

Universal Prayer

26 April 2026 (Easter 4A)

Presider: On this Good Shepherd Sunday, let us bring our prayers to the Lord who knows us by name and leads us to life in abundance.

1. For Pope Leo and all shepherds of the Church:
that they may lead with the tenderness and courage of Jesus,
guiding God's people with wisdom and compassion.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
2. For the people of all places torn by conflict: that the Prince of Peace may
open a gate of hope where violence has built only walls.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
3. For our parish, that we may clearly recognise the voice of Jesus
amidst the noise of the world
and boldly invite others into the safety of this community.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
4. For those discerning their vocation to marriage, priesthood or religious life:
that they may hear and trust God's call.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
5. For all who have died:
that they may find eternal pasture in the Father's house.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.

Presider: Loving Father, you sent your Son to be the gate of life and the shepherd of our souls. Hear these prayers and all the unspoken longings of our hearts. Lead us safely home. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

At the end of Mass, before the final blessing:

Before we go, thank you for making the effort to be here before Mass begins. Those opening moments matter; that's when we gather ourselves as one body before the Lord. That kind of presence strengthens how we pray together. Thank you so much.

Community Greeter | 26 April 2026

Welcome everyone to St John's on this Anzac Day weekend.
We gather today on the lands of the Dharawal people.

- My name is _____
- Our celebrant is Fr John | Fr Richard
- Today is Good Shepherd Sunday.
We celebrate the One who calls us by name and leads us to life in all its fullness.

We welcome **every guest** today, especially if you are new.

We are so glad that you are here with us!

Over the rest of the Easter season, we are going to pause before Mass to prepare our hearts together. This time matters because how we arrive shapes how we pray.
Let us stand and prepare ourselves as one body, as we pray together:

Opening Prayer [prayed together]:

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

This is followed by a prayer that is led by the priest...

Penitential Act [Priest]

Before we celebrate in the love of the God who is always calling and inviting us,
let us pause and acknowledge our need for healing and life. *[All pause for silent prayer.]*

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who calls us by name and leads us to life.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you bring peace to our restless hearts and courage to our fears.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lay down your life for us and restore us when we wander.
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and lead us to the life of the age to come. Amen.