

Ministry Roster Fifth Sunday of Easter 2nd May, 2021.

Ministry	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM.
Acolyte:	R Kemmis.	P Speter	P Speter.
Commentator:	J Leather.	Volunteer.	Volunteer
Reader:	A Leather.	C Van Gelderen.	T Griffiths.
Flowers:	M Dodd.		
Cleaning:	T Griffiths & G Hitchen.		

Dr Laurie Woods Gospel Study Series.

CCD is pleased to offer a Study of the Gospel of St John with Dr Laurie Woods over 5 Fridays – 23 and 30 April and 7, 14 and 21 May. These sessions, held from 9.30am to 2pm, will open our eyes to the depth of this Gospel and its application to everyday life, and are open to all. Please register with Maree at maree.collis@parracatholic.org or phone (02) 8838 3486.

Pastoral Council Formation and Training.

The Pastoral Planning Office are hosting monthly Zoom sessions offering tips, tricks and best practice in a variety of areas for healthy and productive parish, deanery and diocesan pastoral councils. Sessions will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm to 9pm. If you are on a council or work closely with our councils, claim this date. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/serving-christs-mission> or

Introduction to Safeguarding Training.

The Diocese of Parramatta is launching new online Safeguarding training for all parish staff and volunteers. Zoom sessions to introduce the training will be held 2pm-3pm on April 28 or May 5. More information to follow or email Sonia Fingleton at the Diocese at Sonia.Fingleton@parracatholic.org

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 1 – 2 May 2021.

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 1 – 2 May. For further information and to register, visit www.engagedencounter.org.au/

It is with profound sadness that we advise the passing of David Powell last Saturday, 17th April.

A Requiem Mass for the life of David will be held at Our Lady of the Nativity Church on Thursday 29th April at 11:30 AM.

As with all Masses booking in is required so please call the Parish office on 0418 214 548 or email lawson@parracatholic.org

**Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin.**

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**

Phone: 4759 1034 or 0418 214 548.

Email: lawson@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0418 461 316.

Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0415 077 969.

Parish Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 3.30 pm.

The Church will be open for private prayer during office hours.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM. Sunday 8:00 AM & 9:00 AM.

Weekday Mass: 5:00PM Tuesday and Wednesday and 9:00 AM Thursday.

48 people only at each Mass. Call the parish office or 0418 214 548 before 5:00PM on Fridays to confirm your attendance at the Mass of your choice or you MAY be denied entry.

Covid-19 and social distancing restrictions apply to all Masses. QR code sign on is available.

Baptisms:	First & Third Saturdays. By appointment, call the parish office.
Reconciliation:	By appointment .Call the parish office.
Weddings:	By appointment, six months notice. Call the parish office.
Funerals:	By appointment. Call the parish office.

INTRODUCTORY REFLECTION

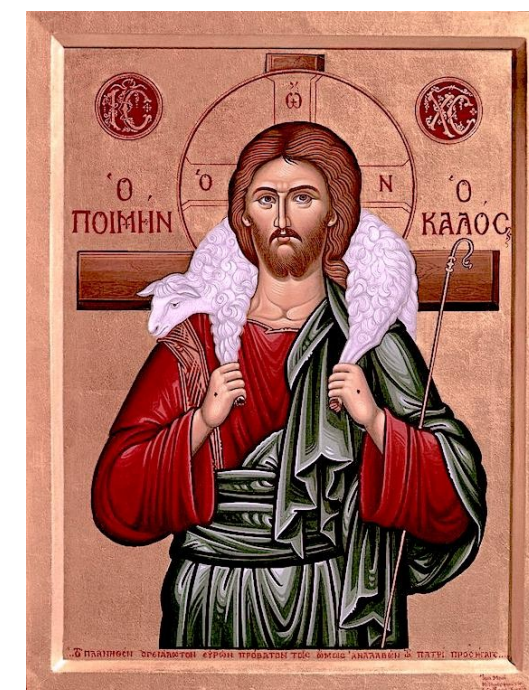
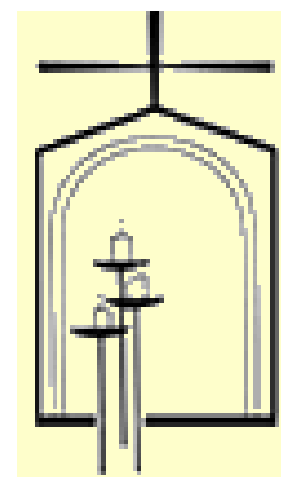
The coincidence of Anzac Day and Good Shepherd Sunday brings Psalm 23 to mind, though it's not the psalm for Mass today.

Who knows what strength this ancient prayer gave to those subjected to the horror of the Great War? They walked "in the valley of the shadow of death" and too many more have done so since. In defiance of war's brutal inhumanity, the psalm affirms God's shepherding presence in our lives and promises us God's eternal hospitality.

For Christian believers it gathers force from Jesus' willingness to absorb the violence of his executioners without retaliation. Refusing to betray his faith in the ultimate power of love, he has disarmed the forces of fear and hate.

Dare we believe it?

(Australian Catholics)





Recently Deceased: Andrew Walker & David Powell.

Anniversaries: .

Sick: Fr Theo Arrivoli, Rob Nickl, Tochillo Brown. Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci, Raymond Plumridge, Mark Geerligs, Rita D'Amico, Andrew Frater, Anthony Griffin and all Private Intentions. *Due to the strict*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Peter announces an act of healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his kindness

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

God revealed his love for us by calling us children of God.

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

Background on the Gospel Reading.

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

SANTA MARIA CONFERENCE
CENTRE

Available for meetings,
functions and conferences

Phone Sr Veronica on
4759 1116 for enquiries.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY

SCHOOL

7 Somers Street, Lawson.

Phone: 4753 2200. Email:

oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

The Perspective of Justice

4th Sunday of Easter B.

April 25, 2021.

Who Cares?

The image of the good shepherd is the image of a person who cares. He is not like the other, "who has no concern." He takes the time to get to know others, and he cares so much that he will even give his life for others.

We belong to a church populated by caring individuals who give their lives for others: priests and nuns martyred in El Salvador; missionaries struggling in the remotest parts of the world; peace activists challenging the consciences of nations; sisters caring lovingly for the sick and dying.

What would happen if all of us cared, really cared, about our brothers and sisters who are hungry, homeless, helpless, mistreated, victimized, suffering, unemployed, impoverished, threatened, rejected? What would happen if all of us became good shepherds and cared? Wouldn't the consequences be monumental if everyone in the Christian community became a good shepherd?

No one is permitted to disregard the plight of his brothers living in dire poverty, enmeshed in ignorance and tormented by insecurity.

Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 1967:74

No one may claim the name Christian and be comfortable in the face of the hunger, homelessness, insecurity, and injustice found in this country and all the world.

U.S. Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986: #27 (p.6).

Gerald Darring.

