesus joined a distinguished list of biblical shepherds: Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob were all shepherds; Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God appeared to him in the burning bush and revealed God's name; and the great King, David, began life as a humble shepherd-boy. So, despite the poor reputation of shepherds in Jewish society, some of the greatest leaders of the Jews began life as shepherds.

Today's gospel passage follows the famous 'good shepherd' passage in the gospel of John and continues on the image. The passage portrays Jesus as 'claiming' his flock; guaranteeing them not only safety but also eternal life. This oath of loyalty and commitment is all the stronger and more remarkable in light of Jesus' rehabilitation of the status of shepherds.



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 10:27-30

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to

my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is

greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C

11 May 2025

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. *(R.)*

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his

flock. *(R.)*

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rv 7:9, 14-17

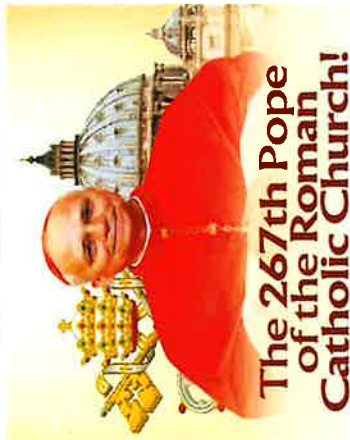
The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.



We rejoice and give thanks to God for the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. May the Risen Lord bless him with wisdom and strength as he leads the Church with love and faithfulness. Let us pray for our new Pope as he begins his mission to guide and unite God's people across the world.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coco, Nadja Louis

RECENTLY DECEASED

Monsignor Benedict Camilleri

ANNIVERSARIES

Agata Luca, Helen Whelan, Eufrecina Baera, Lola Attard, Josephine Mizzi, Joseph Pham Van Khanh, Anthony Doan Dao, Anna Hoang Bich Hong, Lewis Camilleri, Augustin and Miro Jurisic & family, Krizan Marusic & family, Giovanni & Vittoria Cammarano, Caterina Romeo

PARISH SUPPORT Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

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PROJECT COMPASSION Please return any boxes or envelopes by next week. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS

MONTH OF MAY – MONTH OF ROSARY

Month Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary During the month of May, we recite the Rosary on weekdays and Saturday mornings from 8.50am (before the 9.15am Mass).

ST PETER'S COMMUNITY CHOIR FOR CONFIRMATION

We are inviting all competent singers to join the St Peter's Community choir for the Confirmation Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday, May 30th at 6.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together to be part of this special occasion. **Rehearsals will be on Tuesday, May 20th, and Tuesday, May 27th, at 5.00pm in the Church. We will also practice at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday, 25th May.** If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Seona Martin smartin@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au We look forward to your involvement in making this event memorable!

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

Continues this weekend. Collectors at weekend masses are asked to compile the figures and complete the clipboard.

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS – GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – 10/11 MAY

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This weekend we welcome seminarian, Greg Lewis, from Corpus Christi College, to share his vocation story with us. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE Our Mother's Day raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am Sunday Mass. Good Luck!

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 18th May 2025

Logan Anytas

Please pray for these children and their families.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY – 11TH MAY

During the month of May, the Church honours with special love Mary, the Mother of God. This weekend is also a special time for celebrating the gift of mothers and women. We pray for all mothers in our community. May they continue to love and nurture their children and may we treasure their precious gift of mothering.

We pray for those mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers who have passed away. We give thanks for their love, their laughter and their labour. We give thanks for the many ways they shaped our values, our faith and our family traditions and rituals. May they Rest in Peace.

A Blessing for Mothers

Loving God,
as a mother gives life and
nourishment to her children,
so you watch over your Church.

Bless these women,
that they may be strengthened
as Christian mothers.

Let the example of their faith
and love shine forth.

Grant that we,
their sons and daughters,
may honour them always
with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST
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Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melb.catholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Christine Torrance

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

10/11 MAY – PREP & YEAR 1'S MOTHER'S DAY MASS

We welcome to our 6.00pm Saturday Vigil and 10.30am Sunday Masses this weekend, the Prep and Year 1 children and their families.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.