



Easter 4-26 April 2026 St Matthew's Holland Park

Jesus the Good Shepherd forms a new kind of people — a people who are fed, protected, guided, and shaped into a living community of trust, worship, and witness.

Acts 2:42–47: The early church, fresh from Pentecost, lives with a deep sense of shared life. They devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They care for one another, share what they have, and worship with joy and sincerity. Their life together becomes a visible sign of God's presence.

Main point: Faith in the risen Christ is not private. He gathers people into a community where worship, generosity, and joy are lived out together.

To wonder: What would it look like if our church was known more for deep devotion and generous care than for activity and programs?

Psalm 23: This beloved psalm shows the Lord as shepherd and host — guiding, restoring, protecting, and welcoming. Even in the darkest valley, we are not abandoned. The imagery of anointing oil and the overflowing cup points to God's abundant care, and for Christians, echoes the grace of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Main point: God's care is both tender and strong. He does not remove every shadow, but he promises his presence within them.

To wonder: Where in my life do I most need to hear, "You are with me"?

1 Peter 2:1–10: Peter calls believers to leave behind destructive ways and grow into their new life in Christ. Jesus is the living stone, rejected yet chosen, and those who come to him become living stones too — built into a spiritual house. They are named as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, called to declare God's goodness.

Main point: Our identity is found in Christ. We belong to God and are shaped together for his purpose.

To wonder: Am I allowing Christ to shape me into his community, or trying to build life on my own terms?

John 10:1–10

Jesus contrasts false leaders with the true shepherd who calls his sheep by name. The sheep know his voice and follow him. Jesus declares, "I am the gate," the one through whom we find safety and life. He comes not to restrict, but to give life in all its fullness.

Main point: Jesus is both the shepherd and the way into life. His voice leads us into trust, freedom, and abundance.

To wonder: Among all the voices in my life, am I listening for and following the voice of Jesus?

These readings remind us that the church is **a flock under one Shepherd**. In a restless world, **Jesus still calls people by name**. He **forms a community** like the one in Acts, **cares for us like the Shepherd of Psalm 23**, shapes us **into living stones** in 1 Peter, and opens the way to abundant life in John. The question is not whether Jesus speaks, but whether we are listening, trusting, and becoming the people he calls us to be.

[2026, April 26 ~ Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10 ; Sunday 26 April 2026 - Forth Sunday of Easter – Year A | The Church of Scotland; Psalm 23: The LORD Is My Shepherd;](#)

Bible Study Lady Chapel 10am Friday

800th Anniversary of the death of St Francis 16/5/26 @ 6pm St Philips - see Rev'd Morris if you are able to come. **Walk as One at One 17th Labyrinth World Day of Prayer-1 May**. The Old Friary 139 Brookfield Road, Kenmore Hills; **Wine and Cheese Evening 17 July-Kiwi Theme**

Meditation 29/4 Wednesday night 5pm;

Men's Breakfast 1st Thursday of month 7am

Op Shop Every Thursday 9-12

Next Sunday 9am Easter 5- 3 May: Acts 7.55-60; Psalm 31.1-5,17-18; 1 Peter 2.11-25 Gospel: John 14.1-14 W

Parish Directory: Revd. Morris Rangiwai: 0449 557 351;

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Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/> Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ;

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ; Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.