



## PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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2-3 May 2020, Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

### MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

**Recently Deceased:** Kathleen Rennie (parishioner since 1967), Four Victorian Police Officers, Sheila Rohan, Malcolm Allison, Shirley Evans, Keith Mc Laughlin, Victims of Corona virus, Hilda Quinones, Gloria Tin, Joyce Ryan, Maureen Boyle, Don Furner, Richard Arnel, Rod Frazer, Mary-Anne McGrath, Patsy Edwards, Gary Pertzell, Nance Kenny, Dorothy Hennessy, Victims of the bushfires, Victims of the Corona virus, Kobe Bryant, Eric Fitzsimmons, Margaret Yvanovich.

**Anniversaries of Death:** Brian Lacey, Vonnie Beath, Margaret Joyce, Wendy Egan, Cecily Howden, Frank Williams, Kathleen Rowe, John Frawley, Doris Falzon and Falzon family members, Hartung and Marlow family members, Richard Pugh, Rosario Suazo, Gary Woods, Jack Perry, George Pugh, Desmond Lilley, Sylvia Cronin, Policarpio Barawid.

### MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Hilary Halpin, Margaret Wilson, Rose Winstanley, Joseph Garside, Cecil Wagstaff, Carol Wightman, those afflicted with Corona virus, Bella Davison, Leah Yaxley, John Kololo, Frederick Schinkel, Maree Peters, Witlock family, Timothy Francis Roberts, Rosa B Nguyen, Lourdes A Bautista, David Sandground, Kathleen Stuart, Dick Barry, Luke Ward, Eric Reiher, John Vincent, David Parker, Mark Shepherd, Violet Webster, Lucy Duncan, Rod Duncan, Edith Schumann, Kevin Cains, Stephen Evans, Dermott Cummins.

### **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – World Day of Vocations**

**Jesus is making counter cultural claims in today's Gospel.** While kings were meant to be 'good shepherds' of their people, they were the exception sadly. Besides, shepherds were seen as immoral and irreligious, living alone and not caring for their women nor gathering with the religiously observant (John J. Pilch). **Prevailing notions are transformed in Jesus.**

In the verse following today's Gospel, Jesus makes a claim that would have sounded like an oxymoron: **"I am the Good Shepherd" (Jn 10:11).** Besides, the early Church at the time of writing of John's Gospel were distancing themselves from the Jewish synagogue and more especially failed leadership. They were looking to Jesus as their true or 'Good Shepherd'. To understand the imagery, we need to understand how shepherds operated back then: *"During the day sheep grazed on the open hillsides under the watchful eye of their shepherds. At nightfall the shepherds led them down to large communal sheepfolds, where mingled sheep from a number of flocks could remain safe for the night with just one gatekeeper to watch over them. At daybreak, when the shepherds returned, each one would summon the sheep of the flock for which he was responsible. Recognising the voice of their shepherd, the sheep would follow his lead out to pasture through the gate of the fold"* (Brendan Byrne SJ). At night thieves would try to enter the fold other than through the gate in an attempt to 'call' the sheep out. The thief, or those 'calls' contrary to our good, contrast with the voice of the Good Shepherd who cares for and protects. Jesus also identifies himself as **"the Gate of the sheepfold"**. *"If the sheep are to flourish, they have to come and go through the gate of the fold; if they stay within the fold, they will decline for lack of pasture. If they do not return to the fold but stay out in the hillsides all night, they will be at risk. So daily they have to come and go through the gate, which then becomes their means to both protection and growth"* (Byrne). **Responding to the voice of the Good Shepherd, we engage with life to the full 'through him, with him and in him', now and forever.** Peter's call to 'repent' in our First Reading is a call to 'tune in' to where the Spirit is calling, coming back *"to the shepherd and guardian of [our]*

souls" (Second Reading), such that we can with confidence proclaim, *"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want"* (Responsorial Psalm).

**It is fitting therefore that Good Shepherd Sunday is also World Day of Vocations. We are all called or have a vocation by virtue of our baptism.** *"Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives"* (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020). All vocations are to the good of the Church's mission. Ministerial priesthood and consecrated life offer a much needed service and witness but always in solidarity with all other vocations. **I encourage you to intentionally, regularly and insistently pray for and to foster a sense of vocation in yourself and amongst all the faithful, not the least your own family and loved ones. Only then might we begin to address the so-called vocation crisis in a considered manner.** Fr John

**ONLINE LIVE STREAMING OF DAILY MASS:** Mass is now live streamed from the chapel of St Christopher's Cathedral at 12.15pm, Monday-Friday, 9.00am Saturday and 11.00am Sunday. **NB: Being a live stream, you will need to access the Mass at the specific time by going to [www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au](mailto:www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au) .**

**WEEKLY ONLINE CATHOLIC VOICE: A copy is attached.** If you would like to receive subsequent copies directly, enter your details at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/weekly-voice/>.

**TWO WEBINAIRS** on Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Our Common Home* hosted on Zoom by South Belconnen Parish, 6 - 7 pm, Tues 19 and Thurs 21 May and presented by Jacqui Remond. Information and registration, [belconnensouth@cg.org.au](mailto:belconnensouth@cg.org.au) / 0428 625 110.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** In lieu of the First Collection at Sunday Mass, you can support the clergy of the Archdiocese by making an electronic contribution to BSB: 062-786, ACC: 000029248, 'Central Presbytery Fund'. NB: Make sure you enter the reference: NORTHWODEN SMITH (ie the parish name and your surname). **Support for the parish in lieu of the Second Collection at Sunday Mass** will continue via direct debits, unless notified by the parishioner. Planned Giving Envelopes can be dropped through the front door of the presbytery or parishioners may choose to arrange direct debit payments by contacting our Parish Secretary, Catherine, 6281 3999 or [wodennorth@cg.org.au](mailto:wodennorth@cg.org.au). **I thank those who have already contributed to the support of the clergy and the parish.**

**PARISH MEDITATION GROUP** will continue to meet online. Details from Vikki McDonough, 0437 876 487 / [mulvaney@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mulvaney@netspeed.com.au)

#### Prayer for These Times

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created and sustain us.

We seek your wisdom, guidance and reassurance in these times of dislocation.

Bless the efforts of those limiting the spread of the corona virus and those searching for a vaccine.

Sustain those recovering from devastating bushfires.

Thank you for recent rains and enliven our efforts to address climate change.

In your mercy, renew your people.

In your providence, renew the face of the earth.

Mary, Help of Christians – Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Please drop envelopes through the front door of the presbytery any time. Boxes can be delivered to the presbytery from 9-11am Mon, Wed or Fri.

**PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE:** Early days but check it out at 'North Woden Parish Transfiguration'. Comments, thoughts?

**Prayer Circle Support:** Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

**Readings for Fifth Sunday of Easter:** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12.