



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Saturday 2nd May and Sunday 3rd May, 2020

FROM FR JOHN FITZGERALD

Warm greetings to you all as the season of winter has arrived!

Hope this finds you well. Those who live on their own I hope you are being supported by friends.

We have endeavoured to keep in contact through our weekly Mass that can be viewed via the Internet. It seems this may continue for some time yet.

We look forward to the day when our church doors are opened again.

Its been most heartening to receive many messages of support and appreciation of the Mass during this time of isolation.

May it continue to sustain and provide a connection for you with our larger faith community.

May the flame of the Easter Candle warm your hearts and shine upon you.



PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



We commend to the Lord's mercy *Frances Lenaghan* (daughter of Tom and Nola McNamara), who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

IN PLACE OF HOLY MASS

Mass For You At Home is broadcast on WIN at 6am Sundays, and on Foxtel's Aurora at 3am, 6am and 10am every day. It can be viewed online any time at: www.mfyah.com

Sunday Mass from St Joseph's, Warrnambool can be viewed at: www.tiny.cc/joe3280

Daily Mass with Pope Francis (in Italian, with English dubbing) can be viewed at: www.tiny.cc/vatican

Weekday Mass at St John of God Hospital, Ballarat can be viewed at: www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com



OUR SEMINARIANS

Good Shepherd Sunday is usually an opportunity for seminarians to visit parishes and share their seminary experiences and how they discerned their call to be a priest — a shepherd of the Lord's flock. There are presently three Ballarat seminarians, living and studying in the parishes of Camperdown and Swan Hill while the seminary in Carlton is in temporary COVID-19 lock down.

Bishop Paul Bird visited the seminary last year, when this photo was taken.

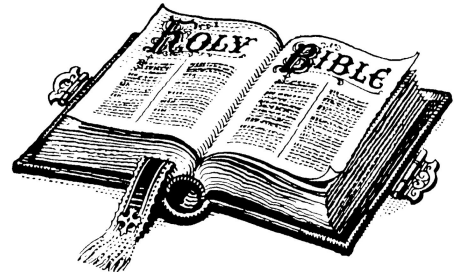
- **Cay Trinh**, on the left, is currently in his third year of seminary studies. He was born and raised in Vietnam, and he emigrated to Australia four years ago, specifically to study for and serve the diocese of Ballarat.
- **William Lowry**, second from left, is currently in his fifth year of seminary studies. He grew up in Woodend, and later moved to the Surf Coast, where his parents still live.
- **Matthew Restall**, on the right, is also in his fifth year of seminary studies. He grew up in Werribee, and he worked in Ballarat before joining the seminary.

Bill and Matt are due to be ordained deacons in the next year or two. Let's pray especially for all three of our seminarians this week, that they will be good and holy shepherds, who love God and love His people. In this way they will meet the pope's famous call for "shepherds living with the smell of the sheep."

RECONCILIATION

Unlike the Mass and sacramental communion, the First Rite of Penance is not presently suspended but it is still discouraged by the civil authorities. Instead, the Church encourages to make examinations of conscience and frequent acts of contrition.

Fr John Corrigan may respond to individual requests for the sacrament, but he can't advertise confession times nor can he open the church for confessions. Call or text on 0422 342 499.



Reflection on this Sunday's readings

by Fr Francis Fernandez

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: LOVE FOR THE POPE

"The Good Shepherd has risen," we read in today's Communion Antiphon, *"who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia."*

This Sunday's liturgy centres upon the image of the Good Shepherd. The Shepherd's sacrifice gave life to his sheep and brought them back to the fold. Years later St Peter confirmed Christians in their faith by reminding them in the midst of persecution what Christ had done and suffered for them: *"through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls."* (From today's Second Reading.)

And so the whole Church prays in the Prayer over the Gifts that *“the renewal constantly at work with us may be the cause of our unending joy,”* and, in today’s Opening Prayer, we ask God the Father to *“lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before.”*

The early Christians had a special affection for the image of the Good Shepherd, and have left us countless testimonies of it in the catacombs and on many well-known ancient buildings through murals, reliefs, gravestone etchings, mosaics and sculptures. This Sunday’s liturgy invites us to meditate on our Saviour’s merciful tenderness, so that we recognize the rights he acquired over each one of us by his death. It is also a good opportunity to consider in our prayer our love for the good shepherds whom he has left to guide us and keep us in his name.

The Old Testament frequently refers to the Messiah as a good Shepherd who must feed, rule and govern God’s people, often abandoned and scattered. The prophecies of the awaited shepherd are fulfilled in Jesus, but in him with new features. He is the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep and provides other shepherds to continue his mission. As opposed to thieves who seek their own interests and destroy the flock, Jesus is the door of salvation; he who enters will find abundant pasture. There is a tender relationship between Jesus the Good Shepherd and his sheep: he calls each by his name; he leads them; the sheep follow because they know his voice; he is the one and only shepherd who has only one flock, protected by the Father’s love. He is the chief Shepherd.

In his last appearance before the Ascension, the risen Christ made Peter the shepherd of his flock, the Church’s guide. In this way the prophecy made to Peter before the Passion was fulfilled: *“but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.”* Then he prophesied that as a good shepherd he would die for his flock.

Christ trusts Peter despite the denials. He simply asks for his love the same number of times that He had been denied. Our Lord doesn’t mind entrusting his Church to a weak man who repents and loves with deeds.

“Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’. And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you’. Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

The shepherd symbol which Jesus has claimed for himself is passed on to Peter: he must continue Our Lord’s mission and be his representative on earth.

Jesus’ words to Peter – feed my lambs, feed my sheep – explain Peter’s mission as one of guarding Our Lord’s whole flock without limitations. Feed is equivalent to ‘direct and govern’. Peter is made the shepherd and guide for the whole Church. As the Second Vatican Council points out, Jesus Christ *“put Peter at the head of the other Apostles, and in him he set up a lasting and visible source and foundation of the unity of both faith and communion.”* (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, 18.)

Ubi Petrus ibi Ecclesia – where Peter is, there is Christ’s Church. In union with him we know with certainty the way that leads to salvation.



LETTER FROM THE POPE TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide

according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

(See <http://tiny.cc/FrancisMay2020>)

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Franciscus

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist*

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our websites. Our safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading. Acts 6:1-7. They elected seven men filled with the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading. 1 Peter 2:4-9. Christ is the living stone, chosen by God and precious to him.

Gospel. John 14:1-12. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

CANONICAL ADMINISTRATOR: Fr John Fitzgerald, john.fitzgerald@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Phone: 5562 2231. Warrnambool office hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr John Corrigan, john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Phone: 0422 342 499. For urgent matters, please don't hesitate to call any time.

PARISH SECRETARY: Louise Dryburgh, portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Phone: 0408 681 223. Port Fairy office hours: Closed until further notice.
Parish postal address: PO Box 8, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284.