

# St Michael's Catholic Parish Nelson Bay

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Corrigan

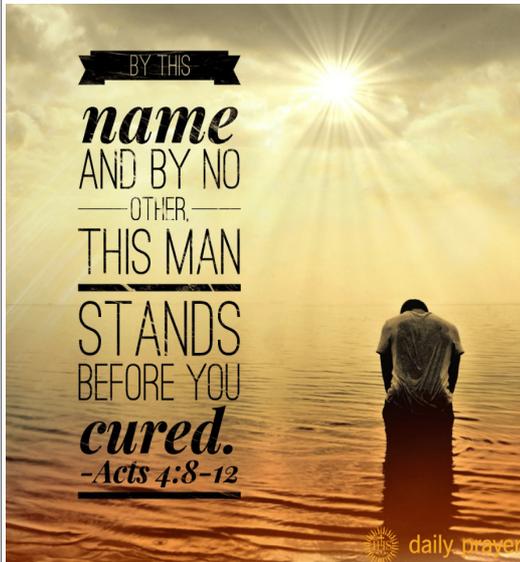
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St Michael's Primary School Principal: Ms Helen Bourne Phone: 4981 1111

## Fourth Sunday of Easter, 22 April 2018 (Year B)



### The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

'I am the good shepherd' is one of seven statements in John's Gospel in which Jesus defines his mission and the qualities needed to accomplish it. That it captured the imagination of the early Christians is evident from their many artistic depictions of Jesus in that role; and, in our own day, the popularity of the 'shepherd psalm' (Psalm 22/23) in funeral liturgies bespeaks a similar predilection.

Jesus returned to this image when he applied it to the mission of his disciples, especially those called to servant leadership. 'Feed my lambs; feed my sheep' is his command to Peter (John 21:15-17).

Jesus' words, 'I know my own and my own know me', are both comforting and challenging. There is no doubt that he knows and loves us intimately. But how well do we know him?

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**Daily Mass Time Changes** - These are necessary because of trades people's ongoing works to renovate the toilets at the back of the Church. The toilet in the sacristy is available for women during this time. The toilet may be accessed via the internal sacristy door on the right of the altar. The back door to the sacristy (opening into the carpark) will also be unlocked for access.

### Mass Times

Monday: 7.00am Mass  
Tuesday: No Mass  
Wednesday: 8.00am Mass - ANZAC Day  
Thursday: 10.00am Mass at Muller St Aged Care  
Friday: 5.00pm Mass  
Saturday: 9.15am Mass  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
6.00pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday: 8.30am Mass

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

#### ANZAC Day

Reading: Is 9:1-6 Gospel: Jn 14:23-29

Reader: J Turner

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24 Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

Next week's readers:

Sat: N Tucker & T Bogan

Sun: T Burgin & J Eves

**World Day of Vocations** - Today is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us:

*We will never discover the special, personal calling that God has in mind for us if we remain enclosed in ourselves, in our usual way of doing things... We could lose the chance to dream big and to play our part in the unique and original story that God wants to write with us.*

God calls young people from our local communities to serve as priests and consecrated religious. We all have a role to play in helping young people to 'dream big' and hear this call. What can I do to foster vocations from this community?

*'It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision. Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called to become a witness of the Lord, here and now.'*

*We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord.'*

- Pope Francis Message for 2018 World Day of Vocations

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## Immediate Preparations for First Holy Communion

Preparations commence on the 2nd of May, with a Parent Information/Formation Night. The preparations our parish have provided have been very good. Overall the approach has been to be “family-centred, parish-based and school/SRE supported”.

Our ‘parish-based’ element is shifting focus this year. During the weekend Masses on Sunday 6th, Saturday 12th and Sunday 20th of May, the children will attend a preparation time during the first half hour of Mass. They will rejoin their parents/family at the Lord’s Prayer/Sign of Peace time at Mass. These three sessions will serve to reinforce the preparation done at home with parents and children. Also, the parent participation in Masses will be an occasion of blessing, and faith encouragement for them, as these Sundays include both the Feast of Ascension and Pentecost.



What is a hoped for outcome of this moment for the families and children in particular? This could be answered by one word: “**friends**”. “**Friends**” is how the risen Jesus, when speaking to his demoralised and lost followers on the lake shore said, “**Friends**, have you caught anything yet?” (John 21:5) It is interesting to note earlier in the Gospel Jesus said to his followers “I no longer call you servants... I call you **friends**” (John 15:15). We pray for the grace of that “**friendship**” to grow in the children, and their families.

“I will call you...**friends**” (Jn 15:15) is in fact the Gospel we have for the first weekend (5th/6th May) of immediate preparation for the children and their parents.

Much is said about the pressures people, including families, feel in these times. It is important then, that little messages of encouragement and warm support are extended to the parents of the 33 families who are presently preparing. Remembering in our daily prayer to pray for God’s blessing upon each of the families in this preparation time will also be an invaluable help to them. Thank you, Fr Kevin.

**Praying for the sick** - We do this as an important way of caring for each other. We usually include a prayer for the sick every Sunday. Some parishes mention the names of the sick whom we are praying for. The request is that we commence this practice here at St Michael’s. So those who are sick/infirm are welcome to request their names be included. Family members could make such a request on the sick persons behalf, as well. Simply ring the Parish Office with details. Thank you from the Parish Caring Group.

**Planned Giving/Direct Debit** Did you know you can pay into our planned Giving program via direct debit? This would mean no more envelopes to remember. We are finding it is more convenient for some to pay their planned giving by direct debit. If you are a new parishioner and would like to join up to the Planned Giving Program or if you would like to change from the envelopes to direct debit, kindly see Anne after Mass on Sunday, 29th April and Anne will be able to assist you.

**Christian Meditation** is on every Friday at 10.30am in the Presbytery. Everyone is welcome!

*Please pray for...*

**Anniversaries:** Mary Straker, Con Merlino, Tony Chiarelli, Monica Hayes, Orrie Gardon, Decorosa Mengote, Bonifacio Gardon

### **This week’s church roster reminders:**

**Readers:** 21st M Stedman & R Tucker 22nd K Winslow & P Tobin

### **Ministers of Communion:**

21st C Aquilina, C Bergsma, K Bushnell, J Busch, T Campbell, M Carstairs, A Ciba, C Crowe, K Davis, M & P Douglas

22nd C & P Pidcock, B Redmond, A Ryan, D Ryan, P Sayer, K & MT Schiemer, H Sertori, S Timbs, M Went

## Exploring the Jewish Roots of Jesus and the profound Jewish atmosphere in which Jesus grew up:

Three sessions on successive Sunday afternoons at 2.00pm in the meeting room at the back of the Church commencing on 29th April.

**The Parish Office will only be open Thursday and Friday this week.**

**St Michael's Primary School**  
NELSON BAY

St Michael's experienced and committed teaching staff are dedicated to the academic, social and faith development of every child who attends the school.

Technology is a major aspect integrated in all curriculum areas with a strong learning focus on literacy and numeracy.

St Michael's is your local choice for a first class education in a peaceful bushland setting.

**NOW ENROLLING**

Contact us today to meet the principal and tour the school  
4981 1111 [www.nelsonbay.catholic.edu.au](http://www.nelsonbay.catholic.edu.au)



We have a parish facebook page!

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and like our page for regular parish updates!

YOUTH IGNITE

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY IS ON AT WEEKEND MASSES DURING SCHOOL TERMS. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**