





# Sunday 21st April 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo Assistant Priest: Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

# **The Partnered Parishes of:**

# St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St., Greensborough, 3088

**Parish:** 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Lisa Leahy

#### **Mass Times**

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

**Reconciliation Times** 

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening

Mass

#### **Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys Ph: 9433 4000 or Email

principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

# **Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street, Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish**: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

#### **Mass Times**

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

#### **Reconciliation Times**

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

**Acting Parish School Principal** 

Mrs Gina Murphy *Ph:* 9438 1590 *or Email principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au* 

# St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

#### Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

#### **Reconciliation Times**

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

**Acting Parish School Principal** 

Mrs Jo Nolen Ph: 9434 4565 or Email

principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

Please send any bulletin contributions to <u>greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au</u> by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you



# SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: They too will listen to my voice.

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before.

Fourth week of Easter Year B, 21 April 2024.

https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflections-4-easter-year-b-2024



**Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne** 

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/

Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

# PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 2024** Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis tells us:

There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him.

Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

On Saturday 4 May at 10.00am at the University of Divinity, Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne, there will be an information session on the Permanent Diaconate. Your help is needed to promote this vocation within your parish. Perhaps there are some male parishioners, married or single, between the age of 30 to 60 years, whom you could speak with concerning this call to ministry.

**LAMP:** LAMP Group invite you to attend **An evening with Sr Kerrin Caldwell SGS**, who will speak on the topic – "Ageing and Awakening God's surprising Gifts".

It will be held on Wednesday, 15th May at 7:30 pm in St Mary's Gathering Space.

There will be a light supper afterwards. If you wish to attend, please ring or text Mary on 0412 813 512 before May 10<sup>th</sup>.

<u>AUDIO DIVINA:</u> Audio-divina is a form of prayer, what you might call "sacred listening." It is a lectio-divina inspired Podcast that features high-quality, well researched reflections provided by world-renowned biblical scholar Rev. Professor Francis J. Moloney SDB AM. TheRightDirt web project will be hosting this podcast, free of charge and which can be found on Spotify, Apple, and Amazon, as well as here at TheRightDirt website <a href="https://therightdirt.com.au/">https://therightdirt.com.au/</a>

The Audio Divina will be posted each Wednesday night Melbourne time.

#### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL**

Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people - including 14 million children - now need humanitarian assistance and support, according to the <u>United Nations</u> 9 million have been displaced from their homes making Sudan the largest displacement crisis in the world!

Damage to infrastructure has impacted access to food, water, healthcare services, and even banking. Sudan now teeters on the edge of a famine.

Since the outbreak of violence Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food at 17 gathering points for internally displaced people, as well as delivering multipurpose cash assistance, water and hygiene services, and gender-based violence protection. Partners also have access to remote border towns in Chad and South Sudan, enabling them to support those displaced overseas.

As late as the end of last year, one partner reported seeing 4,200 refugees arrive there each day, around 90% of them women and girls.

The Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference has raised concerns "the international community has forgotten the Sudan crisis" and called on the Caritas network across the world to "engage their respective governments, donors, and the wider international community to urgently pick up and advocate for the needed resources to avert the looming famine."

Caritas Australia take solace in the breadth of our partner network in the region. Their tireless work ensures the generosity of our supporters here in Australia reaches people in need.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online <u>www.caritas.org.au/sudan</u> or phone 1800 024 413.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>: While Fr Steven is on annual leave Sacred Heart have Liturgy of the Word 9.15am each Wednesday and Fr Ananda will celebrate 9.15am Mass on Fridays.

BAPTISMS: we pray for Dahlia, Fiadh, Kaia, Lianah and Lenny and who will be welcomed into our community in April.

# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: April 11th 2024 PPC Meeting

The meeting began with Mark leading us in prayer. Here are some of the agenda items that were discussed: Location of Defibrillator in the church

Thanks to Dr Mark Beeby for giving us information re where the defibrillator is positioned and explaining its use. Parishioners were very grateful to listen to Mark's presentation after Mass on April 7th

- Jacqui Giuliano's presentation, from the Proclaim office, on vibrant, vital and viable parishes which was attended by seven of our PPC members
- Women's Dinner Fri May 3rd

As bookings close next week on Wed April 24th and we have paid our deposit to the caterer, please book a ticket, pay and join us for a great social occasion. Cash would be appreciated for the numerous raffle prizes that have been donated. Friends from our partnered parishes and local community are all welcome. Help is needed after 1pm to set up if you have any time

- Parish Family Group Annual Report
- Communion to the Sick
- Monthly Fundraising Raffles

Volunteers invited to help sell tickets after Mass. A beautiful queen size, patchwork quilt has been donated, tickets \$2 each or 6 for \$10, drawn on Mothers' Day

- Parish First Aid Kits currently being updated
- Maintenance

Brian reported that some trees have been removed at St Peter's, garden edging has been organised and working bee planned for this Saturday, April 20th at 9am. Volunteers needed for cleaning internal windows and gardening

Memorial Garden Plaques

The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at <a href="mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com">ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com</a> or leave a message with Pat in the Parish Office if you would like a loved one remembered in this way.

Next PPC meeting is on May 9th. Suggestion box in church or email: <a href="mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com">ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com</a>

WOMEN'S DINNER: WOMEN'S DINNER Friday 3rd May @7pm Sacred Heart Parish

Thank you to those who have already booked and paid and for the generous donations for the raffle. Booking for the dinner close

<u>Wednesday April 24th.</u> Please confirm booking by <u>www.trybooking.com/CQICQ</u> or correct payment at Parish Centre.

BYO Drinks and glasses Donations for raffle can be left at Parish Centre also.

All enquiries Patricia 0418992488 Tonina 0419154524

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Next meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 12pm Lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

# **ROSTERS:**

Cleaning: Week 23<sup>rd</sup> April M. Cusack, W. McEvoy

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: J. Hoyne Commentator: C. Fernando Eucharistic Ministers: A. Pieper, M. Cusack

St Peter's Saturday 4th May 7.15pm

**Reader**: B. Flynn **Commentator:** R. Nicolaisen

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Mary O'Dea, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle,

Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard.

# **Recently deceased:**

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of April that they may enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Frank Laffy, Gino Ongarello, Karen Ongarello, Frank Nihill, Grace Leonard, Freda Kennedy,

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

Vision Statement" To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 8am-12noon, Thursdays 12.00pm-4pm.

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to <u>greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au</u> or<u>greensborough@cam.org.au</u> by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

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<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>: While Fr Steven is on annual leave we will have Liturgy of the Word at 9.15am on Tuesday and Friday and Fr Ananda will celebrate 9.15am Mass on Wednesday and Thursday.

**SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED** to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. If you can help, even occasionally, to provide this service for our priests and our parishioners,

Please contact Marian mariantacey@optusnet.com.au

**ST MARY'S GARDENING GROUP:** The church gardens are looking great thanks to the enthusiastic parishioners who are weeding, trimming, watering when they can. If you would like to join the group you would be most welcome.

Ring Barbara Papworth 0409 145115.

We would also like to acknowledge the marvellous work of past parishioners who established and created the gardens and are now in God's loving arms or unable to continue because of health problems.

Many thanks because a garden can be enjoyed by all.

All volunteers need a current Working with children check and to have completed the CAM Safeguarding training.

<u>PROFESSOR SISTER MARY COLOE</u>, an accomplished Scripture scholar and Presentation sister, will be delivering the homily at the 5 pm Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday May 5th. All are invited.

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS:** It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

<u>LADIES AUXILARY:</u> Plant Sale after Masses this weekend. Winter Warmers stall after Masses w/end 4th./5th May. Enquiries Maureen 9435 5906 Lucy 9435 6990

<u>MASS OF ANOINTING:</u> A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

<u>MUSICIANS AND SINGERS:</u> Because of a copyright issue affecting all parishes we can no longer embed music into our slides on the data projector (until further notice). So you will notice that at some of our Masses there will be no music at all. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who can play an instrument together with anyone who could lead the congregation in song at the 8am Mass or two Sundays at the 10am Mass. Please contact Megan via email <u>mamitchem@gmail.com</u> for further information.

**HOLY ROSARY** is recited every Thursday morning after 9.15am Mass.

<u>THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:</u> The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326.

A LOST PROPERTY BOX is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.



Thank you to everyone who along to celebrate Len's 99th Birthday last Friday. Lovely words spoken by Fr Ananda on behalf of Fr Steven.

# Be informed, inspired and entertained



#### Book of the week

<u>Our First 50 Years 1955-2005 St Mary's Parish Greensborough,</u> compiled by St Mary's History Group to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005. Also available are:

- Sacred Heart Parish Diamond Creek 100 years 1914-2014
- Along the Way ... Our Lady of the Way Parish Kingsbury Australia Celebrating 50 Years 1962-2012
- cloud.collectorz.com/247780



#### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

#### **Baptisms:**

# Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

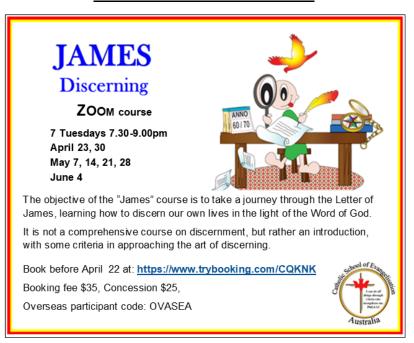
Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr

#### **Recently Deceased:**

#### We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Ann Northey, Sarah Cull, Pina Basile, James Scully, Veronica Jones, Surjit Sandhu, Jacqueline Duncan, Mark Gunawardana, Noel Tarnate, Maurice Pereira, Sylvia De Zilva, Percival Russell, Ramon Peńa, Marie Ahern, Elizabeth Lorkin, Sadie Warren, Fr. John Farmer S.J., Etel David, George Anangnostopoulos, John Lucas, Paola Gionfriddo, Santo Gionfriddo, Peter Purdue, Marie Branagan, Maurice Considine, Enn Lodie, Don Stevens, Margaret Weston, Nancy Sinclair, Patria Guytingco, Letitia Clancey, Theresa Monagle, Maudie Torrens, Leslie Thomas Allsop, Barbara Teycheney, John Antons, Kevin Manning, Brian O'Gorman, Kevin Juliff, Norma Fleming, Catherine Bowler, Vincent O'Neil, Thomas Neeson, Stephen Blom

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

**BAPTISMS:** Please keep in your prayers Olivia, Jude and Harvey who are being baptised later this month.

<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>: While Fr Steven is on annual leave Fr Ananda will celebrate 9.15am Mass on Tuesdays and we will have Liturgy of the Word at 9.15am on Thursdays.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS St Thomas PPC. StThomas.PPC@cam.org.au

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY:</u> On behalf of the parishioners we wish Margaret Chapman a happy 90th Birthday on Monday 15th April. Congratulations Marg and we hope you enjoy good health and happiness.

**<u>BECOMING CATHOLIC:</u>** Are you an adult interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wanting to become a member of the Catholic Church? In our Parish the RCIA process happens within a small group, with reflection on the messages of sacred Scripture, and the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish office for more details.

<u>BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP – Change of Date</u>: Come up join us for a coffee and chat on <u>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</u> at 1.30pm at Phoenix & Co, 285 Diamond Creek Rd Plenty. (Phoenix & Co is closed on Anzac Day). So I can book a table, please email *lilian.hobson@gmail.com* or text 0402 823 679. Everyone welcome! Lilian (on behalf of Marg).

# Roster for Weekend 27th & 28th April

# Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: P. Carty Commentator: E. Sacchetta Eucharistic Ministers: T. Holland, L. Carty

Set Up: K. Salm Sunday 10.30am

Reader: S. Millar Commentator: M. Kenny Eucharistic Ministers: R. Piccolo, A. Letzia

Set Up: J. Kerr

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.

# St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlarger, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

We pray for those who have died recently and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of April that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Mary Cho Nguyen, Prisca Rosario, Osvaldo Porcaro, Lina Betuna, Margaret Mc Carthy, Dino Bianchin, Bill Schultz, Brian Brown, Alessandro Sacchetta, Reg Cummins, Pat Hart, Iris Hartley, Joy Joseph, Roy Kilkenny, Anastasis Rendina, Sylvester Ellul, Rod Nettleton, Kathleen Jordan, Maria de Bartolo, Elaine Chapman, Shirley Bourke, Maria del Popolo, Rosa Alvaro, Dragan Zilic, Kaye Dixon, Therese Micallef



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close It is Good Shepherd Sunday and the metaphor of sheep and shepherd is very appealing even to urban folk like me. It speaks of gentleness and caring. There is a trusting relationship here: 'I know my own and my own know me.' On the other hand, we are reminded that the role of shepherd involves responsibilities and risks, and for Jesus it means laying down his life for his flock. He makes it plain, however, that this action is intentional, that he is in control and that death is not the end of the story.

# Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

21 April 2024

# First Reading Acts 4:8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

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

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

(R.) Alleluia.

- 1. 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.)
- 2. I will thank you for you have given answer 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.)
- 3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord: I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. (R.)

# Second Reading 1 Jn 3:1-2

We shall see God as he is.

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 sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

# Gospel Jn 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

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:

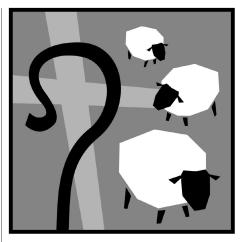
this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd;

I know my own and my own know me, iust 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.'

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL) All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation. © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc., and used by permission of the publishers.

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# **Reflection** by Greg Sunter

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphoric language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people - more like the scum of the earth! - so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds - cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger - Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.