

**Entrance Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord  
Fills the earth;  
By the word of the Lord the heavens  
were made, alleluia

**First Reading**

Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 117: 1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29. R. v.22**

**The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in men;  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes. **R**

I will thank you for you have answered  
and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **R**

Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
You are my God, I thank you.  
My God, I praise you.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end. **R**

**Second Reading**

1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Jn 10: 14

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

**Gospel**

John 10: 11-18

Jesus said:  
'I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd is one who lays down his  
life for his sheep.  
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd  
and the sheep do not belong to him,  
abandons the sheep and runs away  
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,  
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;  
this is because he is only a hired man  
and has no concern for the sheep.  
'I am the good shepherd;  
I know my own and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep.  
And there are other sheep I have  
that are not of this fold,  
and these I have to lead as well.  
They too will listen to my voice,  
and there will be only one flock,  
and one shepherd.  
'The Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life  
in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me;  
I lay it down of my own free will,  
and as it is in my power to lay it down,  
so it is in my power to take it up again;  
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

**Communion Antiphon**

The Good Shepherd has risen,  
Who laid down his life for his sheep  
And willingly died for his flock, alleluia

**Prayer after Communion**

Look upon you flock, King shepherd,  
And be pleased to settle In eternal pasture  
The sheep you have redeemed  
By the Precious Blood of your Son.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Sunday 11.15am Mass		
Entrance Hymn	156	Battle is o'er, hell's armies flee
Offertory	656	The King of love my shepherd is
Communion	Choir	Because the Lord is my shepherd
Marian Antiphon	588	Regina caeli
Recessional	466	Loving shepherd of thy sheep



## St Mary's Cathedral



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I am  
*the Good Shepherd.*

**Fr. Keith's Story ...** I never wanted to be a priest. I remember a priest speaking about vocations at a Mass in the Cathedral, asking young men to think about becoming priests. My internal response was, "No way!" He then asked for people to pray for vocations. That I was happy to do, but to be a priest, no thanks.

Fast-forward a number of years and my faith had changed. There was a before and after. Before: God was distant, uncaring and impotent; the time of miracles was long over. After: the opposite. I heard about the apparitions of Our Lady in Medjugorje. If it was true then that changed everything; then God was not distant but loves us, and that miracles still happened!

I read all I could on the subject and started trying to live out the message: Conversion, return to God. She wanted us to go to Mass, pray every day, read the bible each day, go to confession at least once a month and fast twice a week.

Eventually, after starting work as an engineer, I went on pilgrimage to Medjugorje. The result of that was a personal encounter with Jesus, something I never imagined possible for me. Instead of falling in love with Mary however, I fell in love with Jesus. In retrospect, that's not really surprising: Mary is always leading us to her Son.

From that time onwards life took on a new freshness, a new vitality. I continued trying to live the Blessed Mother's messages. About a month after the pilgrimage, whilst driving home from Sunday Mass, I was reflecting about life, the universe and everything. I was thinking about how long eternity is and how short this life, the blink of an eye in comparison. I wanted to go to heaven, no two ways about it. How could I ensure that would happen? Give my life to God. Do His will, as completely as I could. Live for Him. That would be the way.

The moment these thoughts entered my head, a sense of confirmation/affirmation flooded me in a way that I had never experienced before. It was as if God's Spirit was confirming in my spirit the decision I had made; He was giving His 'YES' to my 'yes'. An excitement filled me, a joy. I now had a direction and a purpose. I knew that I had to pursue this immediately otherwise I'd never follow it through. The thought of becoming a priest entered my head for a split second, but I quickly kicked it out: my image of priesthood was negative. I thought it better to be a monk or a religious brother, but not a priest!

I began an amazing journey that was one of the most exciting times of my life as I sought to discern my vocation. After four years I realised that what I had initially rejected out of hand was what God actually wanted me to do. The thing that I had dismissed was what would bring me the fullness of life: the priesthood.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**



