

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1st May 2016

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 15: 1-2, 22-29

Responsorial Psalm: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading from the book of the Apocalypse 21: 10-14, 22-23

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: According to John 14: 23-29

Communion Antiphon: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Saints of the Week

St Athanasius (Mon 2/5) Sts Philip & James (Wed 3/5)

WEEKEND MASS TIMES: Sat Vigil 5.30pm, Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am & 5.30pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES: Monday— Friday 9.15am

ADDITIONAL MASSES: 1st Friday 7.00pm/ Parish.
Hammondville Nursing Home 1st Tuesday of the Month at 11.00am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 4.30pm—5.15pm

MASS INTENTIONS: There are Mass Intention envelopes in the church foyer for people to write their respective Intentions. These need to be returned to the parish office no later than one week prior to the said date. Please do not place them in the 'suggestion box'.

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT: Thursday 7.00pm -8.00pm except Thursday before 1st Friday of the Month.

BAPTISMS: Please contact the Parish office 9825 1679

WEDDINGS: 6 months notice is required

CONTACTS:

CATECHISTS: Louise Hartin 9822 5040

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: Fr. Thanh 9825 1679

READERS & COMMENTATORS : Lorraine de Lapp 9825 1870

CHOIRS: Fr Thanh 9825 1679 & Dianne Pawsey 9771 1738

RCIA PROGRAM: Fr. Thanh 9825 1679 & Sr. Helen 9825 1679

ALTAR SERVERS: Rev. Mr. Al Salu 0416 842 669

ROSARY MAKERS GUILD: Cyril Ferriere 9825 2008

St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

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

Parish Priest:

Rev. Thanh Quang Nguyen

Assistant Priest:

Rev. Thomas Alukka

Permanent Deacon:

Rev. Mr. Al Salu

Pastoral Support

Sr. Helen Madden *rsj*

Secretary:

Mrs. Anne Bennell

Parish Office Hours

Mon 10.00am—3.00pm

Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm

195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy

PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875

Address:

All Mail to:

Website:

www.stchristophers.org.au

Email:

stchris@tpg.com.au

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(02) 9825 1679

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St Christopher's Catholic School—*Through faith and love we serve*

Principal:

Mr. Tony Boyd

School Tel:

(02) 9825 3251

School Mail:

PO Box 568 Moorebank 1875

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Shepherds in the first century did not have a particularly good reputation. Whilst the task itself was a responsible one, it was usually undertaken by hired help – usually young men or even boys. Being hired help, they had little allegiance to the flock and were generally regarded as basically untrustworthy and often accused of illicitly selling off the sheep's milk and even the occasional lamb. They lived for months at a time out in the hills with the sheep; often risking their lives in defence of their flock, yet still regarded with suspicion. Shepherds were held in such low regard that they could not appear in court as a witness. Yet, despite this grim picture of shepherds, Jesus described himself as the *Good Shepherd*. With that one word, he acknowledged the reputation of shepherds but utterly dismissed it by describing himself as a shepherd – but a good shepherd. He chose to describe himself as the worst of all occupations but raised the status to unimpeachable heights.

In describing himself as the good shepherd, Jesus joined a distinguished list of biblical shepherds: Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob were all shepherds; Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God appeared to him in the burning bush and revealed God's name; and the great King, David, began life as a humble shepherd-boy. So, despite the poor reputation of shepherds in Jewish society, some of the greatest leaders of the Jews began life as shepherds.

Today's gospel passage follows the famous 'good shepherd' passage in the gospel of John and continues on the image. The passage portrays Jesus as 'claiming' his flock; guaranteeing them not only safety but also eternal life. This oath of loyalty and commitment is all the stronger and more remarkable in light of Jesus' rehabilitation of the status of shepherds.

Fr. Greg Sunter

Parish Collections

Should any parishioner wish to contribute to the Planned Giving envelopes there are forms in the church foyer. Please complete & place on any of the collections plates and the Parish Office will contact you.

CATECHISTS Your next meeting is Monday 2nd May at 10am in the Parish Hall. Any parishioners wishing to know more about becoming a Catechist please come to this meeting.

PARISH NEWS:

The Parish Secretary is on leave until 16th May. The parish office will be open on Wednesday & Friday 9am—11.00am. Should you wish to contact the parish office other than these times, please telephone and leave a message 9825 1679. Fr Thanh will return your call.

Nursing Home Mass—The monthly Mass will be celebrated at the Nursing Home this Tuesday 3rd May at 11am.

Youth Group Update

Thank you to all the youth who attended the Meet n Greet on 3rd April. It was a great night and we hope you had fun! The next Youth Event will be held on Sunday, 15th May, 6:30pm (after the Mass). Young people ages 11-21 are welcome to join. Please contact Marie at marie.teriana@gmail.com to RSVP. See you there!

Thank you to the parishioners who came to help out with our 'Working Bee' this weekend.

LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY CENTRE is holding a talk by James Parker, a same-sex attracted Catholic. "From Gay Activist to Husband and Father - A Tour Through the Confusing World of Modern Sexuality." **Thursday, 05 May at 7pm**, Our Lady of the Rosary, 18 Vine St. Fairfield. All welcome. Ph: 9307 8402 for enquiries.

PARENT INFORMATION DAY.

Parents, find out how to support your son or daughter through the transition from high school to university at the Notre Dame University Parent Info Evening on **Tuesday, 03 May** at 104 Broadway, Chippendale from 6pm. Please **RSVP** on **02 8204 4404** or go to sydney@nd.edu.au for more information.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE.

A seminar on *Catholic Education at a Crossroads: Future Perils and Hopes* will be held **Friday, 06 May** from **10am – 4pm** at Notre Dame University's Sydney Campus. Education leaders, administrators and senior teachers are invited. Guest speaker will be Professor John Haldane, one of the world's foremost theoreticians and practitioners in the field of education today. For more information go to ies@nd.edu.au or Phone **8204 4240**.

Saturday 30th April 5.30pm..... Shayne Kolster & Jeeva Thomas (RIP)
Sunday 1st May 8.00am Norma Mezentsef (RIP)
Sunday 1st May 9.30am..... Santiago, Jessie Quinon & Shayne Kolster (RIP)
Sunday 1st May 5.30pm..... Parish Intentions
Monday 2nd May 9.15am..... Rosa Flores De Miranda (RIP)
Tuesday 3rd May 9.15am Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday 4th May 9.15am..... Special Intention
Thursday 5th May 9.15am..... Vocations
Friday 6th May **9.00am.....School Grounds.....**
Saturday 7th May..... **No Morning Mass.....**

PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY – St Mary's Cathedral Holy Door. *"The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life".* Pope Francis . Throughout this Year of Mercy, you are invited to come to St Mary's Cathedral and make a Pilgrimage of Mercy. Walk through the Holy Door and make a pilgrimage along the Way of Mercy - six different Mercy Stations throughout the Cathedral where you can stop, reflect and pray. For more information see www.sydneycatholic.org/yearofmercy

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) PASTORAL APPEAL.

30th April & 1st May This weekend you will be asked to support the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal. Through your donations to the CWF we are able to fund the 6 benefiting agencies (CatholicCare, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Ephpheta Centre, Seminaries and Chaplaincies). These agencies represent the breadth of the charitable and pastoral missions of the Sydney Archdiocese. Your generous support would be most appreciated. There will be envelopes in the church pews. Donations of \$2.00 & over are Tax deductible.

"FOR MERCY'S SAKE - Continuing the conversation with those who have come across the seas" – The Annual NAPPA Conference 2016 - NSW Association of Pastors, Pastoral Associates and Parish Workers. For those involved in welcoming, supporting and empowering new arrivals to participate in our Catholic communities. Includes stories from asylum seekers and interactive workshops and panels. Keynote speaker, Fr Aloysius Mowe SJ, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service Australia. Guests include Ms Maha Abdo from the Muslim Women's Association, Bishop Terry Brady and Fr Maurizio Pettena CS, ACMRO. **Tuesday, 03 May 9-5pm**, Dooley's Catholic Club Lidcombe, \$75. Enquiries Greg Byrne: greg.byrne@mn.catholic.org.au.

We Pray For The Sick

Jeff Crouche, Frank Ilankovan, Kevin Madden, & Erica Garcia Leon

Anniversaries Shayne Kolster



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