4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR B
29th April 2012

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Responsorial Psalm The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner-stone.

Second Reading: St John 3:1-2

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

Gospel: John 10:11-18

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass, Woodend Community Aged Care</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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Baptisms Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

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.

WELCOME
St Ambrose Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to fill in a card found on the table at the church entrance and place it on the collection plate. A member of the Parish will visit you as soon as possible.
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, 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, especially Sr Kathleen Kennedy & Sr Leonore Murphy (Sisters of Charity) and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, 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.

PRIVACY LEGISLATION

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals.

The Parish of St. Ambrose is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation. A copy of the legislation is available at the Parish Office.

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 always expect from time to time to receive crosses and know that we also give them. 1882

*The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who has boundless love for all who listen to his voice. Jesus wants to bring others into his fold, so that there will be only one flock and one shepherd. We will all know him as he knows the Father. By our witness and example of the love of Christ we can help others to receive this love.

MEDITATION

Please remember if you are cleaning or arranging flowers on Saturday morning that the Christian Meditation Group will be in the Church from 8.00am.

COLLECTIONS

Presbytery Collection (1st collection)

(This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.) $396

Church (envelopes) collection

(This collection covers the Church capital costs, and ongoing maintenance.)

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MONDAY AT THE MANOR

There will be no Monday lunch this week.

VOCATION VIEW

This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs worthy leaders, Good Shepherds of the 21st Century, caring unselfishly for the needs of God’s people. Please, pray for Vocations.
ST BRIGID’S PARISH GISBORNE
Parish Renewal May 26th—May 31st
International speakers Fr Mike Champlin, Fr Nick Punch & Sr Joan Bukrey.
Morning (9.30 & 11.30) & evening (7.30 & 9.30) Masses, reconciliation service Tuesday evening and a
Catholic and non-Catholic alike are all welcome to join the parish and bring a friend.
For more information contact the Parish Office ph 54282591

DON BOSCO CAMPS
The Don Bosco Camp has developed over the years an incredibly unique tradition of beach holiday programs lead by teams of dedicated volunteer leaders. The camps are conducted with the clear aim of providing opportunities for all young people, especially poor and disadvantaged youth, to have a beach holiday and for families in difficult circumstances to be offered respite for their children.
No young person is denied a place on camp because of their financial circumstances. As such, Don Bosco are looking for people to sponsor young people to attend a camp.
You will find forms in the church foyer if you

XAVIER COLLEGE
Boarding Scholarships for 2013 open now.
The Xavier College Foundation is offering scholarships for student entering Years 9 and 11 in 2013. The closing date for applications is 2nd May 2012. For further information see Xavier’s website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships or contact

ST THERESE’S PARISH ESSENDON
90th Anniversary Celebrations
All former parishioners and friends are invited to celebrate our 90th Anniversary series of events starting July 27-29 with a book launch and memorabilia Exhibition and continuing August 11/12 with a dinner dance Saturday night and Mass and refreshments on the Sunday morning.

TABOR JOURNEY PROGRAM—15-17 June 2012 at Templestowe
Tabor Journey is a program for separated, divorced or widowed people coping with loss, the grief, the heartache and struggle that follows the end of a marriage/relationship. This live-in weekend is designed to provide a reflective time, a time to share, to bring some closure on what has happened and move on with life with greater freedom. For information and a registration form please phone CatholicCare Geelong on 52217055 or email geelong@ccam.org.au

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ because, on this particular Sunday, we hear the passage in John’s Gospel in which Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. During the Easter season we particularly reflect on the meaning and significance of our baptism, through which we become members of God’s family and we are also given a mission as members of the Body of Christ. As individual members of that Body, we each have a unique and distinctive role to play as we live out our particular vocations. Today is also the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life and we are invited to join the universal Church in praying that many will respond to the Lord calling them to these vocations in imitation of the Good Shepherd. May God strengthen all those he calls to priesthood or consecrated life and fill them with a generous spirit to respond in love and service of his people.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
God, our Father, in Baptism you called us by name, making us members of your people, the Church. We praise you for your goodness; we thank you for your gifts. We ask you to strengthen us to live in love and service to others after the example of your Son, Jesus.
Father, look upon your Church with love and bless your people with generous single men and women, with loving husbands and wives, with understanding parents, with trusting children, with dedicated priests, sisters, deacons and brothers. Help us to see our vocations as a journey toward you.
You have called us, not to set us apart, but to bring us together with others who need our love. Make us faithful signs of your presence in their midst.
First Reading  Acts 4:8-12
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: ‘Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you, the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22
(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:
(R.) Alleluia.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. (R.)

2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord:
I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. (R.)

Second Reading  1 Jn 3:1-2
A reading from the first letter of St John
We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

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 10:11-18
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said: ‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week’s gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the ‘good shepherd’ going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer’s choice of metaphorical language. In the gospel, Jesus says, ‘I am the good shepherd’, not ‘I am like the good shepherd’. The writer’s use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the ‘sacrificial lamb’, the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.
St Philip and St James were two of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus. After St Philip was called to be an apostle, he persuaded Nathaniel (St Bartholomew) to also follow Jesus. At the feeding of the 5000, St Philip passed the remark that, “200 denari would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little”. St James was the brother of St Jude, and is often referred to as “James the Lesser” to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee. Some traditions believe St James was a cousin of Jesus, and others name him as the author of the Epistle of St James. Traditionally, St Philip and St James share the same feast day because their remains were both brought to the Church of the Apostles in Rome, in early May, 561 AD.

I am the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
I know my own _ _ _ _ and they _ _ _ _ me, just as the _ _ _ _ _ _ knows me and I know the Father.
I lay down my _ _ _ _ for my sheep.

Use the following words to find out what Jesus said his disciples.

shepherd
Father
life
good
sheep
know