



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B) 25th April 2021

Sunday Reflection: “the good shepherd ...lays down his life for his sheep” – Today is called “Good Shepherd Sunday” also “Vocations Sunday”. We try to unpack the imagery and see the connections. The ‘good shepherd’ ‘lays down’, his life for the sheep whereas the hireling ‘abandons’ the sheep. The word ‘lays’ is the same word we had on Holy Thursday when Jesus ‘lays’ aside his garments to wash the disciples’ feet. It is also the word used in Acts to describe those being baptised who ‘laid’ their possessions and lands at the feet of the Apostles, to be shared with those in need. Jesus too ‘lays down’ his life for his sheep. This is the very heart of the Paschal mystery. Jesus gives his life away in loving service. One of the oldest forms of Christian Art is in the Catacombs in Rome. It is that image of the good shepherd bringing back the lost sheep on his shoulders to rejoin the safety of the whole flock. Jesus in today’s Gospel uses this image to describe his life and mission. The ‘good shepherd’ puts his life at risk for the sheep. The good shepherd is totally devoted and committed to his flock. He will protect them from destructive wolves; he will ensure they have proper food and water; he has an intimate rapport with them and they recognize his voice. Jesus uses this imagery in the sure knowledge that ‘He knows the Father’ and is ‘known by the Father’. In the security of the Father’s love, he willingly gives his life away so that the flock is saved. The shepherd refuses to accept the loss of one sheep and goes in search of it. What an image of a tender, caring God? Jesus saw his Church as imitating the Good Shepherd in caring for and protecting God’s people. This caring ministry has to continue in our Church through the loving presence and ministry of holy Priests and consecrated people. We have a huge crisis of Vocations in our Church in the Western World today, so we need to pray seriously for many people to lay down their lives in order to continue the loving and caring ministry of Jesus in his Church of our time. Lord, bless our church and Servite Order with lots of ‘good shepherds’ who will protect the flock and search for the lost.

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am
11.00am
Spanish Mass 12.30pm
Mon to Sat 10am

Sacrament of Confession

If you would like Confession, please see a Priest/Email/Call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

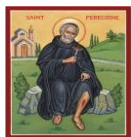
Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm
(Lunch 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

Holy Hour

Will be held on the 1st Friday of every month after the 10am Mass. The hour will include Rosary, Litany of Our Lady, Divine Mercy and Benediction.

Saints Days

Wed 28th – St Peter Chanel
Thu 29th – St Catherine of Siena
Sat 1st – Ss Joseph the Worker



Will be held on the last Wednesday of the Month, 28th April at 6.30pm.



In memory of
Lotti Henley
who recently died.
May she rest in peace.

Religious Training Fund – Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for Priests, for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. We have one student in our Community at present, studying for Religious Life and Priestly Ministry at Allen Hall, André Cibaka. Please pray for him. There are four others interested in Servite Religious Life and Ministry. Do keep them in your prayers also. The Annual Collection for the training of Priests and Religious takes place this weekend, 24th & 25th April. Envelopes will be available, and donations can be offered in the 2nd collection. Thank you for your prayers, interest, and support.

New Envelopes - New Financial Year – Parishioners who are members of our planned-giving scheme, your new box of Planned-Giving Envelopes are ready to be collected from our Parish office.

Confirmation 2019/2020 – Celebration will be held on Saturday 26th June at 10am. Those who were already on the course which got interrupted by Covid will be completed with a Celebration on Saturday 26th. Two Meetings will be held in preparation in the Church on Sunday 23rd May and Sunday 20th June at 4pm. Candidates please attend these sessions.