



## SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2026 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel (John 10:1-10)

### The Source of Abundant Life for All

Sheep were domesticated in Palestine some eight thousand years ago. In biblical times, shepherds would lead their sheep out to graze by day and bring them by night to a communal enclosure, the entrance to which was guarded by a gatekeeper. Shepherds knew their sheep and the sheep knew them. Thieves would have to scale the wall of the enclosure and watch for the chance to get away with a few of the sheep. The loss of even a few sheep was a deeply personal loss for the shepherd and the shepherd's family. Furthermore, the personal relationship between sheep and shepherd made theft a traumatizing experience for the sheep. Little wonder that the biblical tradition is replete with ovine images.

In John 10, Jesus directs a parabolic image of sheep and shepherds and thieves to the religious authorities of the previous chapter. They fail to understand, mainly because they are hostile and choose not to understand. While they claim to shepherd God's people, they do not even know them and have no capacity to lead them.

Jesus is, by contrast, both shepherd and gate for the sheep: such are his identity claims. The former claim becomes explicit later when he states, "I am the good shepherd." It follows his twice repeated claim, "I am the gate". The "I am" echoes God's self-revelation to Moses in the burning bush. Jesus contrasts the access he provides as "the gate" with the unauthorized access gained by others "who have come before" him, namely the religious authorities. They gain access to the sheepfold on false pretences and lead God's flock into pastures that fail to satisfy.

In Psalm 23, God is the shepherd of Israel who leads the people into nourishing pastures and restores life to the depths of their *nephesh* or being. *Nephesh* is the Hebrew word used in Genesis 2 for the life that God breathes into all beings. God leads the people in the way of justice or righteousness. Psalm 118 sings of God's gate through which the just or righteous will enter and give thanks.

As the gate to the sheepfold, Jesus is the way into safety and the way out to life-restoring pastures. In

other words, he is the gate to abundant life. As shepherd, he monitors the movement of the sheep so that they are not tempted to stray along the paths of unrighteousness and destruction.

Finally, Jesus makes a claim about his mission: "I have come that they (the sheep) may have life and have it abundantly". This has a particular resonance at a time when so many lives are threatened by war and by climate change and when life has changed dramatically for the whole Earth community. Abundant life for all is our deepest desire and we must search to discover what that means in uncharted territory.

As usual, the Gospel text is multi-layered. The images pulsate with life and energy. They invite to vigilance on the one hand and hope on the other. They offer yet another way of celebrating Easter.

**By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM**

#### **BAPTISMS**

We welcome and pray for **Francis James, Lucy James, Arthur Colmanet Smith and Teanu Micallef** through the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

#### **DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES**

We pray for **Elvira Rechichi and Sr. Margaret Blampied** who died recently; for **Pope Francis, Sisay Haile, Mutu Lema, Seifu Mera, Cena Said, Jozefa Biront and Luigi Panetta** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



#### **Why discernment is essential**

Discernment is more than discussion. It is a prayerful process of seeking God's will. In a Synod, time is given to silence, prayer, and reflection so that decisions emerge from faith, not haste.

**First Reading:** Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

**The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to

follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; 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.

**The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** John 10:14

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell;  
on the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty; from there He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of Saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.*

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to Consecrated Life or Priesthood.

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES**

**Sets of envelopes, commencing next weekend, are in the churches for parishioners to collect.**

**CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL**

Next Weekend, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May**, there will be an extra Collection for Catholic Care in each of the churches. Envelopes are available in the churches.

**ANNUAL MASS COUNT**

The number of parishioners in attendance, including babies, will be recorded during the month of May at all Weekend Masses throughout the Archdiocese.

**JOSEPH'S CORNER HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER**

Next Sunday, **3<sup>rd</sup> May** from 2pm-5pm at Mount St. Joseph's Girls College, 133 Maidstone St Altona. For bookings, contact Rob Quail on 0407 687 003

**EASTER HOME BLESSING**

Small bottles of Easter water and Home Blessing prayer cards are available during this Easter Season for parishioners to take home.

**FOR EMAIL COPY OF BULLETIN**

Apologies to those who have been unable to use the QR code on the back page. It has been corrected and can be scanned to subscribe to an email copy of this bulletin each week.

**TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL –  
PARISH RENEWAL**

During Lent we held three Parishioner Consultations. The gatherings were held at Annunciation, St. Augustine's and Corpus Christi Churches.

We gathered in a prayerful way, mindful of God's presence with us. People engaged enthusiastically sharing their experiences and stories in small groups.

We shared stories about '**Who We Have Been**' and '**Who We Are Now**' as parish faith communities.

**Familiar faces and meaningful connections**

We discovered the strong sense of connection and belonging that is present in each of the communities.

**This place has drawn us in.**

Parishioners shared their stories of the hospitality, friendliness and welcome they experience in the communities, especially in times of difficulty. We also heard stories of Parish as 'home' for sacramental celebrations and marking life's key moments.

**Sense of peace, harmony and spiritual nourishment.**

Many participants stressed how important the celebration of Mass is for them as a way to centre their lives in God, offering a time of shared faith, prayer and peacefulness in the busyness of life. They value the number of opportunities for Mass during the week, good music, well-cared-for sacred spaces, and good homilies that connect to everyday life. We also heard a strong connection to a particular Church and Mass time for some.

**Next steps:**

The next round of consultations is a great opportunity for you to voice your thoughts on what our future combined parish community will focus its time, effort and resources on, as well as hear the ideas of other parishioners. In early July, there will be a number of opportunities for Parishioners to gather to share on '**Who We Can Be**' as we combine the Parishes into one new reality made up of Mass communities at Annunciation, Corpus Christi and St Augustine's.

Any questions or if interested to hear more detail about how the first round of consultations went or what might be involved in the next round of consultations, please speak to Fr Werner and/or one of the transition team members: Kath Baker, Julianna Barr, Greg Buhagiar, Mary Huynh, Aileen Martin, Jess Pang, John Ryan.

**PARISH PRIEST:**

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Emilia Balkan

**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

**EMAIL:** [yarraville@cam.org.au](mailto:yarraville@cam.org.au)

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
9.30am till 2.30pm

**PARISH WEBSITE:**

[www.melbatholic.org/yarraville](http://www.melbatholic.org/yarraville)

**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlin

[patmac766@gmail.com](mailto:patmac766@gmail.com)

**PARISH CHURCHES**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

**CORPUS CHRISTI**

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

**ANNUNCIATION**

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of **Bulletin**



Click QR Code

**LITURGY TIMES**

**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm  
Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

**WEDNESDAY MASS**

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

**THURSDAY MASS**

St Augustine's...9.15 am

**FRIDAY MASS**

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

**SATURDAY MASS**

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

**SUNDAY MASS**

Annunciation.....8.00 am  
St Augustine's....9.30 am  
Corpus Christi..11.00 am  
St Augustine's..11.30 am  
(Polish)

**RECONCILIATION:**

**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am  
Mass at Corpus Christi  
St. Augustine's...4.15pm

**NEXT ITALIAN MASS**

On hold until further notice

**COLLECTIONS**

**THE FIRST COLLECTION** supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

**THE SECOND COLLECTON** (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

**St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:**  
**BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.**

**St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:**  
**BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413**

**Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:**  
**BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315**

**Presbytery Account:**

**BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413**

**TAP AND GO CONTACTLESS**

**DONATION TERMINALS**

in the foyers of the churches.

Follow the prompts and choose your nominated amount to donate.

**Codes for one off donations via credit card**



Unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's



Unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

**ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK**

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter A**

**READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm ..... Nic Fusca

9.30am ..... Tere Tutai

Sam/Anna

**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11am ... Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

**MINISTERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Kath Baker

9.30am.....Pat McLaughlin

**MINISTER:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Khanh Nguyen

**COUNTING:** Phillip Marques

**ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter A**

**READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm ..... Rose Thomas

9.30am ..... Agnes Hopmans

Sam/Anna

**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11am ... Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

**MINISTERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Joseph De Bono

9.30am.....Pina Guzzardi

**MINISTER:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Nathan Lane

**COUNTING:** Val Taylor

**SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities.

The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

[www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements](http://www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements)