

FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 2: 14.36-41

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

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

SECOND READING

1Peter 2:20-25

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.

**Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Jesus said to the Jews: "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 gate-keeper 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.

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St Anthony of Padua

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Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957);

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am (Sunday Morning)

Weekday Mass: Tue, Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Mon & Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: Saturday: 5.30 - 5.50pm

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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I Am the Gate

When we reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we have a cornucopia of themes on which to feast: loving; following; listening; being known; pastoring; nourishing; giving life; gentle caring; being lost and found. Each theme is a meal in itself, nourishing us as we reflect on its relevance in our own lives. In today's second reading Peter speaks about Jesus' response to suffering, especially undeserved suffering, leaving an example for us so that we can 'return to our Shepherd'.

"When we suffer, everything in us wants to blame somebody. We may feel that it releases our anger, but it doesn't really heal. Many studies have shown that most of the pain that we suffer is not from the incident itself, but it's our resistance to it. It's that constant voice that shouts, "This isn't fair. This shouldn't have happened to me. This is not right." Although these reactions may be justified, the trouble is that they destroy the soul, because we keep replaying those voices over and over again. Jesus shepherds the soul by walking through the gate first and then he says, "I am the gate." Life isn't fair and if we expect it always to be fair, we are going to live every day angry, bitter and disappointed. It's said that every expectation is a resentment waiting to happen. The way Jesus shepherds our soul is by leading us to a much deeper place where we don't immediately fight, resist and oppose everything that happens to us. I offer you the following prayer. When we first read it, we will probably think, "This is impossible. I can't do that." But when we can, we will find the grace to say 'Yes' to life before we start with 'No'. Most of us start the day with 'No. I don't like it; I resist it; I have to fix it, change it or even understand it' – when most of the time we can't. I offer this prayer, not because I know how to live it but because Jesus did it first and he will show us the way. (adapted from Richard Rohr)

The Welcoming Prayer (by Father Thomas Keating)

I welcome everything that comes to me today

because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I simply open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A 3rd May 2020

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 2nd May 2020

Sat	For our parish	
Sun	Barbara Twine	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter - Vocations</i>
Mon	George Ross	<i>Feast: The English Martyrs</i>
Tue	Margaret Murray	
Wed	Theresa Crook	
Thur	Jackie Sanders	
Fri	Special Intention	
Sat	Lily Anna Forrest-Cottam	
Sun	For our parish	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>

Masses received this week:

Theresa Crook, Hazel Patterson, Jean Maxwell, Peter Cairns;

Pastoral Letter

Traditionally the Bishop sends a Pastoral Letter for the Fourth Sunday of Easter - Vocations Sunday. You can read it on the Diocesan website - a copy is sent out with this Newsletter.

St. Anthony's SVP Group

SVP would like to up date you with the work they are doing at this present time, which has had to be curtailed because of the current situation. BUT due to your generosity they have been able to forward a cheque to the local food bank and distribution centre to help them in their work supporting families and people in need of help. In "normal" times they would have been buying and taking food, baby food, toiletries etc to the centre themselves. SVP will continue to help this way until the current situation ends. Thank you. God bless and keep you all safe.

CAFOD are presenting a Children's Liturgy Resource:

<https://clicktime.symantec.com/3A1A1tQpBQRPVu1KA2xW7MU6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fcafod.org.uk%2Feducation%2Fchildren-s-liturgy>

Please pray for: Joan Anderton, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Mary Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank & Norah Stanton, Teresa Clarkson, Betty Murphy, Marie Gardner, Karen Hardman, Carole Adnitt, Frances & Les Farrer.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers, those in research, the Government and all world leaders, all who are assisting the public in any way.

... for those who have died recently: Theresa Crook, Joanna Dutton,

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Bridget Rogers, Kenneth McKenzie, Dorothy Hedley, Goy McCann-Moon, Geraldine Fazio, Molly Rogers, Frances Fragle, Marie Coombes, George Ross, Christopher Cain, Audrey Cross, Lily Anna Forrest-Cottam, Moira Madden.

Church is closed - but our parish lives!

Today has long been called 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because the Gospel depicts Christ as the Good Shepherd. It has also, by tradition, become a special day on which to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. How can we positively encourage these vocations within our own parish? An important issue for us all!

CAFOD Emergency Appeal

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30th 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, or via the Presbytery. Thank you.

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster

Our Diocesan newspaper for May is available online— a smaller edition of 12 pages. See: http://www.diocese.cc/FileSystem/11/Private/Advertising/Proofs/LancasterMay2020_Final.pdf

Diocese of Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage 2020

This year's pilgrimage has had to be postponed and rescheduled to 23rd July 2021. We hope to be able to come together in prayer during the time we should have been united in Lourdes. Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us. Fr. Peter Sayer (Executive Director); Linda Wisdom (Director of Operations) Nikki Wisdom (Chief Nurse).

Share-IT! - Foodbank at Holy Family

Thank you for the several envelopes put through the door with donations for the Share-It foodbank. They have been passed on to Sister Eileen. Despite the restrictions Share-It! continues to do a great job in providing for those who are in need. Thank you.

Repeat notices

- **Thursday Mass** The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales are offering Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Workers and those working in Social Care every Thursday in their Cathedral sat 7.00pm. See Bishops' Conference webpage <http://cbcew.org.uk/> Bishop Paul will be saying Mass in our Cathedral at 7.00pm each Thursday and would urge us all to join him in Spiritual Communion.

- Fr. Peter continues to offer **Mass** on behalf of the parish every morning at 8am. If you wish Mass to be offered for any intention simply ask, either by phone or by e-mail.

- There are **Newsletters** every weekend as usual. Copies will be on St. Anthony's school website (and Holy Family website). If you would like one by e-mail send your e-mail address to parish.priest2@btinternet.com

We can supply the usual church **Children's Liturgy sheets** by e-mail. Just ask.

- we have a group of **volunteers** - they are dealing with a whole range of requests ranging from getting shopping to providing reassurance. Ring 724576 for help.

- **Bishop Paul's weekly video message** to the Diocese is on the Cathedral website www.lancastercathedral.org.uk

- **Funerals** may now only take place at the crematorium or the graveside. Attendance is limited to immediate family on government advice and social distancing must be kept. Later it will be possible to celebrate Mass in church for those who have died.