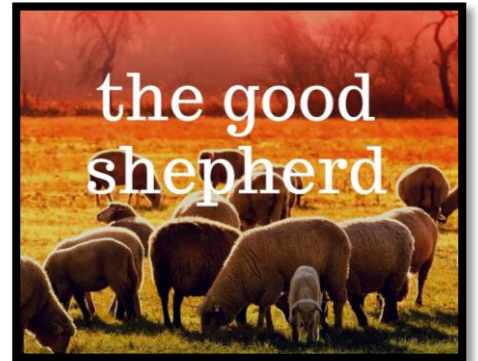


Sunday 25 April 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Easter



## PARISH NEWS REFLECTION - THE GOOD SHEPHERD

‘Throughout his career, Dr Coombs was guided by a deep humanitarianism, a passionate conviction that the function of government - of public service - was to assist the weak or less fortunate, and that the economic system should be managed so as to ensure a more secure and better lifestyle for the community as a whole.’ (Governor General William Dean’s eulogy for Dr H.C. ‘Nugget’ Combs, 14 November 1997.)



‘Victoria's devastating second wave of COVID-19 began with the bungling of the state's hotel quarantine system, but even after senior people have been grilled by an inquiry, it is no clearer who is responsible for the fiasco.’ (‘Victoria's hotel quarantine inquiry reveals a quagmire of blame and lack of responsibility’ ABC website, 19 September 2020)

The role of a public servant is to serve the public. The eulogy for Nugget Coombs and the ABC story about Victoria’s hotel quarantine system provide two very different case studies of what public service looks like in practice.

The role of a public servant is to serve the public. The role of a shepherd is to care for the sheep. Today’s Gospel is part of a longer exchange between Jesus and the religious leaders after Jesus healed a man born blind. It provides two contrasting case studies of what it means to be a shepherd. The Pharisees exercised their authority by abusing the man and driving him out of the synagogue.

Jesus uses his authority to secure the welfare of the sheep. His mission has universal reach. ‘I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd’ (John 10:16.) This universal mission - to lay down his life for the sins of the world - is undertaken out of love for the Father and at the Father’s command. ‘For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again’ (John 10:17.)

The role of a shepherd is to care for the sheep. Then and now, there are power-grabbing, responsibility-avoiding shepherds. Jesus is the good shepherd. What does it mean to trust him, to listen to his voice and to follow him? What does it mean to you and to me?

## MOTHERS' DAY HIGH TEA



Saturday, 8 May

@ 2.30pm

in Parish Hall

Soloist - Margaret Orr,

accompanied by

Jeremy Smith

Tickets - \$20

are now available

from Margo, Kaye, & Marg

### FROM THE ARCHIVES August 7th 1994

#### St James' Flower festival

This magnificent event is being held over the weekend 2-4 September. The theme is "The Life of Jesus". This event will be held in the Church. We are inviting parishioners to

participate either by being responsible for an arrangement or being an assistant. Ken Whelan, a florist from Brighton, has offered to demonstrate various techniques in floral art prior to the Festival. This will be of interest to those participating in the Festival, This will be held on Monday August 29th in the parish centre at 7.30pm. Please speak to Margaret Brumley, Tom Hartley or June Pobjoy for details and to participate.





**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

We pray for those who are sick or troubled in body or mind, or who have special needs:

(Please email [contact@stjamesdandenong.com](mailto:contact@stjamesdandenong.com) or contact clergy for prayers for anyone who is in need of them).

**This week we continue to pray for:**

Cecil; Maree; Graeme, Jane & family; Glenda & Brian; Mark; Ruwana; Desmond; Bethuel; Mike; Rebecca; Antoinette; Ruth; Terry; Tobia; Wayne.

**We also pray for:** The Nippon Sei Ko Kai; Theological Colleges, Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Ministries to Youth; Parish of Oakleigh -Holy Trinity & Emmanuel; St Luke's Frankston; Confirmation @ RAFT Anglican Church Rowville; St John's East Malvern; Archbishop Philip and all our Bishops in their ministry this week.



**LAWN MOWING ROSTER:**

**1 May:** David & Marg Brown

**8 May:** Heinz & Vic

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 2 May – 5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:26-32; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

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