

A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

In the Book of the Apocalypse we read of the great beauty of His [God's] City, of the pure gold, with its walls of jasper and its spotless light which is not of the sun nor moon but the light of the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world. We also learn of the condition of entering the gates of that heavenly Jerusalem: "There shall not enter into it anything defiled, or that worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they that are written in the book of the life of the Lamb." Justice demands that nothing unclean, but only the pure of heart shall stand before the face of a pure God. If there were no purgatory, then the Justice of God would be too terrible for words, for who are they who would dare assert themselves pure enough and spotless enough to stand before the Immaculate Lamb of God? The martyrs who sprinkled the sands of the Coliseum with their blood in testimony of their faith? Most certainly! The missionaries like Paul who spend themselves and are spent for the spread of the Gospel? Most assuredly! The cloistered saints who in the quiet calm of a voluntary Calvary become martyrs without recognition? Most truly! But these are glorious exceptions. How many millions there are who die with their souls stained with venial sin, who have known evil, and by their strong resolve have drawn from it only to carry with them the weakness of their past as a leaden weight.

The day we were baptised, the Church laid upon us a white garment with the injunction: "Receive this white garment which mayest thou carry without stain before the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ that thou mayest have life everlasting." How many of us during life have kept that garment unspotted and unsoiled by sin so that we might enter immediately upon death into the white-robed army of the King? How many souls departing this life have the courage to say that they left it without any undue attachment to creatures and that they were never guilty of a wasted talent, a slight cupidity, an uncharitable deed, a neglect of holy inspiration or even an idle word for which every one of us must render an account? How many souls there are gathered in at the deathbed, like late-season flowers, that are absolved from sins, but not from the debt of their sins? Take any of our national heroes, whose names we venerate and whose deeds we emulate. Would any Englishman or American who knew something of the purity of God, as much as he loves and respects the virtues of a Lord Nelson or a George Washington, really believe that either of them at death were free enough from slight faults to enter immediately into the presence of God? Why the very nationalism of a Nelson or a Washington, which made them both heroes in war, might in a way make them suspect of being unsuited

the second after death for that true internationalism of heaven, where there is neither English nor American, Jew nor Greek, Barbarian nor Free, but all one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(The Moral Universe)



Our Lady of Fatima

13 May is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13 and October 13, 1917.

The messages Our Lady imparted during the apparitions to the children concerned the violent trials that would afflict the world by means of

war, starvation, and the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father in the twentieth century if the world did not make reparation for sins. She exhorted the Church to pray and offer sacrifices to God in order that peace may come upon the world, and that the trials may be averted.

The messages of Our Lady at Fatima are just as relevant today as they were back in 1917. We must pray for peace, for the conversion of souls, and make reparations for all the offences committed against the Blessed Trinity and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



Prayer for Mothers

Loving Father and Almighty God, thank you for all the mothers in the world. Bless them so that they may always give life and nourishment to their children through their firm faith, generous and selfless love, good example and constant concern for their bodily and spiritual health. Grant that we, their children, may honour them always with a spirit of profound love, respect and thanksgiving. Give them the grace to mirror the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ Your Son and our spiritual mother. Grant this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY / FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
- YEAR C - 11 MAY 2025

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"



"If we only got to heaven, what a sweet and easy thing it will be there to be always saying with the angels and the saints, 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.'" - St Philip Neri

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

First Reading Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when He said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that My salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for His message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3, 5

R: We are His people, the sheep of His flock .

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before Him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that He, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to Him, we are His people, the sheep of His flock. **R.**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal His merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

Second Reading Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve Him day and night in His sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know My sheep, and Mine know Me. **Alleluia!**

Gospel John 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

'The sheep that belong to Me listen to My voice; I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from Me. The Father Who gave them to Me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are One.'

♦ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible



The Good Shepherd Prayer

Lord, we are Your people, the sheep of Your flock. Heal the sheep who are wounded. Touch the sheep who are in pain. Clean the sheep who are soiled. Warm the lambs who are cold. Help us to know the Father's love through Jesus the shepherd and through the Spirit. Help us to lift up that love, and show it all over this land. Help us to build love on justice and justice on love. Help us to believe mightily, hope joyfully, love divinely. Renew us that we may help renew the face of the earth. Amen.



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Good Shepherd Sunday / Fourth Sunday of
Easter - Year C - May 11, 2025



81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360
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Website: www.sacredheartinverell.org.au
Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 12 May & Friday 16 May - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 13 May - 8am to 12pm
Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler
PPC Chair: Mr Matthew Rennie
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger
Parish Secretary: Peter Turner

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Pope Francis, Stephen Tubb, Janet O'Reilly, Terry Savoy, Daniel Wilson, Straton Kennedy.

the sick:

Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

MAY - THE MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MONDAY 12th

Feast Day of Sts Nereus & Achilleus, & St Pancras, martyrs

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 13th

Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Yr 6G Confessions @ HTS - 10.10am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 14th

Feast Day of St Matthias, apostle

Holy Mass - 6.30am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 15th

Thursday of the 4th week of Easter

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

RCIA group - 3.45pm

Alpha Program - 6.00pm

FRIDAY 16th

Friday of the 4th week of Easter

No Mass or Holy Hour

SATURDAY 17th

Saturday of the 4th week of Easter

Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.00pm at Ashford

Rosary - 5.00pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 5.30pm

SUNDAY 18th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 4.45pm to 5.15pm

(and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *TBA*

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.00pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.00pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR MAY

Pat Bailey & Kay Gardner

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 11 May 2025, after Mass

Liturgy Committee - Sat 17 May 2025, 9.00am

Finance Committee - Wed 28 May 2025, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Wed 14 May 2025, 5.00pm

NEW POPE ELECTED—LEO XIV

US Cardinal Robert Prevost (69yrs) is our new Pope. He has chosen the name Leo XIV. Let us pray for him as he undertakes the awesome responsibility of Supreme Roman Pontiff.

Six-Weekend Ministry Roster

This is displayed on the table at the main entrance to the Church.

Morning Tea

There will be Morning Tea after the 9am Mass this Sunday. Please bring a plate of delicacies to share.

Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in the parish. May God bless you all.

Mary MacKillop Today Mission in Peru

The Sisters of St Joseph extend their thanks to the Inverell parish for the generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. In the past year they have raised in total approximately \$37,900. If you wish to help with their efforts, simply tear off the envelope corner containing the stamp and put it in a small

sandwich bag. The stamps can be left in the box on the small table at the priest sacristy side entrance.

The Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

The Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy is an association for Catholic bishops, priests and deacons of the dioceses of Australia.

The ACCC is proudly supported by many lay and religious associate members. Through their journal, "The Priest", their annual Conference, and many local activities, the Confraternity promotes the sanctification and fraternal life of the clergy in fidelity to the teaching of Christ Jesus and His Church.

The ACCC invites lay people to become a friend of the ACCC and to pray daily for priests. This can be done by visiting the website of the Confraternity: www.clergy.asn.au/about/priestprayer/

In addition, lay people may become lay associates and receive news and updates via email as well as a copy of the journal, "The Priest". Please visit the membership page of the website [clergy.asn.au](http://www.clergy.asn.au)

The Australian Confraternity is affiliated with the confraternities of Britain and the USA.

Fr Paul is a member and highly recommends the Confraternity.

If you are using a Sunday Missal:

- * Proper of Mass, Page 832
- * Preface V of Easter, Page 36-38
- * Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Page 61
- * Daily Missal uses Year One (weekday Mass)



Australian priests in Rome for the International Conference of the Confraternities of Catholic Clergy, January 2025