



11 May 2025 - 4th Sunday of Easter - Year

Shepherding 101

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. In today's Gospel (Jn. 10, 27-30) Jesus tells us what a Good Shepherd is. A Good Shepherd is present, knows, directs, tends and protects the sheep. We who are involved in shepherding others in one way or another would do well to ask ourselves today if we are good or bad shepherds in the light of today's Gospel.

First of all, a shepherd must be present to the sheep. How can the sheep hear someone who is absent, or is not accessible, or is hard to reach for that matter? We can say anything we want, or put up with numerous excuses and reasons, but being present and being with the sheep are very basic and important. Absentee shepherds are simply that—absent.

Second, a good shepherd knows the sheep, or at least, takes time and gives effort to really get to know the sheep. There are so-called shepherds who pretend to know, or care enough to know, the sheep but after a while, their true colours will show. We want shepherds who are genuinely interested and who genuinely care. A text message says it beautifully: "People don't care about what you know, as long as they know you care."

Third, a good shepherd leads and directs the sheep. He must have an idea, a direction where to bring the sheep. We do not need shepherds who will lead us to a ravine, or to places where we will die of thirst and hunger. The good shepherd must have a clear vision and must have a strong sense of mission for the sheep.

Fourth, a good shepherd gives. He must have a sense of sacrifice. We do not need selfish and greedy shepherds who put themselves and their interests above the needs of the sheep. May God deliver us from users and abusers! And may God deliver us from people who think that giving is only about giving material goods. We need shepherds who can also give us our sense of dignity, freedom, respect and personhood.

Finally, a good shepherd protects the sheep. He must be aware and must protect us from all that would harm us. And when push comes to shove, he must be ready to sacrifice life and limb for the good of the sheep. We do not need shepherds who endanger us, or worse, abandon us to the wolves that prowl among us. We do not need liars, cheats and cowards!

Lord, may we become more and more like you in our shepherding and please give us good shepherds in our land. Amen.



LEO XIV
267th Pope of the Catholic Church

Elected: 9th May 2025
Christian name: Robert Francis Prevost
Augustinian friar, former missionary in Peru.
Previous posts: Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops,
Archbishop-Bishop emeritus of Chiclayo, Peru.
Age: 69 years old
Date of birth: 14th September 1955
Country: United States

This Sunday 11th May
Parish feast, the Good Shepherd.
Mass at 10:30am in Amberley,
followed by festivities. Potluck:
Please bring a plate to share. There
will be NO Mass in Hawarden.
There are still the usual Vigil Masses
in Hanmer and Culverden.

Planned Giving Census Sunday May 18th

Next Sunday we will be handing out census cards to be completed.

If you are new to the parish or been going to Mass here all your life, we would ask you to please complete one census card per household and hand it back during Mass. For those away next Sunday we will make these cards available for the following two Sundays as well

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 107

As the best and most loving of fathers, St Joseph stands ready to shelter you in the safety of the Sacraments and teachings of the Catholic church, cloth you with virtue, educate you in the interior life, protect you under his fatherly cloak, and correct you if you should go astray.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 13:14,43-52

'We must turn to the pagans'

Psalms 99(100):1-3,5

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING: Apocalypse 7:9,14-17

The Lamb will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water

GOSPEL: John 10:27-30

I know my sheep and they follow me

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

695 Glory and Praise

603 Blessed are you Lord

633 I am the Bread of life

000 Good Shepherd,

lead us home

LIGHT of FAITH - Good Shepherd Parish Prayer - To be prayed every Sunday.

Lord Jesus,

you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep;

who leads, guides, protects, feeds and saves us.

Without you we are lost.

As Patron of the Hurunui Parish we entrust ourselves to you.

Grant us courage and stillness of heart to hear your voice above the clamour of the world and live by your word.

Guide those who stray back to the safety of your fold,

to be fed once more at your table.

Lead us all to the joy and happiness of your Kingdom to be with you for eternity.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

National Vocations Awareness Week

1 – Sunday 11th May

We pray for those who are currently searching for their vocation in life: May they listen to the voice of the Father speaking in Jesus today. May Mary the Mother of God who said "Do whatever he tells you" inspire them to trust their future to him with confidence and without hesitation.

2 – Monday 12th May

We pray for those men and women who are serving you as priests and religious: May they witness to Christ our gateway to the Father helping us, the people of God, to come in and go out and find pasture. May our priests be true gatekeepers, filled with joy and salvation, eager to share their treasure with us all.

3- Tuesday 13th May

The Good Shepherd knows his sheep and lays down his life for them. On this Vocations Sunday are you being called to Shepherd others as a Priest or Religious? Hearing that divine call, Pope Francis writes, is the "surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness".

4 – Wednesday 14th May

We pray for those whom you are inviting to the vocations of family life, of consecrated life and ordained ministry: Fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation.

5 -Thursday 15th May

As in the past, the diocesan family dedicates Thursdays to pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood. Prayer cards are available at <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/good-shepherd-sunday-vocations-novena>.

6 – Friday 16th May

Lord Jesus, you have created us to live abundantly. Inspire the young men of our families, parishes and schools to discover the beauty and adventure of life as a diocesan priest. May our parish be an environment that encourages young men who sense an attraction to follow Jesus Christ as priests.

7- Saturday 17th May

Dearly beloved, the Church is alive and fruitful when she generates new vocations. Our world looks, often unknowingly, for witnesses of hope who proclaim with their lives that following Christ is a source of true joy. Let us never tire, then, of asking the Lord for new labourers for his harvest, certain that with great love he continues to call them.

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Parish Treasurer - Secretary : Thomas Peacock - catholicurunuitreasurer@gmail.com - Office Hours Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm