4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR C
21st April 2013

First Reading:
Acts 13:14,43-52

Responsorial Psalm:
We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading:
Apocalypse 7:9,14-17

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel:
John 10:27-30

YEARS OF GRACE—PRAYER
Gracious God, You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people. We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ. You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives. Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice. We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel. Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us. www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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Baptisms
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month.

Marriages
(6 months notice) Arranged by appointment. [Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office]

Reconciliation
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND
This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...
Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Vincent Kelly, Shannon Hanah-Merit and Sam Barker and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time especially Catherine Briffa and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHURCH ROSTERS

| Readers        | April 20th | Angela Grinton
|               | April 21st | Eileen French
|               | April 27th | Frank Donavan
|               | April 28th | Martin Prior & John Connor

| Special Ministers | April 20th | Pat McHenry & Angela Grinton
|                  | April 21st | Vicky Carrick, Bruna Bombig & Rhonda Loret
|                  | April 27th | Pat McHenry & Angela Grinton
|                  | April 28th | Patty McKibbin, Eileen French & Mary Welch

| Church Cleaning | April 22nd | Parish Office
|                | April 29th | Chris Van Order & Vin Nicholls

| Church Flowers | April 26th | Veronica Sullivan
|               | May 3rd   | Liz Higgs & Leanne McGowan

COLLECTIONS
Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
{This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.}$472

Church (envelopes) collection
{This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.}$1107

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES
These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

“We must allow ourselves to spend time in the presence of our good God.”
The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCAITION VIEW
Pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling You. Pray!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Peace—the first gift of the Risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world to share His peace and Good News, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be grateful and generous. We should look for opportunities to share His peace with our brothers and sisters not only within our local parish boundaries, but outside of them as well. In giving, you will receive the peace of Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION
Those who really want to be Jesus’ disciples will be listening people, wanting to learn what God wants of them. They are in tune with the source of life. Their lives follow the way, who is Jesus—the way to God and to eternal life. They need not fear. They are God’s gift, by faith, to Jesus and his Kingdom. If they have Jesus, they have God. He and the father are one.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR
Call in at John & Judy Wills’ house at Lot 6, Adam Close, Woodend, at midday each Monday for a sandwich and a chat. All welcome.
Anyone needing transport can call John & Judy Wills on 5427 2827.
ANZAC PRAYER
Thursday 25th April
Lord our God, boundless provider, source of peace that the world cannot give, kindly hear our constant prayer for those who bore witness to your own fidelity by giving their lives for those they loved. Resurrect them in our true homeland and perfect that peace for which they longed and died. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SASS
Sunday @ Six Singing will be held at St Ambrose Church next Sunday 28th April. This is an ecumenical service of worship through song. Musicians, singers & listeners all welcome.

BAPTISM
This weekend we welcome into our Parish and Christian community Sienna Gwenn Dridan Ranson daughter of Dale & Angela. May God bless their family always.

PALMS AUSTRALIA VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION Saturday 11 May, 11am
Palms Australia will hold a Melbourne information session for those interested in volunteering in Timor-Leste, with the aim of combating malnutrition. Palms Australia is a Catholic organisation that has been sending volunteers to developing countries for more than 50 years.

Where: Ross House, Ground Floor Room 1, 247 Flinders Lane. More information: www.palms.org.au
Contact: Sarah Torcasio 02 9518 9551 or sarah@palms.org.au

CULTURED CAFÉ PRESENTS... Sherry Anne Weddell (USA)
Thursday 16 May, 7:30pm
International speaker and author Sherry Anne Weddell will speak on discerning God’s presence in our lives. Through her work at the Siena Institute and the internationally acclaimed Called and Gifted program, Sherry helps us answer the burning question: “How can I discern God’s will in the time and place in which I live?”
Where: Cardinal Knox Centre (Cnr Landsdowne St and Albert Street, East Melbourne) Lecture Theatre.
When: Thursday 16 May Cost: $5 includes dinner, a drink and dessert.
Contact: 9412 3300 or aoy@cam.org.au

PASTORAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS 2013
A calendar of events and international speakers to support parish workers and anyone involved in lay ecclesial ministry.
The Archbishop’s Office for Evangelisation invites Parish Teams, Pastoral Associates, Pastoral Workers, Deanery Resource Coordinators, Lay Chaplains, members of Parish Pastoral Councils and all with an interest in lay ecclesial ministry to a series of offerings in 2013.
Details: See flyer in church foyer
To register: 9926 5761 or evangelisation@cam.org.au

CSSV BREAKFAST BRIEFING
Tuesday 14 May 2013, 7:15am
Dr Bob Dixon, Director Pastoral Research Office, Australian Catholic Bishop’s Conference, will speak about The Changing Composition of the Catholic Church in Australia: Implications for Catholic Social Services.
Dr Bob Dixon is a leading researcher on the sociology and demographics of the Catholic Church in Australia. Bob’s publications include The Catholic Community in Australia.

Where: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne
Time: 7:15am for 7:30am Cost: $20
Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/CQCN
Contact: Lucia Brick 9287 5566 or lucia.brick@css.org.au

ROSTERS
Church rosters available to pick up in the church foyer.
First Reading  Acts 13:14, 43-52
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

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 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, and particularly Paul, encouraged them by saying, 'Your sin will overtake you, for the devil has given you up to the desires of your heart.'

Then Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath 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. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
2. Serve the Lord with gladness.
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading  Rv 7:9, 14-17
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

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 Jn 10:14

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

Gospel  Jn 10:27-30
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give my sheep eternal life. Jesus said:

‘The shepherd 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

Reflection by Greg Sunter

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 illlicitly 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.
St Mark the Evangelist was the author of the first synoptic Gospel. He is believed to be the same man referred to in the Acts of the Apostles as John Mark; a disciple of Jesus and John the Baptist and the cousin of St Barnabas. Mark travelled with St Paul and St Barnabas on missionary journeys to preach the gospels. He was a close companion of St Peter; it is considered that his gospel represented the teachings and memoirs of St Peter. He later travelled to Alexandria in Egypt where he continued his evangelisation. The church in Alexandria claims that St Mark became their first bishop and that he was eventually martyred there in the first century. As an evangelist St Mark is often symbolised as a lion, and he is the patron saint of Egypt.