



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr A, 29-30 April, 2023

Hear and follow the Lord, our Good Shepherd

(extracted from Vatican News May 2022 article written by Thaddeus Jones)

Pope Francis recalled how today's liturgy speaks about the Lord who uses "the tender and beautiful image of the shepherd who stays with the sheep." The Lord's sheep "hear" his voice, they "know" him, and they "follow" him.

The three verbs - hear, know, follow - illustrate the key message in today's Gospel reading, said the Pope. The sheep "hear" the voice of the shepherd, showing how the initiative comes from the Lord and his grace who calls us to communion, the Pope explained, but this requires us to be available and open to this invitation and relationship. Today we can often be overwhelmed with work, families, and personal situations the Pope acknowledged, but we must stop to listen, to hear the Word of the Father like a listening child, curious and with open hearts that allow us to be in communion with the Lord and our brothers and sisters.

"And they experience something very beautiful, that is, that the Lord himself listens – he listens to us when we pray to him, when we confide in him, when we call on him."

The Lord knows his sheep

By listening to Jesus we discover "he knows us," the Pope explained, and in the biblical sense knowing means loving - the Lord knows about us and our inner being, inside and out. Jesus seeks our friendship, trust, love and intimacy, the Pope went on to say, and to help us understand and accept the marvelous reality that "we are always loved by him" and never alone.

"Being with the good shepherd allows us to live the experience the Psalm speaks about: 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me' (Ps 23:4)."

The Lord sustains us in our suffering, difficulties and crises, times in particular we can discover "we are known and loved by the Lord," said the Pope. He suggested we ask ourselves if we allow the Lord into our lives and if we share with him all our trials and tribulations, so we can experience his closeness, compassion and tenderness as our Good Shepherd.

Finally, the Pope focused on the verb "follow," as the Lord's followers go where he goes along the same path and direction. Like the Good Shepherd, they seek those who are lost or need our compassion and love.

"They go to seek those who are lost (cf. Lk 15:4), are interested in those who are far-off, take to heart the situation of those who suffer, know how to weep with those who weep, they reach out their hands to their neighbour, placing him or her on their shoulders."

The Pope said we need to ask ourselves if we allow Jesus only to love ourselves, or if we have taken the next step to imitate the Lord and reach out to our brothers and sisters, as the Lord reaches out to us. May the Blessed Mother "help us listen to Christ, know him always more and follow him on the way of service."

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm

Sunday
9am, 11am and 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

<https://youtu.be/OTd9VUwQPbE>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:	Passionist Community	St Paul Apostle North	St Paul Apostle South	St John's
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)	Fr Brendan Connell CP	Primary School	Primary School	Regional College
Fr Luke Bulley CP	Fr Brian Gleeson CP	Ph. 9700 6068	Ph. 9700 3663	Ph. 9791 3366
	Fr Kevin Hennessy CP	Principal	Principal	Principal
	Fr Luke Bulley CP	Mrs Mary Lucas	Mr Paul Gleeson	Mr Tim Hogan
Parish Staff:				
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)				
Didi Karkas (Secretary)				

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT DATE CHANGE

Due to a clash with university exam timetables, we have decided to shift the date of the Young Adults Retreat to August 4-6 (Friday night to Sunday afternoon). The retreat will still be held at Pallotti College for those aged 18+. It will be run by Tom Warren (from our Passionist Youth Retreat Team in Brisbane) and Fr Luke. This is an open invitation to young people in our parish, as well as friends, or anyone else who would like to come.



Registration forms will be available at the gathering space. We are limited to 20 people, so please register soon (details to the right). Cost is \$150 per person. This will be a great opportunity to get to know other young people in our wider parish community, as well as deepen faith in a fun and open way. There will also be the possibility of being part of an emerging Team of young people facilitating school retreats around Victoria towards the end of the year. Register by scanning the QR Code, or clicking [this link](#).

YOUTH GROUP (YEARS 5-9)

Following last week's notice regarding the possibility of a Parish Youth Group for years 5-9, we have received some interest from some of our school parents for a meeting to discuss what this might look like. As such, we have scheduled this meeting in the parish office for Thursday the 18th of May, at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend as we discern what shape this group takes, and how it will be organised/run. If you would like to attend, please email Fr Luke (luke.bulley@passionists.com), so that we can get a rough idea of numbers for the night

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM

for children This program is for our grade 4 children. Children who are able to register into this program will have received their sacrament of Reconciliation. They must also be at least grade 4 or above. Any child in our 2023 Sacrament of Reconciliation program is automatically registered into the First Communion program unless you have informed us otherwise. The First family Night is Tuesday 2nd May at 7pm (compulsory to attend for all candidates with their parent)

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As our children are commencing their Sacrament of First Communion program, our After School Religious Education (ASRE) will resume for those children who attend non parish schools. The following are the dates which these children have to attend (besides attending the Family Nights at Church):

TUESDAYS 23rd, 30th May, 6th and 13th June
ASRE classes start at 4pm and finish at 5pm, in the Church. Please remember that as parents/ guardians you must sign your children in when you drop them off and sign them out when you pick them up

DANDENONG DEANERY DINNER

The next Dandenong deanery 'Dinner and Talk' will be on **WEDNESDAY, 10 May 2023**. At The Graduate Restaurant, St John's Regional College, Caroline St, Dandenong. Cost is 45pp (incl. 3 course meals and Wine or Beer) The event starts at 5.30pm.

Our guest speaker this time is BARB BELLISINI. RSVP is necessary by 5th May 2023. To book please call Paddy on 0422 296 961 or email to dandenong-deanery@lie.com.au

Readings:

Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 2:14. 36-41 ;
1 Peter 2:20-25 ;
John 10:1-10

Fifth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 6:1-7;
1 Peter 2:4-9;
John 14:1-12

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Jo Sweeney, Anthona Henderson, Aban Palia, Nimal Pandithakoralage, Chris Williams, Ikhlas Jona, Cecil Harper, Fr Brian Gleeson, Brian Tobin, Wilhada de los Reyes, Elma, Al-leyah, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Rajendre Rasiah, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Horace Stolke, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Peng Lee Wong, Upul Thewarapperuma, Toan Nguyen, Fr Brian Johnston, Fr Bob Maguire, George Drotar, Marina Moss, May Balancy, Joyce Madeira, Isabel D'Costa, Andre Machado, Genevieve and Suzette Clarisse **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

