



A group of businessmen went to a convention. At the conclusion they were running late for the flight back home. In their rush, one of them accidentally kicked over a table on which there was a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, these men managed to reach the gate just in time for boarding. But one of them paused, took a deep breath, and felt compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned

Telling his buddies to go on without him, this businessman returned to the stand where the apples were scattered. He was glad that he had come back, because he found that the girl with the apple stand was blind. She was sitting there crying softly, tears running down her cheeks. She groped about for her spilled apples, no one stopping to help her and no one seeming to care about her trouble. The man knelt down on the floor at the blind girl's side and began to gather up the apples. As he did this, he noticed that many of the apples were battered and bruised, so he set these apples aside in another basket. When he finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take these forty dollars to cover the damage we did. I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly?" As he started to walk away, the blind girl called out to him, "Mister..." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?" Through this man, this girl experienced the love and compassion of Jesus. I believe that most of you have experienced Jesus' love and mercy in many different ways. That's very important. In fact, without it, we cannot say that we truly know Jesus personally. (anonymous story)

Pope to seminarians: Be shepherds like the Good Shepherd Pope Francis on Monday met with members of the Pontifical Leonine College of Anagni, a regional seminary for several of the Diocese around the city of Rome. The College was founded by Pope Leo XIII in 1897. In his address, Pope Francis spoke about the importance of forming seminarians in "a climate of prayer and fraternity." This atmosphere, he said, allows seminarians to grow closer to "the sentiments of Jesus Christ, His love for the Father and for the Church," and His dedication to the people of God. The Pope warned the seminarians that they are not preparing to be functionaries, but true shepherds in the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Being a "good shepherd" in His image is something no one can achieve on his own – but Pope Francis reminded the seminarians that "it is not our work... It is the work of the Holy Spirit." Only by allowing oneself to be shaped – as clay is shaped by the potter — will seminarians be able "to shepherd the people of God and guide them "along the Way that is Jesus." This," the Holy Father said, "means meditating every day on the Gospel... experiencing the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation... eating the Eucharist with faith and with love... being men of prayer." "If you are not disposed to follow along this street," the Pope said, "it would be better for you to have the courage to seek another path." Pope Francis concluded his address by calling on the seminarians to take seriously the words of the Prophets: "Woe to the wicked Shepherds who pasture themselves and not their flocks." "May this 'woe,'" he said, make you reflect seriously on your future.

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11th May 2014 (A)

4th Sun of Easter

1ST READING: Acts 2:14. 36-41

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

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

2ND READING: Peter 2:20-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Good Shepherd is risen! He who laid down his life for his sheep, who died for his flock, he is risen, alleluia.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm
 Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am
 Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS:

By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 9:15am: Pro Populo
Sat Vigil: †William Butler
Sun 8am: †John Heaney
Sun 9:30am: †Salvatore Blanco
Sun 5pm: †John Lia

Mon: †Dominga & Domingo, Oscar Mallion
Tue: †Winifred Violet Linsley
Wed: Masha Jayasiri (birthday)
Thu: †May Elsmore
Fri: †Thomas Marshal

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo and Jenny Yong

Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.

Happy Birthdays to: May Wells (11th) and Masha Jayasiri (15th).

Today is the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The church around the world invites you to pray for those you might know whom God may be calling to a priestly or religious vocation and would benefit from your prayers. Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the theme: "Vocations, Witness to the Truth."

ATTENTION CATECHISTS: A reminder that this year's **Eastern Area Mass** will be held on **Fri 16th May** at St Mary Magdalene's Church, 13 Ian St, Rose Bay beginning at 11am. Please bring a plate of food to share in the Parish Hall after the Mass.

Formation & Training Workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held in our **Parish Hall** on Tue 10th, 17th & 24th June from 7pm to 9pm. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in attending for registration forms.

REMINDERS: ☛ **Parish School Centenary Mass** will be held on **Fri 23rd May at 10am.** Bishop Robinson will be the main celebrant. ☛ **SVDP meeting/information night: Mon 12th May** at 6pm in Parish Meeting Room. ☛ **Fundraising Bake Sale: Sat/Sun 17th/18th May** in the church foyer.

'A Venetian Coronation' at St Mary's Cathedral. English conductor, Paul McCreesh will direct a musical recreation on **Wed 21st May at 7:30pm.** All are welcome.

Friends of Kensington Monastery (FKM) meet on Sat. mornings from 10-12pm to help at the Monastery. If you have 1 hr or more to spare, please join them at No. 1 Roma Ave. Kensinaton.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) F Doherty, G Hage (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) P Tjugito, A Burke (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, Delwin T (R) C Findlay (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counter:** G Hogan

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) S Kirpalani, R Williams (R) S Kim, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) A Burke, Sr Betty (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) H Evening, S Gerakiteys (R) M Tjokrowidjaja (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

On this Mother's Day, I am once again amazed and awed by the courage and fortitude of mothers. It is not an easy thing to take the leap of faith required to become a parent. To trust God completely with not only one's own future, but also that of a loved and cherished child, seems like an almost impossible task especially in a world where unemployment and under-employment threaten family financial viability and a world shaken by violence such as shootings in schools, bombs at large public events, and war. And it is a world in which becoming a mother has become not only optional, but also socially devalued. Since the legalization of artificial contraceptives and abortion many women are choosing not to become mothers. What a tragedy...What a terrible loss for us all. I would like to see our culture change into one that places more value on family life, respects motherhood, and treasures the elderly. I believe that with God's help this could happen. I feel that we all need to come together, pray for mothers, families, and the elderly, and do whatever is in our power to promote their well-being. Sometimes I think that our Blessed Mother would like to be portrayed as Our Lady of Perpetual Maternal Joy so that she could stand as a positive image of motherhood for the young women of today's world. If young women called to the vocation of motherhood heeded Our Blessed Mother's advice, their lives would be enriched and fulfilled by that special love that only mothers get to experience; the love of a mother for her child. Motherhood is a great vocation and one that we ought to recognize and hold in high esteem. Hopefully in the new age of Catholicism, a stronger family bond will become the norm and will generate increasingly family-oriented cultural values. This is what I am praying for:



O Mother of Jesus, our Blessed Mother

*Cover all mothers and their families with your mantle of protection.
Let your love envelop them and shield them from corruption and from all the evils of the world.*

Provide for their needs both spiritual and physical.

*Intercede for them with your Son to grant them abundant graces.
Bless all mothers with maternal joy and all families with unity and peace.
And let all children be their mothers' delight and consolation in this life and their eternal reward in heaven. Amen.*