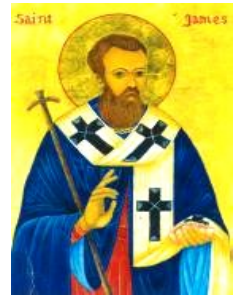


4TH SUNDAY EASTER YR B 2021 25 APRIL

**The Parish of St James
Coorparoo**
**A Vibrant, Prayerful, Inclusive
Augustinian Parish
Archdiocese of Brisbane**



No One Forces Him

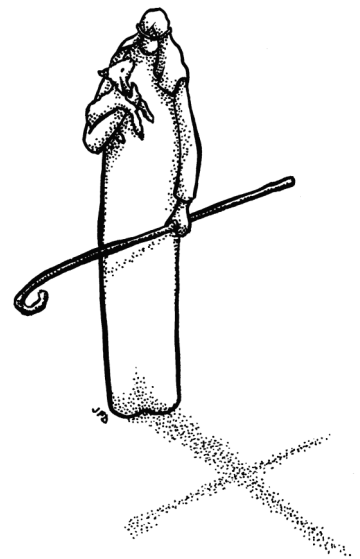
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In Jesus' time and culture, raising sheep was such a common vocation that it was easy for Jesus' listeners to identify with metaphors about sheep, flocks, and shepherds. Many stories, parables, psalms, and commandments in the Old Testament revolved around sheep and shepherds. You might think here of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."

Jesus also told stories of sheep. The parable of the shepherd who left 99 sheep in order to search out the one lost sheep is one of the most famous. In that story, Jesus equated God with the shepherd who did everything in his power to bring the lost sheep safely home.

In today's gospel, Jesus is even more direct. He identifies himself as the ultimate good shepherd who is willing to die in order to protect the sheep. He is clearly equating himself (the Good Shepherd) with the Father who is also the best of shepherds.

Jesus' main point here is that he is willing to voluntarily sacrifice his own life for his sheep. No one forces him to be crucified. In fact, during the Passion reading in John's Gospel, John makes it clear that Jesus could get himself out of his predicament if he wanted to; in short, he does not have to die. If Jesus escaped, however, he would be like nothing more than a hired hand who runs away when he sees a wolf coming for the flock. Jesus tells us ahead of time that he is willing to stand fast, and that he will not abandon his sheep, even if it means he will die for them.



Questions of the Week

What occupations in today's world offer the chance for people to lay down their lives for others?

In whatever your life situation is (paid work, a stay-at-home parent, a retired person, etc) how are you called to lay down your life for others?

St Augustine

We have heard the Lord Jesus setting forth to us the duty of a good shepherd. In doing so, He has certainly admonished us (as we are able to understand) to be good shepherds. At the same time, lest the plurality of shepherds should be perversely misunderstood, He says, "I am the Good Shepherd." And He goes on to show how He is so; "the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." Christ, then, is the Good Shepherd. What was Peter? was not he a good shepherd? Yes, he was; nothing, indeed, in comparison of the power and goodness of the Shepherd of shepherds; but still he was both a shepherd and a good one; and all others of his sort are good shepherds. What then is the reason that Thou settest forth one Shepherd to the good shepherds, save that in the one Shepherd Thou art giving a lesson of unity? "I am the Good Shepherd," because all the others, all good shepherds, are members of Me. There is one Head, one body, one Christ. Therefore there is both the Shepherd of shepherds, and the shepherds belonging to the Shepherd, and the sheep with the shepherds under the Shepherd. What is this but what the Apostle says, "As the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ?" If then so is Christ, it is with reason that Christ, including in Himself all good shepherds, sets forth one, saying, "I am the Good Shepherd." I am He, I am one, all are one in unity with Me. He that feeds the sheep apart from Me, feeds them in opposition to Me. To this Shepherd of shepherds with good reason does His beloved spouse, His fair one (but made fair by Him—once foul with sins, afterwards beautiful by pardon and grace), speak with ardent affection for Him, and say to Him, "Where feedest Thou?"

—St. Augustine, Sermon cxxxviii.

Earth Day falls on Sunday. Did you know that care for God's creation is one of the basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching? Our bishops call us to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, seeing creation as a precious gift from God, something to be cherished and protected, not used and abused. They specifically teach us that abusing the earth is morally wrong. Your challenge this week is to choose one way you can be "green" and care for God's world. Maybe you will commit to bringing reusable bags to the grocery store so our oceans and landfills aren't destroyed by plastic bags. You might decide to give up bottled water and drink tap water, or stop using Styrofoam by carrying your own reusable mug wherever you go. Replacing old light bulbs with energy-efficient ones is a possibility, as are planting a tree or purchasing locally-grown produce. Whatever you decide to do, challenge yourself to make this a life-long practice, not something you do once a year when it's Earth Day.

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

The Good Shepherd

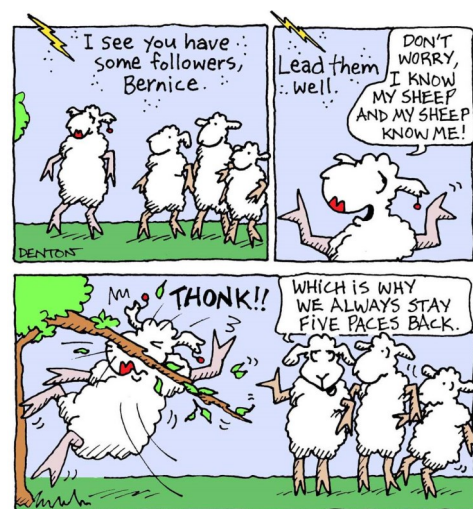
Jesus tells us he is the good shepherd, an image familiar to the people to whom he spoke. A good shepherd stayed in the fields with his flock. He was there when they slept and when they woke. He went out to find them when they were lost and he protected them from harm.

The message of the good shepherd is so clear; Jesus is there for us, ready to carry us through the hard times, ready to lay down his life for us. It isn't difficult for parents to understand this message. We would certainly lay down our lives for our children. We would gladly help shoulder their burdens. Sometimes it is so difficult to watch them struggle through a problem, waiting patiently to be asked for help.

I remember how frustrating it was to have an overly confident youngster stubbornly refuse help with problems way over his head. And I wonder if Jesus feels that way when I'm too stubborn or unaware to ask him for help when I need it. Self-determination is a great virtue, but like many virtues, when taken to an extreme, it can become a burdensome stumbling block.

When I was in my mid-thirties I remember going to confession and afterward asking God to be patient with me. "I will change," I told him, "I will change." In a graced moment, I saw myself as a fourteen-year-old kneeling in my old parish church confessing the same sin, and asking God to be patient with me. In that instant, I became aware that I could not overcome this deeply rooted transgression on my own. If I wanted to change I had to have God's help.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, doesn't want to stand patiently by while I try to overcome sin or less than- lovely habits on my own. He isn't just willing to be our crutch to get through hard times, he is willing to pick us up and carry us. In this reading, Jesus tells us, "You are mine." We just have to let go of our need to go it alone, and respond by telling Jesus, "I am yours."



"I am the good shepherd and I will lay down my life for the sheep."

Sheepish Question:

Where is Jesus guiding me that other leaders or advisors are not?

Prayers

Please pray for recently deceased:

Susana Celis; Tess Walsh; Malcolm Willshire; Noel Paterson; Eileen Carty; Mariena Corzo de Paredes; Arturo Belciña.

And these anniversaries: Keith Killin; Mary-Anne Dungan; Les & Ruby Richards; Carmel Sheehan; Ricardo Herft; John Pedrazzini.

Please pray for these unwell: Roberta Haley; Ana Candaza; Therese Killin; Desley Whitehouse; Fr Ron Mollison; Rhelma Kenny; Edric McAuliffe; Michael Simpson.

Please pray for our Baptismal children: Danielle Hooper.



APRIL

24 / 25 Saturday 4.30-5.30pm Reconciliation (book through Eventbrite); Year B/1 4th Sunday Easter (Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 7 & 9am) ANZAC Day; Baptisms occur.
26 public holiday – 8am mass as usual.
28 Wednesday 6.30pm – 9.15pm Alpha program: Week 6 (organised by YVAM for our parish) – program to run for 11 weeks.
30 Friday 9am mass

Parish news

St James Parish Sacramental Program for Children



(Term 2) ...Year 3 children or older ... (Children who are baptised, we require a copy of baptismal certificate). Send our parish an [email to register please](#).

Wednesday 6pm May 12th Parent info session

Sunday 9am May 16th Rite of Enrolment during Sunday 9am Mass

Wednesday 6pm May 19th Family session 1

Wednesday 6pm May 26th Family session 2

Sunday 9am June 6th Presentation of the Creed during Sunday 9am Mass

Wednesday 6pm June 9th Family session 3 & Rehearsal

Wednesday 6pm June 16th Confirmation

Sunday 9am June 20th Thanksgiving Mass for Confirmandeas



Dcn Tuan Anh's Ordination will take place on **Saturday 22nd May at 10am** (Feast of St Rita), and his Thanksgiving mass on the next day, **Sunday 23rd May at 9am**. Special registration for Ordination will be made available in late April.



Friends of St Augustine gathering will be held in May—this meeting at the priory will be on Tuesday evening May 25th @ 6.30pm as we will have our FOSA visitors from outside Qld, members who have come up to be part of Dcn Tuan Anh's Ordination day.



Position Vacant –

Receptionist/Funeral Assistant

Applications are open for a position at Holy Cross Funerals. A person with excellent administration and secretarial skills is required for a part time position of Receptionist/Funeral Assistant for 30 hours per week Monday to Friday.

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/> and to careers.



On ANZAC Day, we especially remember the courageous actions undertaken by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

On this national day of commemoration, we pray for the air force, sailors and soldiers who died in battle, sacrificing their lives while on duty. We commemorate their bravery and pray for the families who lost loved ones. As we strive for peace in our country and world, help us to become instruments of your peace. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Archdiocesan Commission on the Liturgy invites you to register for the **Liturgical Musicians' Training Day**.

Date: Saturday 15 May 2021 **Time:** 9:00am – 3:30pm

Venue: St Laurence's College, South Brisbane

<https://liturgybrisbaneworkshops.weebly.com/liturgical-musicians-training-day-registration.html>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us by email at acl@bne.catholic.net.au or by phone on (07) 3324 3321.



Palms Australia - The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations.

To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](#).

Join our online [InfoZoom](#) on 2 May, visit palms.org.au, or call Palms now on 02 9560 5333



Get vaccinated for the common good: Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>



Planned Giving for the Week of 18th April, 2021

Collection Account numbers have now changed from 1st March	Loose money [not pledged]	Envelopes [pledged]	Direct Debit	Credit card	Total
1st Collection Augustinian Priory BSB: 064 786 Account #: 100019791	\$855.80	\$99	\$312	Week	\$986.80
2nd Collection St James Parish BSB: 064 786 Account #: 100005891	\$486.75	\$100.10	\$377	4 only	\$963.85

The Parish of St James

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Postal:

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COORPAROO DC, QLD, 4151

Phone: (07) 3397 1671 OR 3847 3696

Email: osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Priest: pp.stjames@bne.catholic.net.au

Web: www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au



Primary School

92 Kirkland Ave,
Coorparoo, 4151.

Julian Cotter—Principal

Peter Gibson—Religious Education

Phone: 3457 1100

Fax: 3847 3337

Email: pcoorparoostj@bne.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.stjames.qld.edu.au/



Administration

Parish Priest	Fr Francis Belciña OSA	3397 1671
Assisting Deacon	Dcn Lê Tuấn Anh (Tuan Anh) OSA	3397 1671
Parish Secretary	Trish Rashad	3397 1671
Parish Council Chairperson	Ray Mitchell	3892 1682
Finance Committee	Mark Garden	3397 1671
Pastoral Care	Parish Office	3397 1671
Safeguarding Officer	Kate Pearson	3397 1671

Sunday's Readings: 4th Sunday Easter

First Reading *Acts 4: 8-12* This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Second Reading *1 John 3: 1-2* We shall see God as he is.

Gospel Reading *John 10: 11-18* The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.



Mass times WEEKEND: Saturday 8am; Vigil 6pm.

Sunday 7am, 9am, no longer 6pm.

WEEKDAY: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8am WEEKDAY: Friday 9am.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30—5.30pm... by [new Eventbrite link](#) or call parish office.

HEALING + ANOINTING MASS: Friday 7th May @ 9am.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 7th May.

NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY (at this stage).

Counters

April 24 / 25 Paul & Cecilia

May 1 / 2 Sylvia & John

Ministry	5th Sunday Easter April 24 / 25	VIGIL SATURDAY 6PM	SUNDAY 7AM	SUNDAY 9AM
COMMENTATOR		Helen D	Merina M	Mike S
LECTOR		Ron S	Jana V	Kate P
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION		Priya Sylvia P	Heather L Jan L	John W Christine U-M
ALTAR SERVER/S		Joe R	Gene T-F	Leah S
POWERPOINT		Paul D	Gilbert / John D	Di / June S
MARSHAL		Lorie / Karen / Edward	Brendon G	Cathy M

Next Sunday's Readings: 5th Sunday Easter

First Reading *Acts 9: 26-31* He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

Second Reading *1 John 3: 18-24* His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

Gospel Reading *John 15: 1-8* All who live in me, and I in them bear much fruit.

For complete Sunday's readings, visit our [St James website](#) (look for the Prayer tab).

