

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COLLECT

Almighty and 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. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

Response:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

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.)

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.)

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

3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

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.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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,

just 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 Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray. O Lord,

that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,

so that the renewal constantly at work within us

may be the cause of our unending joy.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,

who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,

and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures

the sheep you have redeemed

by the Precious Blood of your Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Why is the image of Jesus as shepherd a powerful description of how he loves us and watches over us?

Would a shepherd ever lead his flock into danger? Do you find contentment and peace in knowing that Jesus considers us his to protect and watch over?

How does the world try to separate you from Jesus' flock? How does the world try to lure the flock away from Jesus?

Why do you believe in and follow Jesus? What do you expect as part of Jesus' flock?

How do you contribute to the common good of Jesus' flock by your presence?

What can be done to bring about one flock again? Does Jesus consider us all one flock? Do you think Jesus sees the difference we claim exist from denomination to denomination?

How does the church echo the voice of Jesus to us? How do we echo his voice to each other?

How can you help build up Jesus' flock? Are you willing to look for lost sheep as Jesus did?

GOSPEL ACTION

List some of the ways you experience Jesus as the good shepherd in your life. Ask another person about his or her relationship with Jesus. Share your faith stories with one another.

Readings – 5th Sunday of Easter Year B

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Second Reading: John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Homily

25th April 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), Year B

Dear friends, the image that is presented to us in the liturgy today to describe Jesus is that of a shepherd. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd and the sight of a shepherd leading his sheep to pasture would have been a very familiar one at the time of Jesus. In the Holy Land shepherds lead their sheep rather than drive them, they go first and the sheep follow. I think there are two important aspects to this; to follow someone (i) involves a choice on the part of those who are following and (ii) means that you have confidence in their ability to lead.

I have said before that the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the loveliest images we have of him. Jesus is presented as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep intimately and whose sheep know him. He tells his listeners of the love and the care that he has for them and for us; not just for us collectively as his flock, but for each one of us as individual members of his family. Those who follow him know his voice, the voice of the one who cares for them and lays down his life for them.

In Christian art images of Jesus showing the Good Shepherd carrying a sheep draped around his shoulders is one that has spoken to Christians from the earliest of times. The image portrays the close and personal nature of the relationship between Jesus and his followers. The shepherd having gone looking for one of his sheep that has wandered off, has found it and he carries it back to be reunited with the flock on his shoulders. There is a special bond that exists between Jesus and his sheep.

Jesus declares that he knows his own and his own know him, just as the Father knows him and he knows the Father. Jesus is saying that the very personal relationship that he has with his Father is the model of the equally personal relationship that he has with each one of us. Jesus knows us as intimately as the Father knows him, and he wants us to know him as intimately as he knows the Father. Jesus knows each one of us by name, he relates to us in a personal way and invites us to relate to him in a personal way. He wishes to enter into a personal relationship with each one of us. When Jesus says in the Gospel, **'I lay down my life for my sheep,'** he is saying that he lays down his life for each one of us individually.

The First Reading today talks about the stone that was rejected by the builders becoming the keystone of the building. This is a clear reference to Jesus himself, the rejected one. At times we too can feel like the rejected stone, for

Homily

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whatever reason. Yet we are never rejected in the Lord's eyes, he continues to call us in the way that is unique to us. He sees us as the keystone for some aspect of his work and he recognises the potential for good that is within each one of us.

Today is vocations Sunday when we are invited to commit ourselves anew to the call of Jesus the Good Shepherd, who loves and cares for us more than we could ever imagine. The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want, let's follow him always.

Sending love and prayers to you all. God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

25th April 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sun) Year B

St John reminds us that we are God's children. Let us bring our needs before him confident that he listens to all our prayers.

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark and all the leaders of the Church: may they be true shepherds to the flock of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves and all Christians: may we be people who care about those around us and so imitate the love of Christ the Good Shepherd;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in the world and an end to war, violence and hatred everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those who are sick, housebound or struggling in any way: that they may experience the healing love and grace of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For an increase in vocations, particularly to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Vera Ruane** and all those who have died recently: **"Eternal rest grant unto them..."**

For all those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ's message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say:
"Hail Mary..."

Loving Father,

We offer these and all our prayers to you,
through the Good Shepherd,
who is Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

25th April 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sun) Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen