

Fourth Sunday of Easter— Sunday 22nd April 2018

Entrance Antiphon : The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia!

First reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 4: 8 - 12 .

Responsorial Psalm : The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Second Reading from the first letter of St. John. 3: 1 - 2.

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

Gospel : According to John 10: 11 - 18.

Communion Antiphon : The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down His life for His sheep and willingly died for His flock, Alleluia.

Sydney Archdiocese News

One Million Rosaries For Unborn Babies, 4, 5 and 6 May

Persons participating in this multinational pro-life prayer event will pray at least one Rosary for an end to abortion. For details and to register go to: <http://www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org/>

Healing after Abortion : Jessica Lockhart

Rachel's Vineyard, Sydney is hosting a workshop with Jessica Lockhart, author of *The Woman at the Tomb, Abortion and Redemption*. Come to Rachel's Vineyard Retreat ministry to hear about spiritual and emotional healing after an abortion. All welcome - priests, pastoral carers, parish teams, professional health practitioners and those suffering post abortion stress in their own life. Sat 12 May, 10am - 3.30pm. Good Samaritan Centre, 2 Avenue Rd. Glebe. Free - Limited numbers, RSVP essential. www.rachelsvineyard.org.au - info@rachelsvineyard.org.au or Ph. 0400 092 555

CatholicCare Sydney

There are almost 20,000 children and young people living in Out-of-Home-Care in NSW. We urgently need short or long-term foster carers who can provide safe and loving homes for children and young people. To find out more call our CCareline team on 13 18 19 or drop us an email connect@catholiccare.org

Of Life and Love Course:

The next marriage preparation course will be held:
Date: Wednesday 9 May / 16 May / 23 May 2018
Time: 7.00pm Venue: St. Joachim's Parish Hall, 3 Keating Street Lidcombe
Enquiries: More info phone 9307 8404 Register : www.trybooking.com/TBUG

St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

*We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality,
love and commitment*

Administrator :	Rev. Fr. Andrew James
Assistant Priest :	Rev. Fr. Thomas Alukka Varghese
Assistant Priest :	Rev. Fr. Nicholas Rynne
Permanent Deacon :	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
Parish Secretary :	Mr. David Moore
Parish Office Hours :	Mon 10.00 am - 3.30 pm Wed 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Fri 9.30 am - 3.30 pm
Address :	195 Heathcote Rd, Holsworthy 2173
Mail :	<u>PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875</u>
Website :	www.stchristophers.org.au
Email :	stchris@tpg.com.au
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St Christopher's Catholic School — *Through faith and love we serve*

Principal: Mr. Tony Boyd
School Tel: (02) 9825 3251

Fourth Sunday of Easter - (Year B)

Sunday 22nd April 2018

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Two major themes emerge from the readings: an image of the one who saves; and the power of salvation itself. The one who saves is not a mighty warrior who comes in military array. In fact, he is the one who was rejected, who was hunted down, humiliated, tortured and hung naked on a tree, there to die in shame. The one who saves is the cornerstone of the building, holding it together, forming a firm foundation so that the structure will not collapse. The one who saves is a lowly shepherd, entrusted with sheep, not with the affairs of state. The one who saves is an unlikely saviour. This characterisation should give us pause. Is it possible that we have been looking for a saviour in the wrong places? God's saving power flows from steadfast covenant love. It broke open the world in the death and resurrection of Jesus and it overflows as healing grace. The saving power in the name of Jesus, a name that itself means 'saviour' (cf. Matt 1:21), is for all people, even for those sheep who do not yet belong to this fold. Furthermore, it is for all time; God's mercy endures forever. Through our baptism we can bring the saving grace of God to a world in desperate need of healing. We can do this in our families, in our local communities, in the workplace, in so many situations of our lives.



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Parish Collections : 15th April 2018

First: \$995.90

Second: \$1,190.15

Parish News:

Fundraising / Fete Committee would like to thank all who contributed to a very successful day at our Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 14th. The generosity of parishioners in supplying cash to purchase drinks, sauces & serviettes etc. was greatly appreciated. We are also very grateful to those who volunteered to assist, particularly two of our younger parishioners. We would also like to thank parishioners who dropped by to visit and support us. As well as a good Community experience we also did well financially and final figures should be available next week and although a way off, we are on our way towards a new sound system and overhead screens. Our next Bunnings BBQ at Bankstown Airport on Milperra Road is on the 5th May from 8am-4pm. If parishioners would again like to contribute or volunteer, we would be greatly appreciative. Please contact Helen Carter on 0418 403 842 or 9824 1773

Litany of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Following all 5:30pm Masses on a Sat evening in May, Fr Nicholas will lead a Rosary and Litany of Loreto with a brief spiritual reflection recited at the Grotto in Holsworthy. On the final Sat (26th) there will be a candlelight procession and crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by the girls of the parish. Girls are encouraged to wear white dresses with flowers in their hair if they wish. Other vestments will be provided. Ladies are also invited to wear white and walk with the girls in the procession.

Could you please advise Fr Nicholas if you would like to participate.

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre May retreats

"Faith without works is dead." - Dcn Peter Presdeec . May 5. 10am- 4:30pm \$30
"St. Teresa of Avila speaks to us today" - Fr Aloysius Rego, OCD May 18 – 20
Cost: \$250 per person (concessions apply) 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, 2566. Contact: 02 8795 3400 retreats@carmelite.com www.carmelites.com.au

Defending the faith

"There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate The Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be." Archbishop Fulton Sheen. As Catholics, we often find ourselves having to defend our faith to an audience that has no idea who we are.

Secularism has caused so much confusion about religion that the once dominant Catholic identity is no longer recognisable. So what can we do? Imagine the following scenario: You encounter someone new and they are looking for a church. They hear you are a Catholic but they don't know anything about the Church, so they ask you what are its beliefs. What will you say?

If one of our missions as Catholics is evangelization, we need to be prepared for such an encounter. So what's your "elevator pitch"? If you don't have one, you should, because faith alone is not enough. In his 1998 encyclical, *Fides et Ratio*, Pope St John Paul 2 said that "faith without reason is blind." The Gospels also tell us to be prepared to offer a defence (1Peter 3:15) But don't assume you will always know what to say. Take the time to prepare your elevator pitch.

Mass Times / Intentions

Saturday	21st Apr	5.30 pmMass Intentions
Sunday	22nd Apr	8.00 amParish Intentions
Sunday	22nd Apr	9.30 amSouls in Purgatory
Monday	23rd Apr	9.15 amSpecial Intentions
Tuesday	24th Apr	9.15 amVocations
Wednesday	25th Apr	9.15 amAnzac Day
Thursday	26th Apr	9.15 amRay Boyce (RIP)
Friday	27th Apr	9.15 amNarcisa & Lawrence Parcasio (RIP)
Saturday	28th Apr	11.00amLatin Mass

Reconciliation : Saturdays : 4:30 pm.

Baptisms : Second & Third Sunday of the month after 9:30am Mass.
By appointment only.

Syro - Malabar Liturgies:

Wednesday Mass : 7.00pm

Thursday Mass : 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)

Friday Mass : 7.30pm (except on the First Friday of the Month)

Saturday Mass : 9.30am

Sunday Mass : 11.30am (Third Sunday is held in the School Hall)

The Samoan Community celebrates Mass in the Church on the 3rd Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 1st Tues of the month 7:00pm

Saints of the Week / Feasts

Monday 23rd April - St. George

Wednesday 25th April - Anzac Day

Thursday 26th April - St Mark (Evangelist)

Saturday 28th April - St. Peter Chanel

We Pray For The Sick : Peter Wanchalerm Srirattana,
Brian Cooney, Cyril Ferriere

Recently deceased:

Anniversary: Ray Boyce 26th, Narcisa & Lawrence Parcasio 26th,
Patricia & Rex Hartin, Shayne Kolster, Margaret Reynolds



*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace. Amen.*