

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul,
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COLLECT

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks!
'See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks -
when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David,
who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence.
And this is the name he will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22

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

1. 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. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing (R.)

4. 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. (R.)

SECOND READING 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,

says the Lord,

I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What do you suppose the apostles told Jesus when they returned from their ministry trips? How might they have interpreted the successes and failures of their mission?

How do you look at your own successes and failures? Do you find it difficult to forgive yourself for your failures?

How do you find spiritual refreshment when you are drained? Do you find greater nourishment in a lonely place or in the company of others? Why?

Where are your deserted places where prayer and meditation become easier? How do you find these quiet, out of the way places in the midst of busy days?

Have you ever shared the low points of your faith life with another person? What happened? Has anyone shared their low times with you?

When you recognize that someone is struggling in his or her faith life, do you keep quiet or reach out to them? Why?

GOSPEL ACTION

Resolve to find one or two new quiet places to pray this week. If you are not already doing so, begin to keep a spiritual journal. Look back over your faith life and discover the people or things that gave your faith a boost when you were feeling low.

Readings – 17th Sunday Year B

First Reading: 2Kings 2:42-44

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15

Homily

18th July 2021

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear friends, the readings today focus on Jesus who loves and cares for us as a shepherd and also the need to care for ourselves. In the first reading God warns against those who lead his people astray and scatter his flock. And in the Gospel Jesus and his disciples, who have just returned from their first mission, leave to get some rest. But when they are followed by the crowd, Jesus is moved by how lost the crowd is, he shows great compassion, he knows how much they need a shepherd and he spends time with them and teaches them at length.

Jesus is the one who loves us so much in our lives, more than we could ever imagine. The Psalm today is a lovely one and speaks to us of the Lord who is our shepherd and with him as shepherd there is nothing that we shall need or want as he is always there to help and guide us in our lives. I think this image of shepherd is a lovely one and one that speaks powerfully to us of the love and care that the Lord has for us collectively and individually as members of his flock.

In the Church 'pastoring' or 'shepherding' has always been an important image for leadership and care. I was privileged on Friday evening to be at St Anthony's in Wythenshawe as three young men were ordained priests for our Diocese. It was a great occasion although once again the numbers were limited and all the current restrictions were in place. However, pastoring is not just for those who are ordained or living a religious life. We are all called to be loving and caring, pastoral people, we are called to be good shepherds to all those whom we come into contact with.

This week our schools have finished for the summer holiday and all the members of staff, who have worked so hard over this last year, and pupils hopefully will be able to get a good rest and proper relaxation over these next few weeks. This is also a time to say goodbye to members of staff and pupils who are leaving our schools; we say goodbye and thank you this year to Mr Tony Boyle (St Mary's head) and Bernie Brown and Kim Wellens from SS Peter and Paul's who are leaving after a combined total of 64 years at SSPP, we say a big thank you to Tony, Bernie and Kim for all that they have done for our school communities, they will be missed, but we wish them well for long and happy retirements.

Rest is important, in the Gospel the disciples have just returned from their first missionary experience and Jesus tries to take them away to a lonely place so they can rest and recharge their batteries and spend time with him. We all need to do this in our lives, I know over the last 18 months or so it has not been possible to have proper holidays but we all need time to rest and relax and recharge our batteries and spend time with the Lord our shepherd. I hope that you will have an opportunity to do that over these coming weeks.

Take care and God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

18th July 2021 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

In faith and trust we place all our prayers before God our loving Father through Jesus the Good Shepherd.

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they bear witness to the presence of God in their lives as missionary disciples by preaching the Gospel of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: nourished by the Body & Blood of Christ may we reach out in love especially to those who are most in need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our world; may all they do be for the common good of the whole human family particularly those who are most poor and in need and for the care of the earth and all creation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all peoples that they may be drawn together in unity and peace, we especially pray for peace in the troubled areas of our world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those in our parish who are sick, housebound or finding life difficult that that they may experience the power of the healing peace, love and grace of Christ. 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 all the faithful departed especially **Ava Battersby and Mike Jarvis** 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 Jesus your Son,
who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

18th July 2021 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 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