



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A - 3rd May 2020

Help US Connect with YOU....!

Even in these dark pandemic days, the Church continues to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead during the Easter season. The Fourth Sunday of Easter on the Church's calendar is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the Good News is that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves His sheep, even to the point of laying down His life for them. Jesus often used the imagery of shepherds and sheep to show His commitment for those in His care. He, the Good Shepherd, exemplifies the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. The imagery is old, but the message is still relevant to us.

It's been four months now since I arrived in this parish as your pastor. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to know everyone in this parish before this lockdown began. This COVID-19 virus has affected so many aspects of our lives in different ways, our health, finances, our social interactions and also our spiritual situations. So many parishioners feel pain at not being able to come to Mass and receive Holy Communion. I've received a couple of emails from our parishioners expecting some contact from the parish and the priests. Please be assured Fr. Prem and myself still offer Masses and you all are in our prayers and thoughts, despite the empty pews.

Our parish staff, pastoral council members are devising new ways for the parish to keep in contact. We can maintain our parish connections. These people will introduce themselves and say they are phoning on behalf of the parish. The phone contact is to assure you that you have a valued connection with our parish. If your contact details have changed, please email, or phone the office and help us to stay in touch. Occasionally we will send an email from the parish office to keep you connected with the parish newsletter. If you miss out it is because we don't have your current email address. Once we know it we will follow up. If you know someone who would like a copy, please print and share with them.

You can also collect the newsletters from the entrance of the church. This newsletter has been prepared for parishioners and friends without a computer. Please check out our Parish Website www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au and click on 'Stay Connected'. Inside you will find the latest updates and links to the live streamed Mass from the Cathedral as well as Liturgies for you to be able to use at home during this difficult time while the church must be closed.

Parish Office hours have been reduced due to the current circumstances. Staff are working from home and will only be in the Parish Office on Tuesday and Friday at Birkdale parish office. You can keep in contact with us by email or phone and we will endeavour to make contact with you as soon as possible.

As you know, with the suspension of public Masses, collections are not taking place, which places some strain on our parish finances through considerably reduced income. We understand that many are facing the task of preparing for the financial difficulties that lie ahead. If you are able, please remember the parish in your thinking and planning ahead. We are most grateful for the assistance you feel you are able to offer in this difficult time. May I express our deepest thanks and appreciation to our parishioners for your continued support of our Parish. Our parish account details:

BSB: 064 786 Account No: 100017027 Account name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving

Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number if you have one.

Thank you for helping us keep in touch.

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

This Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41 – God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Psalm Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: 1 Pet 2:20-25 – You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:1-10 – I am the gate of the sheepfold.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

The most difficult task is to make everybody happy, the simplest task is to be happy with everyone.

Next week's Readings

First: Acts 6:1-7

Second: 1 Pet 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

Mass Times: Weekend Masses Cancelled until further notice

Reconciliation: Cancelled until further notice

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am to 2pm.

Parish Council Members: Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans, Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

Pastor: Fr Dantus Thottathil thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor: Fr Prem Rethnamony

12 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159 ☎ 3822 2139 Fax 3822 4060.

birkmack@bne.catholic.net.au www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au

Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

STOPLINE Contact: A0B@stoline.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW:

This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into the Harvest." The Church needs labourers.

International Sunday of Vocations

Vocation Brisbane. P: (07) 3336 9392 E: vocation@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Primary School

Principal: Mr John Spillane

10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159

☎ 3822 5500 Fax 3822 5690

pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au

www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au

Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Pat and Jack Cochrane, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Tessa Gorogo, Mick Gauci, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

May God embrace all who have recently died: Mildred Ball-Wilson, John Mills.

Anniversaries & Remembrances May: Josephine Romero, Babs Gilhooley, Amber Rose (birthday) daughter of Celina and David McGovern, Michael Czapkowski (birthday), Anastacia Wieland, Bill Cluck, Matha Cluck, Flo Conway, Aristeo Avenia, Denis Glanville, Edward Bartlett, Barbara McGhee, Denise Hodgson, Alma Maclean, Jessie Maclean, Kerry Powell, Norma Cowsell, Simon Bromley, Giovanni Ragagnin, Betty Avenia, Sr Anne Pulling RSH, Dr Salolatore Vitali, Lauren Smith, Maureen McNab, Nell Elliott, Bede Ryan, Aldo Bandiera, James Harrison, Ann Hockings, Nellie Modral, Saul David, Alberto Bandiera, Patricia Watson, Noel & Role Gablonski, Luigi Basso, Irma Moroney, Moira Peterson, Margaret Knights, Jessie Maclean, James King. *Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk*

Keep in touch with your parish We are here to support you. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, help to stay connected with the parish community or more information about sacraments please contact the parish office. If you regularly make a weekly contribution to the running of the Church on the collection plate and you are able to keep making your contributions without causing you any financial hardship, please contact the Parish Office to discuss the options available to continue your support.

Our planned giving bank account details for direct deposits are as follows:

BSB: 064 786 Account No: 100017027 Account name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving

Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number if you have one.

Parish Office – open on **Tuesdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) between 9:00am and 2:00pm** until further notice. The preferred contact method is by phone 3822 2139 or email birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au. If you require a priest IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ONLY please phone 3396 0742

Good Shepherd Sunday Today the Church asks each of us to pray for, or to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Each person in the community has a role to play in encouraging vocations – whether by prayer, encouragement or personal suggestion. The Pope, in his Letter for today, tells us 'There is no room for fear!' May each one of us be fearless in praying for, and promoting more vocations

The Journey - Catholic Radio: The Journey is a weekly program developed by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong and is the only Catholic radio program in Australia aired on general Christian radio. Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: For Deacons We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

SVdP Donation: Our Birkdale St Vincent de Paul group are seeking donations of new born baby clothes, baby cot, pram and any items for a newborn to support a person in need who has recently moved to this area. If you have any suitable items, please contact the parish office on 3822 2139 to arrange delivery/collection.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: 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.

Second Reading: 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 were 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.

Gospel: 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 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.'