

Reflection

from **Second Vatican Council**, *Lumen Gentium* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) article 6
21 November 1964

Thus the Church is a sheepfold whose one and necessary gateway is Christ (*John 10:1-10*).

It is also a flock, of which God foretold
that he would himself be the shepherd (*cf Isaiah 40:11, Ezekiel 34:11*),
and whose sheep, although watched over by human shepherds,
are nevertheless at all times led and brought to pasture by Christ himself,
the Good Shepherd and prince of shepherds (*cf John 10:11, 1 Peter 5:4*),
who gave his life for his sheep (*cf John 10:11-16*).

Prayer

Father, eternal shepherd,
watch over the flock redeemed by the blood of Christ
and lead us to the promised land.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP : PRAY FOR US

◀ Throughout these weeks of 'lockdown', when it is not possible to visit the church to light a candle, the votive light at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help burns night and day for us all - for our cares, prayers and intentions.

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Father Paul Dynan, Compton Glasgow, Father Tom Jordan, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

2-8 May: Barry Ladner, Jeanette Cerquella, Simon Osuji, Eileen Parkin, Fred Foster, Melville Montrose, Frank Ennis, Louise Marguerite Bennett and May Walsh.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **National Feast of the English Martyrs** – originally Pope Paul VI canonised a representative group of Forty Martyrs and their feastday was kept in October; Pope John Paul II canonised many more. This is now the day on which we recall the heroism of the hundreds of saints and blesseds, and thousands more of our forefathers, who gave their lives rather than deny the Faith 'that comes to us from the apostles'.

Wednesday is the **Diocesan Memorial of St John Payne** - a convert from near Peterborough, he was educated for the priesthood at Douai where he was ordained in 1576. He was based at Ingatestone until he was betrayed, and was executed at Chelmsford in 1582.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light burning in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Darren Margot.

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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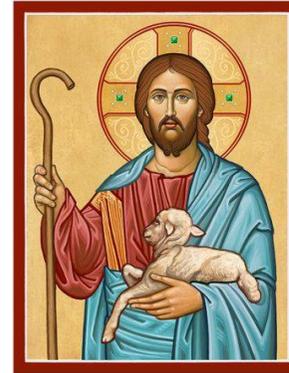
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Fourth Sunday of Easter *Prayers and Readings*

2-3 May 2020



*May you be filled with joy and hope
as we celebrate the resurrection.*

*Christ has conquered death
and is risen to newness of life!*

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic,
all public acts of worship are suspended
and churches are locked until further notice.*

*This newsletter includes readings from Sunday's Mass,
which you might like to use as an aid to prayer and reflection.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

available at any time on request

PARISH WEBSITE

www.corpuschristicollierrow.org

(for use at home)

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray to God our helper in time of distress.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
though your people walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would they fear;
for they follow in faith the call of the shepherd
whom you have sent for their hope and strength.

Attune our minds to the sound of his voice,
lead our steps in the path he has shown,
that we may know the strength of his outstretched arm
and enjoy the light of your presence for ever.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2: 14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with 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

Ps 22

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

I Peter 2: 20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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 Reading

John 10: 1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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."

Reflection

from **Pope Benedict XVI**, *Regina Caeli Address*, St Peter's Square, 15 May 2011

The Liturgy of the Fourth Sunday of Easter presents to us one of the most beautiful images that has portrayed the Lord Jesus since the earliest centuries of the Church: the Good Shepherd. The Gospel

of St John, in chapter 10, describes the special features of the relationship between Christ the Good Shepherd and his flock, a relationship so close that no one will ever be able to snatch sheep from his hand. Indeed, the sheep are united to him by a bond of love and of reciprocal knowledge, which guarantees to them the immeasurable gift of eternal life.

At the same time, the flock's attitude to the Good Shepherd, Christ, is presented by the Evangelist with two specific verbs: "*to listen*" and "*to follow*". These terms suggest the fundamental characteristics of those who live out the following of the Lord.

First of all by listening to his word, from which faith is born and by which it is nurtured. Only those who are attentive to the Lord's voice can assess in their own conscience the right decisions for acting in accordance with God. Thus the following of Jesus derives from listening: we act as disciples only after hearing and inwardly accepting the Master's teachings in order to put them into practice every day.

On this Sunday, therefore, it comes naturally to remember to God the pastors of the Church and those who are training to become pastors. I therefore invite you to say a special prayer for the bishops – including the Bishop of Rome! – for the parish priests, for all those who have responsibilities in the guidance of Christ's flock, so that they may be faithful and wise in carrying out their ministry. In particular, let us pray for vocations to the priesthood on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, so that effective workers in the Lord's harvest may never be lacking ...

Dear brothers and sisters, strengthened by the joy of Easter and of faith in the Risen One, let us entrust our resolutions and intentions to the Virgin Mary, Mother of every vocation, so that with her intercession she may bring forth and sustain many holy vocations for the service of the Church and of the world.

Prayers of Intercession

That the Good Shepherd may raise up in the Church those who will lead with gentleness and serve with love.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

That the rich nations of the world may share justly the abundance of the earth that rightly belongs to all people.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

That those who suffer as a result of the coronavirus may find strength in Christ who had first to suffer before entering into glory.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

That we may entrust our beloved dead to the One who judges justly so that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Spiritual Communion

At your feet, O my Jesus, I prostrate myself and I offer you repentance of my contrite heart, which is humbled in its nothingness and in your holy presence.

I adore you in the sacrament of your love.

I desire to receive you into the poor dwelling that my heart offers you.

While waiting for the happiness of sacramental Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit.

Come to me, O my Jesus, since I for my part, am coming to you.

May your love embrace my whole being in life and in death.

I believe in you, I hope in you, I love you. Amen.

This prayer is attributed to Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val and was recited by Pope Francis on 19 March 2020

(Merry del Val studied for the priesthood at Ushaw College, Durham and was Secretary of State to St Pope Pius X. He died in 1930)