

ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

3 May 2020. Fourth Sunday of Easter. Year A



I am the gate of the sheepfold

The presentation of the Good Shepherd is the nearest approach to a parable given to us in the Gospel of John. Jesus tells it immediately after a major clash with Pharisees as a result of his cure of the Man Born Blind. This position gives it additional force: the hearers could not fail to understand it in the light of the chapter of Ezekiel 34, in which the prophet contrasts the lazy and

self-seeking shepherds ruling Israel in Ezekiel's day with the ideal shepherd whom God would send as his representative. This shepherd would be God himself and his servant David. So Jesus' description of himself as the Good Shepherd is at once a claim to be the Messiah of the line of David and in some sense to be himself the divine Shepherd of Israel. Stories and images of farming life abound in all the gospels, a testimony to the background of Jesus and his hearers in the farming communities of Galilee. These were the images which would naturally spring to mind. In most of these parables sheep appear as helpless and gormless creatures, prone to getting lost and needing to be sought out, carried back on the shoulders of the shepherd – an apt image of most of us most of the time! Only in this parable are they more responsive and seem to have a real relationship with their shepherd, having the confidence to go out through the gate into freedom when he opens it, recognising his voice, following him and even responding when he calls their name. We might pray to have that confidence and warmth of relationship. We hear one of the great 'I am' statements of Jesus today 'I am the gate of the sheepfold'. Through Jesus we enter into life and safety, and we 'go through Jesus, the gate' by baptism. This image is implied in all today's readings: the people listening to Peter find this gateway and enter through it: Peter writes to remind us that we have come back to the Good Shepherd, who heals us by his wounds. This Sunday is traditionally called '**Good Shepherd Sunday**', because of the Gospel references to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is also the day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood.

Reflecting this weekend on what it means to be 'called', I am reminded of the words of **St John Henry Newman** when he wrote *Some Definite Service*. His words speak for themselves. Lord may we all come to understand you will for our lives and be generous in our response.

Some Definite Service

God knows me and calls me by my name...

God has created me to do Him some definite service;

He has committed some work to me

which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission – I never may know it in this life,

but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow I am necessary for His purposes...

I have a part in this great work;

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection

between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good,

I shall do His work;

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth

in my own place, while not intending it,

if I do but keep His commandments

and serve Him in my calling.

Therefore I will trust Him.

Whatever, wherever I am,

I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;

In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be

necessary causes of some great end,

which is quite beyond us.

He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life,

He may shorten it;

He knows what He is about.

He may take away my friends,

He may throw me among strangers,

He may make me feel desolate,

make my spirits sink, hide the future from me –

still He knows what He is about...

Let me be Thy blind instrument. I ask not to see –

I ask not to know – I ask simply to be used.

from Meditations and Devotions,

"Meditations on Christian Doctrine,"

"Hope in God – Creator", March 7, 1848

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations - also known as Vocations Sunday - this year will be celebrated on 3 May. This day flows from the broader culture of vocation, and is when the universal Church asks the Lord to send more labourers to the harvest.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes:

Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome

all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us. Through your prayers and encouragement our seminarians, Albert and Andrew, continue to thrive on their vocational pathway towards ordination as Diocesan priests. If you have been watching the daily Masses streamed on location at our Cathedral, you might be aware that Albert is currently assisting Bishop Mark there, and similarly Andrew has been assisting Fr Chris Findlay-Wilson with the on-line liturgy at Parkstone, Poole. Because of the pandemic, both men have had to move away from their usual community life at seminary, and are studying remotely via on-line resources to continue their formation. Their willingness to 'up-sticks' is testimony to their fortitude and generosity of spirit under what are difficult circumstances for us all. We look forward to Albert's ordination to the Diaconate in July of this year, and to Andrew's next year.

This year we have one of our enquirers going forward to our annual selection conference to be held later this month. Do please keep Charles in your prayers as he continues to discern his way forward, seeking to carry out the Lord's will by offering his life in service of the Lord and His Church. Finally, I invite all those curious about the priesthood or religious life to contact me, Fr Ralph Candy, on 01803 557518, or send me an email to vocation@prcdtr.org.uk. In the meantime I'll leave you with a prayer for Vocations Sunday, which we can all make our own:

Loving Father, you call us by name.

As we journey through life help us to be confident in our own unique identity and to find opportunities to develop our own gifts and passions.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will pour on us wisdom and guidance to help us realise and follow our dreams, discerning your plan for our lives.

Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous people from our families and friends who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers.

May we support one another in response to God's call.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Alpha online is coming to Blessed Sacrament Parish

We are running the well-known Alpha course online! Evenings where you can get together with existing friends (and new ones!), watch films exploring life and discuss those big questions about faith and God. So put the kettle on and come along and join us! It's a fantastic way to connect when we can't meet in person. Our Alpha will begin Tuesday 19 May at 7.30pm. Each Alpha session will include a short film and a chat where you can share your thoughts within an online small group. There's no pressure and no charge! Simply contact us with your email address and we will get back to you with all the details. Email us with 'Alpha' in the subject heading: Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk. We hope to see you there!

Masses of thanks for Care Workers

This was started by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and every Thursday at 7.00pm, a bishop will celebrate Mass in one of the cathedrals for the care workers. So please do join in, if you can, on the live streaming. Follow where the Mass takes place on each different Thursday. And use that time before 8.00pm on a Thursday to offer your prayers of thanksgiving for these generous, courageous people, for their support – their encouragement – that God will sustain them in this great work that they're doing. "We applaud, but we pray and we pray fervently for them. May God bless them all." Link [Streamed Live Catholic Masses for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care](#)

Parish finances

Thank you so much to those of you who have enquired about setting up a weekly or monthly standing order so we can continue to pay the bills. This is very much appreciated. In these troubling times it is comforting to know how much people care about our beloved parish. You may wish to consider making your offering to the church by monthly standing order. If you would like to do so you can set this up quite easily. Please email the parish office at exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk and the details that you need can be sent to you. For those parishioners who wish to continue to make weekly donations in cash, if possible, please put the usual amount to one side each week and bring the total when we are

finally able to come together again. We understand that during these difficult times, other people may be buying your essentials and you therefore need to keep your cash available to pay these kind volunteers, so please feel free to post a cheque (made payable to PRCDTR Heavitree RC Parish) to the Presbytery if this is easier. If neither of these options are suitable for you, please put aside your weekly cash offerings and/or gift aid envelopes until Masses resume. If you are tax payer you can gift aid your offerings and a gift aid form for you to complete and return to the parish office can also be sent to you.

Easter Offerings

If you are considering making an Easter Offering for Fr Jonathan and Fr John these remain a vital part of the funding for our Priests. If you wish to make an offering, this can be done by cheque payable to PRCDTR Heavitree RC Parish. Payments are also welcome by bacs using Easter Offering as your reference. Please also note gift aid can also be applied to Easter Offerings. If you prefer to give your offering in cash this is of course perfectly acceptable. Just hang onto it along with your normal cash weekly offerings until things are back to normal. Many thanks.

Parish News by Post

Some parishioners will not have email and therefore will not be receiving these weekly updates. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter by post, please could you let me know their address (with their permission, of course!) and we will print and post the newsletter out to them each week exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or call Lesley on 07712 216724

live simply

Thank you to everyone who is praying for the success of the livesimply initiative to help the NHS and the care sector. Following the delivery of 400 bags to the RD&E for carrying uniforms safely, we have been working on headbands. These are worn by staff to prevent ears becoming sore, while wearing face masks. We delivered 85 of these last weekend and are waiting to hear how many more are needed. Helen Moore, the Heavitree Community Builder, has asked for face masks to be used in a nonclinical setting. We are working on this. We need more volunteers to sew. We also need volunteers who can go out to take materials to those who are sewing and to collect finished items and take them to the RD&E Charities Office and possibly other locations in the city in the future. If you are able to help or donate towards the costs of the material, please contact Frances on 01392 209542 or email: livesimplyexeter@gmail.com. Thank you again for your help and prayers

Wednesday Word is now online!

Our weekly Wednesday Word continues to successfully run as an online group every Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm. If you would like to join a group, please contact Maria at Exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk. She can add you to a group and/or support you with learning how to participate using the Zoom video conferencing app. We've had many parishioners successfully join who were new to 'zoom' so be brave and get in touch!

Pastoral Message to the Diocese

Bishop Mark invites us all to be Christ the Servant. Please see link: <https://youtu.be/ueaTSy5OYc> or attachment.

Mission Made Possible

Is the thought of sharing your faith with family friends and others just too scary? Are you thinking; 'that's not for me, I could never do that' or perhaps you just don't know where to start? Well you are not alone. JOIN CATHOLICS IN OUR DIOCESE AND ACROSS THE GLOBE WHO FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY. With the encouragement of Bishop Mark, you are invited to take part at home, and learn how to have these conversations appropriately and without feeling awkward. If you would like to learn more please send an email with your telephone number to jonathan.bielawski@prcdtr.org.uk and follow this link to watch the overview video titled 'How to Evangelise' <https://wp.me/paTncV-8rl>

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2020/2021

The Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes has been cancelled this year. The dates for 2021 are 30th July-5th August. Hopefully all pilgrims who have already booked will be able to join us next year, deposits will be carried forward. If you are unable to join us next year your deposit will of course be refunded. Joe Walsh Tours will send individual explanatory letters to each pilgrim very soon

Into your hands, Lord...

Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently: **Beryl Anstey** and **Peter Budd**. May they rest in peace in the arms of the Lord. We pray especially for their families and friends at this time. The pain of loss is made all the greater by the social distancing restrictions we are all living with. This has made the celebration of funerals really challenging. The rite of committal at the crematorium and graveside are very dignified and reverent, but the heartache of only a few members of the family being able to attend cannot be underestimated. Please keep all those who have lost loved ones at this time in your prayers, that God will bring them consolation and peace.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Lehain, brother in law of Seb Mills. Tony died suddenly on Friday morning and leaves a wife, Lauren and five children. He was only 33. If you can help in a more practical way there is a justgiving page to which you might like to contribute:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/inmemorytonylehain?utm_term=nGvrDVneN

Migrants' Mass 2020

Tuesday 28 April at 11.27am. Each year, near to the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the migrant communities of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster gathers for a Mass that is full of song, vibrant energy and great joy. This year, as we can't gather in church, we will be celebrating the Migrants' Mass using [Instagram Live](#) and [YouTube](#) on Saturday 2 May, at 10.30am The theme for 2020 is: 'You are clapping for us, now pray with us' We value the incredible contribution of migrants to so many services that are now being recognised and honoured as essential. Many Migrant workers are amongst those on the 'frontline' – in the NHS and care homes; working as delivery drivers, cleaners and caterers. This is a moment to honour them in prayer – especially considering so many are financially vulnerable, working on zero-hours contracts or pay that is below the Real Living Wage. We also remember the wonderful Catholic Social Teaching that recognises everyone as "our brothers and sisters", calls us to tear down borders that divide and exclude any group of people, and has mandated us to pay a Real Living Wage ever since Pope Leo XIII wrote about it in 1891. The Mass can only be online, of course, as we cannot gather together physically. We also appreciate that not every family can access the Internet as they have no Wi-Fi or hardware. Perhaps if you know a family near to you in that position, you can find a way to help them? If you are not familiar with Instagram, the graphic you can download below explains how to find the Mass. The Mass will also be available on YouTube. All are welcome!

Links and Downloads [Watch the Mass on YouTube](#) [Watch the Mass on Instagram](#)

CAFOD Emergency Appeal

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal,

They are also running a series of webinars and meetings which will give people a chance to meet Cafod directors and overseas staff and to come together and pray as a community. You can access all these events at cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks There is also a petition to sign at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to ask the UK government to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalised people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home.

Laudato Si Week

This month it is five years since Pope Francis wrote his letter to the world, *Laudato Si', on care for our common home*. We invite everyone to participate in Laudato Si' week from 16 -24 May from wherever you are. We invite you to use this time to reflect on how we can all think more deeply, live more wisely and love more generously. Visit caford.org.uk/encyclical for resources you can use at home.

Feast of St Richard Reynolds

May 5 is the day that we remember St Richard Reynolds. He is thought to have come from Pinhoe and was a Brigettine monk of Syon Abbey on the Thames. He suffered martyrdom with the Carthusians at Tyburn on 4 May 1535, for refusing to take the oath of royal supremacy under Henry VIII. He was known for his personal holiness, and was one of the forty martyrs canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970. Syon Abbey, one of the great medieval monasteries, was dissolved in 1539 by Henry. The expelled community moved from place to place in France and Spain, finally settling in Lisbon in 1594. This same community moved from Lisbon back to England in 1861, settling in Spetisbury, Dorset then in Chudleigh and finally in 1925 in South Brent. The community remained here until the closure of Syon Abbey in 2011. Some artefacts, including the pillar from the original Syon Abbey, were presented to the Blessed Sacrament being the closest to St Richard Reynolds' birthplace. The pillar can be found in the martyrs chapel at the rear of the church. Our parish centre is named in his honour.

What has happened to the Sunday Obligation?

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is suspended at the moment.

The God Who Speaks

The next sessions have had to be postponed, but the talks have been recorded and are available at www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk and on Facebook @plymouthdiocese. 1. How Catholics Read the Bible; 2. Christ in the Old Testament; 3. The Fulfilment of the Covenant in the New Testament. Let's use our 'lockdown' time profitably. Further Scriptural resources are available: www.stpaulrepository.com.

Exeter Foodbank

For anyone restricted to their house it is possible to donate money to the Exeter Foodbank via the following link: <https://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Walk with Me Easter Booklets

We still have a number of these booklets available. If you would like one please either email the parish office at exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or call Lesley on 07712 216724 and one can be posted to you.

Pope's May Intention

We pray that deacons, faithful to their service of the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire church. See also <https://thepopevideo.org>

Pope Francis on mercy...

The mercy of God is His loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, He desires our well-being and He wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as He is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

The Pope tweets...

Our witness opens the way for others. Our prayer opens the door to the Father's heart. Let us ask the Lord that we might live our work with witness and prayer, so that the Father might draw people to Jesus.

SOS - let us know if you need help

Please let us know via the parish email or the parish phone number 01392 274724 if there is any way we can provide practical support for you and your families in the coming days and weeks. We have a team of volunteers who can be contacted if you, or someone you know are in self-isolation and need food, medication or a friendly chat.

Keep up to date

Please see the parish Facebook page **Blessed Sacrament Exeter** www.facebook.com/pg/BlessedSacramentExeter/posts/ and the parish website blessedsacrament.org.uk for up to date information and spiritual support.

Mass recording and live streaming

Fr Jonathan will be posting a recording of Sunday Mass each Saturday evening/Sunday morning on the Blessed Sacrament Facebook page and YouTube channel. You can access the channel by clicking the link: www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter

Bishop Mark is live-streaming Mass from the Cathedral www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk each day at 11:00am and evening prayer at 4:30pm.

Blessed Sacrament YouTube channel

One of the ways we are trying to support you these days is by posting films which appeal to families and young people. Maria, our pastoral assistant, Erik our parish youth worker, and some of the youngsters in our parish have all made films which they hope will engage you with your faith in a new way. Check them out at www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter

Diocesan YouTube channel

Bishop Mark is live streaming Mass each day and afternoon prayer on the following channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UC8KUEwsXFK3VBLEfn4H1tBw

Online Masses in Polish

These are the Masses from Jasna Góra: Mass stream: <https://jasnagora.pl/pl/media/na-zywo/kaplica-matki-bozej/> Mass times: <https://jasnagora.pl/pl/dla-pielgrzymow/program-dnia/>

More Masses online

There are also several churches within the Diocese of Westminster which have live streaming: www.churchservices.tv EWTN or Catholic TV can be watched on Sky or on the internet at www.ewtn.co.uk or www.catholictv.org

Walsingham daily Masses at 9.30am, 12 noon, 6.00pm. Divine Mercy chaplet prayers, rosary and benediction daily at 3.0pm. Extraordinary form Mass at 6.00pm. All is live-streamed on their website.

If any problem click on link to YouTube which is on the website. www.walsingham.org.uk

Vatican Media Live (English) <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

Perpetual Adoration online at Tyburn Convent

There is perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, twenty fours a day, which can be accessed online at the following link: <https://adoration.tyburnconvent.org.uk/> So then you can commune spiritually with Our Lord in the shrine of the English martyrs at whatever time you choose.

Mass intentions

Fr Jonathan is celebrating Mass each day and if you would like a Mass said for a particular intention, for someone who is ill or a loved one who has died, in thanksgiving for an answer to prayer or perhaps something personal please contact Lesley by email exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or on 07712 216724 who will be able to help you find a date. It is traditional to make an offering at the same time. This is simply what you can afford and would like to give. To comply with GDPR rules we must have the permission of the person named if it is to be made public unless they are deceased.

Month of May

We are now in the Month of May. It is a month of Our Blessed Virgin Mary when we are devoted to her through the rosary for her intercessions. Mary is traditionally known as the Queen of the month of May because of her powerful prayers. We need to fly at her patronage at this time of the pandemic for her favours. We therefore humbly wish to remind all our parishioners and indeed everyone to join the league of this May devotion through daily recitation of the rosary both privately and as a family and may she intercede for us.

Prayers of Hope - every Sunday

During the Coronavirus crisis thousands of Christians across Britain are praying together at 7.00pm every Sunday evening. This began on Sunday 22 March after the Presidents of Churches Together in England issued a joint call to prayer. The response was phenomenal. St Paul tells us to pray continually. However, it helps to know that others are also praying at a specific time, so we encourage you to pray at 7.00pm on Sunday evening.

Getting in Touch with Patients in the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

The Chaplaincy Team are very aware that, with visiting restrictions, it is much harder to get messages of love and prayer through to friends and other parishioners in hospital. So, please leave a message on 01392 402024 and one of the Chaplaincy team will aim to write your message onto a card and deliver it to the patient. Simply say your name and contact number, the full name of the patient (and the ward they are on, if you know it) and a message you wish to be written in the card.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Each year church-goers collect money in their neighbourhoods for Christian Aid Week, in what has been described as the largest single act of Christian witness each year. This year, though, there will be no red envelopes through doors, but the need is greater than ever before as countries already struggling with poverty and the effects of climate change now try to cope with coronavirus as well. So, Christian Aid Week is moving online! Read more, here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Vacancies

If you are not having to self-isolate, Devon County Council and our local NHS need temporary and permanent workers now to fill a variety of roles including healthcare assistants, cleaners, chefs, security staff, and admin staff, with shifts available on weekdays, weekends, and evenings. For more info, click here: <https://www.proudtocaredevon.org.uk/>

Similarly, but for volunteering, Exeter Community Wellbeing is the local hub for joining the fight against Covid-19. Get advice, training and find a role for yourself, here: <https://exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city/community-safety/coronavirus/exeter-community-wellbeing/>

Throughout history, Christians have answered the call to respond to the needs of our neighbours, and the Covid crisis is no different.

Exeter Prays

Hundreds - possibly thousands - of people also met recently online on Sunday 26 April for the latest of several 'Exeter Prays' events. If you're on Facebook, you can watch it on catchup, here:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1089933801388175&id=425354644272033

We are planning for Exeter Prays to go ahead again on Sunday 17 May again at 8.00pm. This will tie into the Thy Kingdom Come Week (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>) and two weeks later there will be a much wider TKC prayer time on Pentecost Sunday. Details to be confirmed.

Faith resources for families and young people

Please find below a range of resources that families may find helpful to engage children and young people in their faith journey during this time.

Family Fun Faith

Our Pastoral Assistant Maria is making short Fun Faith videos that include praise and worship, teaching, an activity and prayer. They can be found on YouTube by clicking the links below:

'Let's talk about Hope' https://youtu.be/cPAKdU_LM3g

'Let's talk about The Cross' <https://youtu.be/TkCs4ESk3-o>

Liturgy of the Word for Children

We're really grateful to the Gill family for providing the beautiful films for the children's Liturgy. They can be found on the parish's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter

Exeter 1115

Erik, our Exeter Catholic Youth Worker, has recorded two short films for our 11-15 year olds encouraging them to think about this time and to engage them in a different way of praying. Again both are available on the parish YouTube channel

1115 Quiet Time Who needs it? <https://youtu.be/2CihbAuPJ-w>

1115 Prayer <https://youtu.be/0vWgx8lgiFY>

Exeter Initiatives in Christian Education (ICE)

Links below have helpful resources, including downloadable school work sheets on the blog, which parents and children can do at home.

ICE You tube Channel: youtube.com/channel/UCFTtSf5BPf9ErWxtQcR5-kw

ICE School's blog: icetrust.co.uk/schools-blog/

ICE Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ICETRUST

ICE Instagram feed: www.instagram.com/icetrustexeter/

Stress, Anxiety, and Mental Well-Being

Exeter YMCA take referrals from professionals, families and self-referrals from children and young people to offer interventions that build up emotional well-being and resilience in young people aged 5 – 18. They are currently running these digitally through video calls to reach as many young people as possible during this difficult time.

Visit <https://www.ymcaexeter.org.uk/cwpwellbeing/> or <https://youtu.be/aSW4WKehae0> for info

CAFOD are hosting a live online children's liturgy for families, on Sundays at 10.00am. Check out <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> to find out how to register.

The Word

SUNDAY 3 MAY *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14.36-41

God has made him both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. *℟*

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. *℟*

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. *℟*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. *℟*

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:20-25

You have come back to the shepherd of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

SUNDAY 10 MAY *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm Response

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY 3 MAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

World day of Prayer for Vocations

People of the Parish

Monday 4 May

The English Martyrs

Private Intention

Tuesday 5 May

St Richard Reynolds

Wednesday 6 May

Priests and Religious of the Diocese

Thursday 7 May

Friday 8 May

Saturday 9 May

SUNDAY 10 MAY
Fifth Sunday of Easter
People of the Parish
Monday 11 May
Tuesday 12 May
Wednesday 13 May
Our Lay of Fatima

Thursday 14 May
St Matthias - Apostle
Friday 15 May
Saturday 16 May

Attachments:

'Sunday Message' Mass Sheet.
Look & Ichthus for children.
Making an Act of Spiritual Communion
Pastoral message