From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Today we are given to listen to one of the tender loving stories of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. ‘I know my sheep and my sheep know me; they listen to my voice and follow me. I am ready to lay down my life for my sheep. There are other sheep that do not yet belong to me. But they too will hear my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.’ Jesus invites us today to taste and see that He is good. That his love is everlasting. He loves us and renders us lovable. He loves us, that He even gives his life away as ransom for you and me. He lays down His life for you and me so that we may live in Him.

Today we share in this caring and loving mission of Jesus: The Good Shepherd invites us to celebrate this day with those whom we care, to whom we show our love, support, and encouragement.

He has given us all that we need to accomplish this task:
- We believe that we have hands that can make things
- Minds that can understand things
- Yet, do we believe we have hearts that can give life?

We can give hope and life to people who are inwardly broken; we can show them that they are important, and so bring life to them. This life of Christ enables and ennobles both us and our brothers and sisters whom we minister in His Holy name.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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Saint of the Day for May 13 - The Story of Our Lady of Fatima

Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children—Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos—received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97. Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!

We may never know

We may never know: How much our mother sacrificed to put a roof over our heads, Food on the table, Clothes on our backs and Books in our hands. We may never know:

We may never know: How many hours she sat by our beds waiting for our fever to break, or on the cough for the phone to ring or at the door for our letter to arrive Saying: "I miss you Mum".

We may never know: Her thoughts as we left home, her prayers for our safe return, her tears at the thought the time would one day come, for one never ending goodbye.

We may never know: If her hopes and dreams fulfilled? If her prayers for all of us answered?

If her disappointments too few to recall, if her faith in us unshaken? We may never know!

A PRAYER FOR ALL MOTHERS

"Lord Jesus, Today I want to pray for all mothers: For those who are happy and those who are crying; For the ones that are strong and the ones that are weak; For those who are loved and those who are rejected; For those who are living on earth and those who have gone to live beyond death. Bless them all, Lord. Give to each what each deserves, for mothers deserve only the best of love and fullness of life. Like wonderful, fruit-bearing trees in the desert of life, mothers give everything: their shadow, their leaves, their fruits, their branches, their trunk, their roots... that their children may live and prosper. Such was my mother to me. Such are all real mothers to the children they bear—The dearest and constant revelation of what You are and do for all. Give them the reward that you alone can give, Lord Jesus, for you know what it is to have a mother." Amen