

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

26 April 2026

readings

Next Week

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 Pet 2:4-9

Jn 1 14:1-12

in a nutshell

They know his voice. At times it can be hard to recognise the voice of Jesus as there are many who claim to speak 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.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Helen O'Kane, Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees

For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Safeguarding Compliance for Volunteers—UPDATE

Please see inside for more information

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

Responsorial Psalm

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

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.)

Gospel acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

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

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am

First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm

Mount Evelyn: Saturday

11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarvalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings: May 20
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Safeguarding Compliance for Volunteers—UPDATE

At the most recent Safeguarding Meeting on April 8, discussion was around the volunteer groups within the parish and members of each group. Over the coming weeks you may receive an email or a phone call outlining what action by you is needed to continue your work in the role you have within the parish.

If you undertake any volunteer role within the parish you are required to:

- Have undergone a Working With Children (WWC) Check
- Signed the Code of Conduct
- Undertaken the online training session.

Therefore, if you are singing in the choir, playing the organ, arranging the flowers, cleaning the church, assisting with the garden, etc. the above must be undertaken for compliance to the Archdiocese Safeguarding Policy.

Your role as a volunteer is very much appreciated by the parish and your continued assistance is welcome.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Leo tells us:

Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ.

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.

You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: The Lord instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, but he also instituted the priesthood at that same meal. It is through the Eucharist and the priesthood that Jesus continues to love and serve his flock, and these go hand in hand. The consequences of this dynamic relationship are pivotal for our salvation. (Fr. Stephen Gadberry)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The years in the seminary of preparation make sense when we consider just how powerful what's happening in that little room really is. Sin, darkness and pain are purged, and forgiveness, light and healing are brought about. In that way, every Confession is a mini miracle as grace pours forth from the pierced Heart of Jesus. (Fr. Morehead)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Project Compassion—Last week to Return Boxes/Envelopes

If you still have your Project Compassion box or envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Stewardship Corner

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...'" ACTS 2:38

The word "repent" means to turn from sin - to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within – a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God's help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal - Next Weekend

CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action - empowering children and young people, strengthening families and individuals, providing safe housing and homelessness assistance, and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

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 which is available today to take home and return next weekend, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au, call (03) 9967 2515 or scan the QR Code.

All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)



Middle East Emergency Appeal – Aid to the Church in Need

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.

To learn more or give today, please scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal

And a few silly jokes to finish...

What did the lightning bolt say to the other lightning bolt?
You're shocking!

Why did the woman go outdoors with her purse open?
Because she expected some change in the weather.

What's a chiropractor's favourite type of music?
Anything with a good spine-tingling rhythm!

sourced from www.majellan.media

Readings Reflection

[What Are We To Do?](#)

Easter's empty tomb is a call to conversion.

By this tomb, we should know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, as Peter preaches in today's First Reading.

He is the "Lord," the divine Son that David foresaw at God's right hand (see Psalms 3; 110:1; 132:10–11; and Acts 2:34). And He is the Messiah that God had promised to shepherd the scattered flock of the house of Israel (see Ezekiel 34:11–14, 23; 37:24).

As we hear in today's Gospel, Jesus is that Good Shepherd, sent to a people who were like sheep without a shepherd (see Mark 6:34; Numbers 27:16–17). He calls not only to the children of Israel, but to all those far off from Him—to whomever the Lord wishes to hear His voice.

The call of the Good Shepherd leads to the restful waters of Baptism, to the anointing oil of Confirmation, and to the table and overflowing cup of the Eucharist, as we sing in today's Psalm.

Again on this Sunday in Easter, we hear His voice calling us His own. He should awaken in us the response of those who heard Peter's preaching. "What are we to do?" they cried.

We have been baptized. But each of us goes astray like sheep, as we hear in today's Epistle. We still need daily to repent, to seek forgiveness of our sins, to separate ourselves further from this corrupt generation.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of the Shepherd of our souls. By His suffering He bore our sins in His body to free us from sin. But His suffering is also an example for us. From Him we should learn patience in our afflictions, to hand ourselves over to the will of God.

Jesus has gone ahead, driven us through the dark valley of evil and death. His Cross has become the narrow gate through which we must pass to reach His empty tomb—the verdant pastures of life abundant.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

There is one mediator between God and Man, Christ Jesus

[Note: Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations]

“Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry” (CCC 1536).

“[I]t confers a gift of the Holy Spirit that permits the exercise of a ‘sacred power’ ...which can come only from Christ himself” (CCC 1538). After ordination, a priest has the power to turn bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Such a supernatural power can come only from a supernatural source.

Bishops are the successors to the apostles, in an “‘unbroken succession going back to the beginning’” (CCC 1555); for the apostles “‘passed on to their auxiliaries the gift of the Spirit which is transmitted down to our day through episcopal consecration’” (CCC 1556). “‘Episcopal consecration confers ... also the offices of teaching and ruling’” (CCC 1558).

“Apostolic succession” is a historical fact. Scripture shows that Christ chose apostles and commissioned them to continue his work with his authority and that they in turn ordained successors. Apostolic succession is the link that connects the Church today to the Christ who walked the earth two thousand years ago. Many converts from Protestantism, both great (such as Cardinal Newman) and small (such as the present writer), found their way into the Church through confronting this simple historical fact.

Christ did not tell the apostles how to choose successors, and the “politics” of choosing bishops has varied through Church history. “In our day, the lawful ordination of a bishop requires a special intervention of the Bishop of Rome” [the pope], “because he is the supreme visible bond of the communion of the particular Churches in the one Church” (CCC 1559).

Priests are “‘co-workers of the episcopal order for the proper fulfillment of the apostolic mission’” (CCC 1562). “Priests can exercise their ministry only in dependence on the bishop and in communion with him” [and, indeed, make a] “promise of obedience ... to the bishop at the moment of ordination” (CCC 1567). Priests, in turn, as “presbyters”, share in the priestly office of the bishop.

The priesthood exists for the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist that “‘they exercise in a supreme degree their sacred office; there, acting in the person of Christ ... and in the sacrifice of the Mass they make present again ... the unique sacrifice of ... Christ offering himself....’ From this unique sacrifice their whole priestly ministry draws its strength [cf. PO 2]” (CCC 1566). When the priest pronounces Christ’s words “This is my Body” and “This is my Blood”, it is Christ who speaks and acts. Only Christ has such miraculous power.

That is why the saintly Curé of Ars said, “‘The priest continues the work of redemption on earth.... If we really understood the priest on earth, we would die not of fright but of love’” (CCC 1589). Saints have seen angels bowing before priests—not because the priests were especially holy as human beings but because the power Christ gave them in the Eucharist infinitely exceeds the greatest powers of the greatest angel.

The title “Father” should show that love of which the Curé of Ars speaks. It is a reminder that the relationship between priest and people is familial, since it expresses the relationship between God and his people, which is also familial and “fatherly”. “Father” was the word Christ used the most for God, and we cannot be better taught than by him.

A priest is a mediator between God and man. “Everything that the priesthood of the Old Covenant prefigured finds its fulfillment in Christ Jesus, the ‘one mediator between God and men’” (CCC 1544).

Israel was God’s “chosen people”—chosen not for their own sake but for service to the whole world. As Israel was God’s collective prophet to the whole world, Israel was also the collective priest for the whole world. “The chosen people was constituted by God as ‘a kingdom of priests and a holy nation’” (CCC 1539). And “within the people of Israel, God chose one of the twelve tribes, that of Levi, and set it apart for liturgical service.... The priests are ‘appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins’” (CCC 1539).

Even earlier there was also the priesthood of Melchizedek (Gen 14:18). “The Christian tradition considers Melchizedek, ‘priest of God Most High,’ as a prefiguration of the priesthood of Christ, the unique ‘high priest after the order of Melchizedek’; ... ‘by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified’, that is, by the unique sacrifice of the cross” (CCC 1544).

Christ fulfilled the Old Covenant priesthood on the Cross and extended that work through all time by the ordained priesthood of his Catholic Church, which God designed, like Israel, not for herself but for the whole world (“catholic” means “universal”). The Catholic priesthood today is the extension of Christ. It is not a third step, so to speak, after the Old Covenant priests and then Christ. Priests are Christ’s own hands and lips. “‘Christ is the source of all priesthood: the priest of the old law was a figure of Christ, and the priest of the new law acts in the person of Christ’” (CCC 1548).

What Christ did on the Cross was the most important thing he came to earth to do: to save us from sin and reconcile us to the Father. This was his “priestly” work; and this incomparably important work—the work of salvation—he now performs through the ordained priesthood of his Church, for her priests are the ones he appointed as successors to the apostles to communicate his salvation through his sacraments. Thus the fundamental purpose of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is the salvation of the world.

“The redemptive sacrifice of Christ is unique, accomplished once for all” (see Heb 10:10); “yet it is made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church. The same is true of the one priesthood of Christ; it is made present through the ministerial priesthood without diminishing the uniqueness of Christ’s priesthood: ‘Only Christ is the true priest, the others being only his ministers’” (CCC 1545).

Dr Peter Kreeft, *Catholic Christianity: A Complete Catechism of Catholic Beliefs Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church*