

Fourth Sunday of Easter

7th May 2017

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 2: 14, 36-41

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

Second Reading from the first letter of St Peter 2: 20-25

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

GOSPEL: According to John 10: 1-10

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

Saints of the Week

Sts Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs and St Pancras (Fri 12/5)
Our Lady of Fatima (Sat 13/5)

St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

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

Administrator:	Rev. Andrew James
Assistant Priest:	Rev Thomas Alukka Varghese
Permanent Deacon:	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
Secretary:	Mrs. Anne Bennell
Parish Office Hours	Mon 10.00am—3.00pm Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm
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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:	195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173



Archdiocese of Sydney—Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer.

This initiative began in November 2016 to provide support to the Parish Priest in bringing awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection to parish staff, volunteers and the parish community. Anne Bennell, the parish secretary is our Safeguarding Officer for the parish.

The Archdiocese of Sydney has introduced a **'Code of Conduct for Working with Children and Young People'**. The Code is designed to help set our expectations for **all volunteers**- whether you are a church cleaner, youth minister or a catechist etc, the standards and expectations are the same for everyone working within the parish. This document is for anyone working in parishes in either a paid or a volunteer position who works with children. The Safeguarding Office recommends that **ALL** parish staff and **Volunteers** are aware of it and read and sign the form.

In the coming weeks parishioners who volunteer in the following roles will be notified and asked to attend a training session for the **Safeguarding and Protection of Children:** Acolytes, Children's Liturgy Coordinators, Choir Master's Group Leaders for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist & Confirmation, parish Youth Group coordinator & their helpers.

Fr. Andrew James as (Administrator) is requesting that all volunteers take the **Code of Conduct form** home to read, sign and place it in the box in the church foyer at your earliest convenience.

Fourth Sunday of Easter— Year A

7th May 2017



The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

Our understanding of this whole image and the scene that is set in today's passage is very dependent upon a contextual understanding of the times. Whilst shepherds were generally regarded as being little better than criminals, they often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would be penned in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would effectively become the gate by sleeping across the entranceway. This was to keep the sheep in but also to guard against thieves. Thieves might climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off or those that were not sufficiently trained to their shepherd's commands.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

Fr Greg Sunter

Parish Collections
30/4/2017 **First:** \$928.50 **Second:** \$1,181.05

St Christopher's Parish news:

200 Club (Cash raffle) Congratulations to this week's winners of the 200 Club Cash Raffle 5 ticket draw: L. Stewart, R. Villarica, L. Pineda, B. Akladlous and Juanti. Each have won \$20 and all tickets have been put back into the barrel for the major prize draw this week for the chance to win \$1,000. The Parish Fundraising Committee thanks all who were able to participate in this year's 200 Club. Good luck for the final draw!

PROJECT COMPASSION Please return your Caritas Project Compassion boxes no later by next weekend. These can be placed on any of the collection plates. We thank you for your generosity.

Easter Water There is Holy Water in the church for parishioners. If you wish to have some, please bring a container.

St Christopher's Parish news:



CAKE STALL The parish is holding a Cake stall on the 27/28 May after the weekend Masses. We are going to try something a little different this time with your support. We are requesting that parishioner's bake a home made cake (not packet mix) labelling the type of cake that will be sold. Please bring your cake to the Mass you will be attending. If you don't like cooking or you not have the time to bake we would request ingredients for the ladies to bake in the Presbytery for the cake stall. We need donations of Sugar (brown & white), butter, eggs, dates, walnuts, cophia, bananas, carrots, crushed pineapple, Philadelphia cream cheese Short-crust pastry & Puff Pastry. We have enough flour from the last cake stall All donations can be left in the church foyer no later than Monday 22nd May 2017. Any ingredients that need refrigeration please call past the parish office on Monday 22nd May to drop them off.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival This three day festival will be held in Sydney **7-9 December 2017**. The event will attract 15,000 young people and is for those aged Year 9 to 30 years. It's a Catholic Festival a bit like World Youth Day! We look forward to the whole Parish Community being involved. For more information, www.acyf.org.au.

We Pray For The Sick : Cyril Ferriere

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Pascual Parcasio and Melville Kane

Mass Intentions

Saturday 6th May 7.00pm.....Parish Intentions
Sunday 7th May 8.00amPascual Parcasio (RIP)
Sunday 7th May 9.30am.....Melville Kane (RIP)
Monday 8th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Tuesday 9th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Wednesday 10th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Thursday 11th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Friday 12th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Saturday 13th May.....**Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**

Syro-Malabar Liturgies:

Due to Fr Thomas being on leave from 8th May—9th June there will be No evening Masses on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday evenings, & Saturday morning Mass.

Every Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

The Samoan Community celebrates a **Sunday Mass** in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.**

SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NOTICES:

CWF PASTORAL APPEAL: This weekend is a great opportunity for you to help out your parish in a meaningful way by supporting one of its charitable appeals. The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF)** is the premier charity of the Sydney Archdiocese, covering social and pastoral services, education and training, and advocacy services to all sections of your community – regardless of race, religion or social status. To continue its work, the CWF needs your financial help. Making a donation is easy: Use the appeal envelope provided or phone the Fundraising Office on **1800 753 959**. For a quick and secure credit card donation, visit www.cwf.org.au. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Your gift will help someone in your community who could use a helping hand or be given better opportunities, so please give generously. Thank you.

CATHOLICCARE: Supporting the people of Sydney for 75 years - Interested in training to care for clients needing support in their own home? Government support is available for eligible applicants. Please call us to find out more on **13 18 19** CatholicCare Sydney, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



"I ask parish communities, associations, and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send works to his harvest. May he give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love."

Pope Francis