



## The Good Shepherd, the Good Sheep

In the Middle East, shepherds herd small flocks of sheep over the desert looking for green grass to pasture and water to drink. Sometimes when a shepherd leads his flock to an oasis to drink, he will find other shepherds with their flocks. The shepherd joins the others but he does not segregate his flock from the others. Co-mingled, all the sheep graze, drink and rest together. But when one shepherd decides to leave, he gets up, calls his sheep and walks on. His sheep, hearing their shepherd's voice, disentangle, get up and dutifully trot behind him. The shepherd walks ahead, confident that his sheep recognise his voice and will follow him.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. In the Gospel, Jesus declares: *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life ..."*. I am grateful to my Good Shepherd who knows me and has called me to be his sheep, his disciple.

Jesus is confident that his sheep will hear his voice and follow him. But, are we good sheep? Do we always recognise Jesus' voice? Do we then respond to his voice, accept his will in our lives, and follow our Good Shepherd? Most of the times, we fail to hear his voice in the people around and in our present situations. We are too busy or distracted doing what we feel we have to do. Other times, we are too busy 'butting heads' with other sheep, and are caught up in petty squabbles and disagreements.

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Yet other times, we may have just have 'switched off'. And when we fail to recognise Jesus' voice, we do not respond to his call. As we do not pick ourselves up and follow behind him, we are then left behind. We will become the 'lost sheep' that the Good Shepherd will then come looking to find and lead us back.

But fortunately, there is another equally fascinating phenomenon about sheep. When some sheep, and especially lambs, do not heed the voice of their shepherd, the other sheep, which have heard the call, will nudge or call the errant or distracted ones to follow the shepherd. They look out for each other because they know each other and know they all belong to this shepherd's flock.

As today is also Vocation Sunday, let's remember the people in our lives who have taught us our faith in Jesus Christ. May there be more priestly and religious vocations in Singapore and throughout, so that they can bring the Good News to those who have not heard and encourage others to respond to voice of the Good Shepherd.

Finally, as we also celebrate Mother's Day today, let's lift in prayer, our grandmothers, mothers and all caregivers who had tended to us with love and care. I thank the Lord especially for my mother and all mothers who have taught and shared their faith with us, their children. The Lord is the Good Shepherd, may we be his good sheep!

**Reflection by Ros**

# Novena notes



Good Shepherd Sunday  
 Year C  
 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 12 May	Ac 13:14,43-52; Rev 7:9,14-17; Jn 10:27-30 We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
Mon, 13 May	Ac 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10 My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.
Tue, 14 May St. Matthias, Apostle	Ac 1:15-17,20-26; Jn 15:9-17 The Lord sets him in the company of the princes of his people.
Wed, 15 May	Ac 12:24-13:5; Jn 12:44-50 Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
Thu, 16 May	Ac 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
Fri, 17 May	Ac 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6 You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.
Sat, 18 May	Ac 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)  
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm  
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)  
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS  
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS  
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION  
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm  
 Mandarin: 2.30pm  
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION  
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)  
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

# Novena notes

## Vocation - It Begins With Me

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It can be easy on an occasion like this to "ask the Lord to send more labourers to the harvest," to lament the diminishing number of people joining seminaries and religious life or to paint a dire picture of a church without ministers. To pray for vocations is to do much more than this. It is not to ask the Lord to send others but it is a chance to reflect on how we ourselves, our families and our Christian community live the faith.

A religious vocation is nurtured within a Christian community by families, teachers, catechists, youth leaders, friends, priests and religious. All of us are shepherds - to our children, our parents, the people in our community and beyond.

Vocation Sunday challenges all of us to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd, to be servants to one another. A life of service, inspired by our faith serves as an example to young people. And when service becomes a value and a way of life, vocations to serve the community and to the priesthood and consecrated life will follow. The Redemptorists are called to follow the example of Jesus, the Redeemer, by sharing the Good News with the most abandoned especially the poor.

## RCIA Chinese Programme

The New Chinese RCIA programme (2019/2020) for Adults will begin on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Application forms can be obtained at the Church Office.

## RCIA English Programme

We will be starting our new RCIA Programme. It will begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. RCIA is for adults - 18 years and above, who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office. The closing date for application is on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

## Praying The Rosary

There will be the praying of the Rosary immediately after the 6.30pm evening Mass from Monday to Friday in the month of May.

## 19<sup>th</sup> May, Vesak Day

Masses will be as usual at 8am, 10am, 12pm and 5.30pm

## 20<sup>th</sup> May, Public Holiday

Please take note that there will be NO lunch time Mass on 20<sup>th</sup> May being public holiday. Masses at 8am and 6.30pm.

## "DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Registration is open for Baking & Cooking (Basic & Advance), Basic Cake Decoration, Sewing & Handicraft from July 2019 till December 2019.

The 2nd Batch 2019 Care-Giving Course is scheduled to begin on 5 May 2019.

Classes will be conducted on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month from May 2019 till November 2019.

Dates : 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

Venue: DAWN,  
Good Shepherd Place,  
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,  
Singapore 319253.

Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth),  
82694546 (Rowena), or 82333728  
(Sr. Barbara)

## Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

The volunteers from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes will be coming next weekend on 18 and 19 May 2019 to raise funds for their church restoration. Please give them your generous support.

## Youth Retreat

Our Redemptorist Mission Team is conducting a Retreat for Youth aged 14-17 to which all are welcome to learn about leadership qualities from the Gospels.

Come and experience a Pilgrim leadership Retreat. Learn how to become an authentic witness. Learn how to share the joy of knowing Jesus. Return renewed with faith, hope and love and hearts ready for action.

**rmt**  
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**REDEMPTORIST MISSION TEAM PRESENTS**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

*Called to Build*  
*Be an authentic witness illuminated to Walk the Talk*

**DATES : 3rd - 6th June 2019**  
**AGES : 14 to 17 years old**  
**COST : \$100**  
**VENUE : Majodi Centre (Johor Bahru)**

**SIGN UP AT**  
<https://tinyurl.com/rmt2019>

**SCAN ME**