

**MASS TIMES**

*Suspended until further notice.*

**RECONCILIATION**

*Suspended until further notice.*



# ST LUKE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

**Parish Priest** Monsignor Peter Meneely VG

**Deacon** Rev Peter Pellicaan

**Parish Website** <https://stlukesburanda.com>

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

3 May 2020

**FIRST READING**

*Acts 2:14. 36-41*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalms 22:1-6. R. v.1*

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

**SECOND READING**

*1 Peter 2:20-25*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put

his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds, you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*SING: Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

**GOSPEL**

*John 10:1-10*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one, he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and

destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'



**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

*The Shepherd's Voice*

In Jesus' time, the shepherd led from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the *thief* from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a *brigand*, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem. So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly. Alleluia!

## A Message from Monsignor Meneely

It's a delight to be back even though in these days we are not able to gather as we normally do to celebrate the Paschal Mysteries and give thanks to the Lord for all that has been and say *yes* and *Amen* to all that lies ahead.

In these extraordinary days when our normal pattern of life has been suspended and we travel now on a different road, with many unfamiliar turns and bends, we could never have expected such a terrible disaster to fall on us.

If you look closely at the scriptures, especially the Old Testament, these sort of cataclysmic events were not uncommon. The chosen people viewed all of their life as a life where community was at the heart of their salvation. They had the ears to hear and hearts to respond to the extraordinary happenings of the Lord. We, too, need these eyes of faith, as we try to understand what God is asking of us at this time.

I left Australia on 26 December, after celebrating the Christmas Masses with you all. As many of you are aware, my uncle, Father Raymond O'Leary, had spent 40 years of his life as a priest in the diocese of Orlando Florida. In 1986, when I was a fourth year student at Pius XII Seminary at Banyo, during the trying Christmas holiday period, Ray paid for myself and another future priest Father Peter Brannelly to come and visit him at the Parish of Holy Redeemer Kissimmee. Kissimmee is also the town that provides much of the support infrastructure to Disney World, an excellent resort that spans over 40m<sup>2</sup> and welcomes people from every corner of the world. The people of the community were generous and every day we were brought in through the employees' entrance and we spent the days during the summer of 1986 visiting every attraction throughout the Disney complex at no cost.

Ray was being transferred to become the parish priest of Daytona Beach Florida. Daytona Beach is home to one of the most famous car races in the world. It is also the place where many elderly Americans come to live out their last days. Florida is the cheapest place in America to die - from a tax perspective. So, it's a wealthy town nestled along the Atlantic Ocean with beautiful white sands and perfect weather the year over. Ray was to spend the next 32 years of his life serving the people of this community. After a painful and debilitating illness, he quietly passed to the Lord on 9 October last year. This brought to an end a life of good old-fashioned pastoral care that became a wonderful example to me of the generosity needed at the heart of life for a priest. His funeral celebrated this gift of a harmonious, life-giving relationship between priest and people.

Following his death, Ray had determined that I was to be the person who oversaw the conclusion of his time on earth. I was to become the executor of his estate and needed to negotiate the complexities of an Australian trying to deal with an American legal system.

Over the months of January and February, I became quite an expert at the strange practices of Americans and dealing with death. One oddity was that, as we stood by the grave and prepared to say our last farewells and I nodded to the funeral director to lower his coffin into the grave, the Bishop leant over to me and whispered in my ear "*we do not lower here in this diocese*". I turned and said to him, mid-rosary, "*WE do*".

... To be continued next week

## NOTICES

### WATCH MASS

You can watch Mass at home on Channel 10 at 6.00am on Sundays. Alternatively, join online for the live Mass broadcast via the Cathedral of St Stephen website: <https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/mass-times.html> at 8:00am and 12:30pm weekdays and at 8:00am and 10:00am on Sundays. You can also watch earlier Masses recorded on the same website.

### DAILY INSPIRATION

Sign up to receive regular emails, including two-minute homilies, daily readings and updates from the Archdiocese by visiting [archbne.org/dwjk](http://archbne.org/dwjk)

### CATHOLIC LEADER NEWS

The online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners **for free** during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at [www.catholicleader.com.au](http://www.catholicleader.com.au)

### SUPPORT ST LUKE'S

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Please keep helping our parish community by continuing your weekly offering via direct debit. Call the Archdiocesan Development Fund at 3324 3777 to find out how.

Contact Local Safeguarding Representative

Mrs Sarah Martelli

Phone: 3324 3222 | [smartelli@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:smartelli@bne.catholic.net.au)

Anonymous STOpline | 1300 304 550