

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A) 3 May 2020



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2020 Sacraments Program

Our Sacramental Program has been suspended until further notice.

Thank you to those who have donated to the parish via our 'support us' tab on our website. MasterCard or Visa donations can be made securely via BPoint Secure Payment Service.

To make a payment to the Parish click on the drop-down box and select a payment type (Biller code). This will enable us to allocate your donation. (1st collection, 2nd collection, general donation etc)

You may also opt for a monthly debit to your credit card. Please call or email the parish office for an authority form to have this option set up for you.

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5pm

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)

Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,

Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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**Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.**

Recently Deceased:

Maureen Gleeson, Pedro Espado, Tony McLeod

Anniversaries: Rema Flannery, Caterina Lorizio, George Crvenkovic, L A Fernandez, Ron & Ruby Tolhurst, Lidia Merlino, Julia Georges, Jack Kucina

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Nino Restuccia, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guisepe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther and Terry Tully, Gary and Leslie Mc Grath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Veronica Rutherford, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, , Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfroe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

Mass Intentions / Offerings (Effective 25 March 2020)

Mass intentions/offerings are welcome. Please email Fr Chaminda on mcrwanigasena@gmail.com

Information Required: Intention and the date intention to be offered. eg, kindly offer Mass for the soul of _____ , on date. Please indicate if it for a special reason please eg, anniversary of death, recently deceased.

If your intention is related to recovery of illness, please supply name of the sick person and the date you would like the Mass offered.

For all other intentions please state basic intentions and the requested date.

If you or anyone you know within the Parish is experiencing distress or anxiety during this current situation, our priests are available to have a chat over the phone (parish office 9743 1023, please leave a message if unattended) or alternatively you can email Fr Chaminda on mcrwanigasena@gmail.com so that he may contact you.

In the event that you or someone you know is experiencing problems with lack of food please contact CatholicCare on 131819.

CWL Silver Circle Results – Week 7

1 st Prize	No. 17	\$20.00	Trish Leckie
2 nd Prize	No. 16	\$10.00	Garry McIlwaine

**ST AMBROSE CHURCH IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED
DUE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Your intentions will be offered to God by us
in our private masses.

Fr. Brian Egan (Parish priest)
Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena (Assistant Priest)

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

**DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES
AND CASH TO HAND IN?**

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au' and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001 Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash Please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

Collection for Holy Land postponed

The tradition collection on Good Friday to assist Catholic communities in the Holy Land has been postponed until later this year.

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Urgent appeal

Donations of personal hygiene products are urgently sought for Care Packages being put together for the thousands of seafarers trapped on ships coming into Sydney waters.

Chaplain to the Seafarers, Sr Mary Leahy, said donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, knitted beanies and chocolates are desperately needed for the thousands of seamen currently stranded on ships on our waterfront due to the Coronavirus.

Sr Mary has spent the past 20 years helping those who earn a living on the seas and said she has never seen conditions so dire.

Parishes including St Andrew Malabar, St Charles Borromeo Ryde/Gladesville and Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda have agreed to be drop-off points for the donations however if you would like to support the appeal and collect donations please contact journalist Debbie Cramsie at the Sydney Archdiocese on debbie.cramsie@sydneycatholic.org

Br Julian's Reflection: Fourth Sunday of Easter



“O God, my shepherd, I don't need anything. You let me lie in fields of lush grass, you lead me to restful waters to revive me.”

Psalm 23

“I am the gate of the sheepfold...I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full. John 10, 1-10

Because of the theme running through the gospel of the day, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is often called “Good Shepherd Sunday”. Over centuries, the image of Jesus as shepherd has accumulated lots of emotional overtones. Christians have found comfort in a warm, gentle, cuddly Jesus, who cares for his sheep and knows them all by name. While there's nothing particularly wrong with that, to hold tightly only to that particular image of Jesus is to do him a disservice and to miss some of the

complexity of this part of John's Gospel, which takes up the theme of Jesus, the shepherd.

As we hear today's gospel reading we quickly pick up that John is mixing several images as he presents Jesus as the shepherd of his sheep and the gate and gatekeeper of the sheepfold which safeguards the sheep. This may cause confusion for some of us.

But first let's look at what prompts Jesus to speak about himself in this way. The whole of chapter 9 of John's Gospel gives a detailed account of Jesus' cure of the man who had been born blind, and the conflict which followed when some Pharisees and leading Jews took exception to the fact that Jesus had cured the man on the Sabbath. This, in turn, led to the victimisation and rejection of the cured man when he eloquently testified to Jesus as being the one who had been sent by God to raise up the people of Israel. For his outspokenness, the poor man was made to pay dearly - he was excluded from both the synagogue and the community to which he had just been restored after a life-time of exclusion. His critics were particularly hostile in their condemnation of him: “ ‘Are you trying to teach us, and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away” (John 9, 34).

Those leaders who had interrogated and ostracised the cured man were the very ones whose responsibility was to be the shepherds of their people. It was they who were meant to nourish and safeguard the people in their care. Yet, they were more intent on preserving their position and power than they were on shepherding their own people. That's the context in which Jesus was prompted to describe his own role as shepherd. Today's gospel reading, then, is an interpretation of the story of the cure of the man born blind, spelling out how true shepherds of people are required to meet the responsibilities that are integral to the role entrusted to them.

Jesus began his teaching with a parable, stating that there were people who gained forced entry into the sheepfold seeking only personal gain. The sheep are not used to their voices and, so, just don't follow them. The narrator of the story then breaks in with the comment that Jesus quickly realised that his audience didn't really understand the parable he was using. The narrator then tells us that Jesus started his teaching afresh. He used the same image, proclaiming: “I am the gate to the sheepfold”, and pointing out that all who had come ahead of him (the leading Jews and Pharisees) “are thieves and brigands” to whom the sheep took no notice. To stress his point, Jesus repeated: “I am the gate”, adding “whoever enters by me will be saved and will go in and out freely and be sure of finding pasture”. And to further emphasise his message, he repeats: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”, while he himself has come “ so that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10, 7-10).

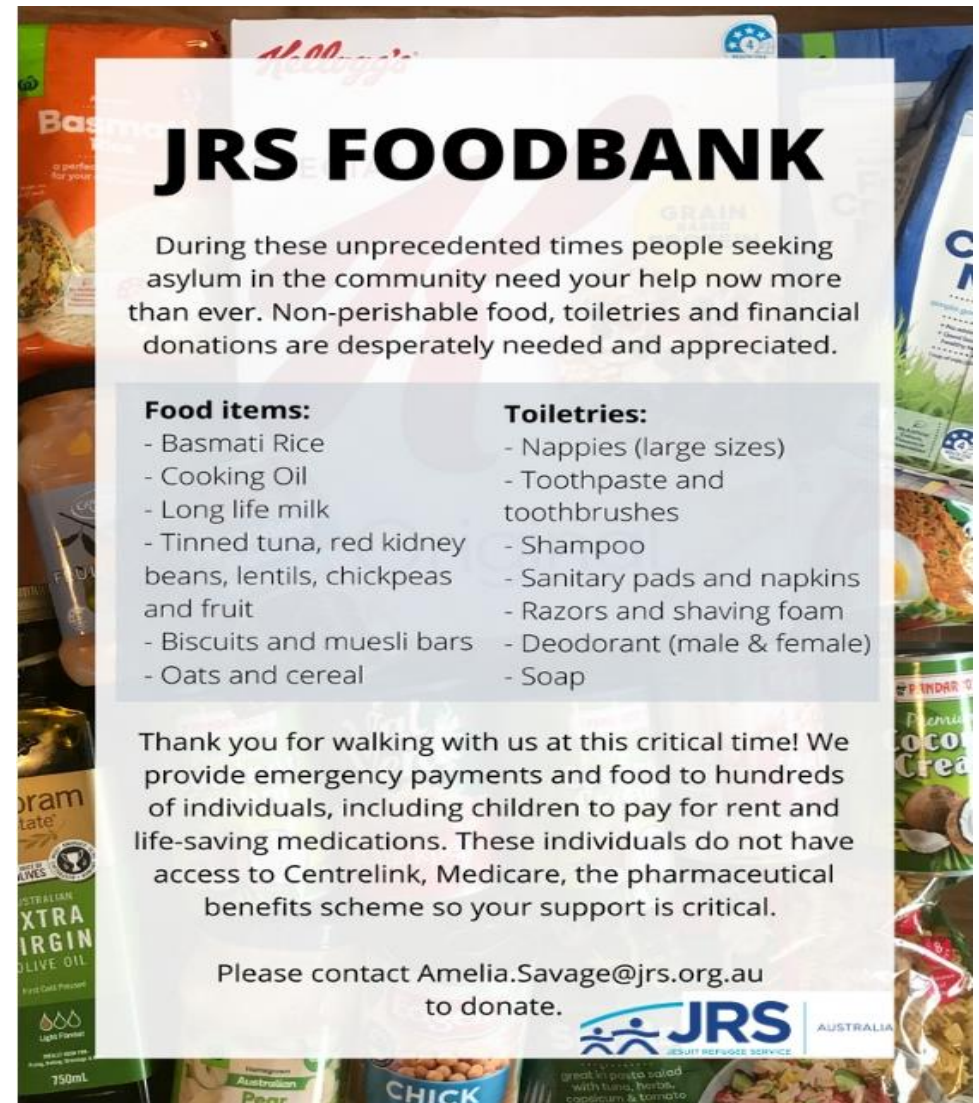
We have to remember that John is using this long metaphor to explain who Jesus is, what his mission is and what exactly is our relationship to him. While the image of Jesus as shepherd sits comfortably with us, that of Jesus as gate might strike us as somewhat artificial. However, John is saying that Jesus is both shepherd and gate. Shepherd we understand easily, but as gate Jesus protects the sheep at night from predators and by day opens up for them to follow him to pasture that will nourish them. The implication is that the officially-appointed leaders have only pretended to be leaders who offer nourishment, security and safety but, instead, have preyed on their sheep for their own personal gain. They are locked gates, leading nowhere.

If we fail to link today's gospel reading to the cure of the man born blind, we run the risk of missing the full significance of the extended metaphor of shepherd, sheep, gatekeeper, gate, thieves, robbers, wolves and strangers, and we might even conclude that the gate is meant to exclude. Indeed, there was a time in history when many Christians lived with a sense of entitlement, believing that they were Jesus' privileged sheep, and everyone else, those of different faiths and of none, were excluded, locked out! To look at it that way would be to behave in exactly the same way as the Pharisees and Jewish leaders, who locked out from the community the cured blind man. In contrast, Jesus went in search of the man and made him welcome: "Jesus heard that they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him: 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir, tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said: 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said: 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him" (John 9, 35-37).

If we read on from today's gospel, we will see how Jesus himself makes the point that he excludes nobody: "I am the good shepherd; I know my own and they know me...And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well" (John 10, 14-16).

As I ponder today's gospel and the psalm following the first reading (Psalm 23, the Good Shepherd psalm), I am challenged to ask where I situate myself in the story. The gospel reading concludes with Jesus proclaiming: "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10, 10). The life that Jesus speaks about and that John writes about in his Gospel is not the life which we envisage comes after we die. It is life right here and now, the life that our relationship with Jesus fills us with, the life we give to one another in our families, communities, friendships and work teams, it is the life we infuse into others as we encourage and affirm them. If I genuinely pray Psalm 23, saying: "O God my shepherd, I don't need anything, for you have blessed me abundantly", what do I do with the abundance with which I have been blessed? Do I share it with those who struggle to make ends meet? Do I share my time and talents with those who feel excluded? Does it occur to me that I, too, have a role in

shepherding? Are there sheep whom I exclude through avoidance, sheep I ignore, sheep whose smell I detest, sheep who, I fear, might contaminate me? Am I prepared to be a participant in today's readings or merely an observer? In what ways do I breathe life into others?




JRS FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

Food items:	Toiletries:
- Basmati Rice	- Nappies (large sizes)
- Cooking Oil	- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Long life milk	- Shampoo
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit	- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Biscuits and muesli bars	- Razors and shaving foam
- Oats and cereal	- Deodorant (male & female)
	- Soap

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time! We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These individuals do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the pharmaceutical benefits scheme so your support is critical.

Please contact Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au to donate.

 **JRS** AUSTRALIA
SUPPORT REFUGEE SERVICE

