

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



How to be a Person of Discernment

The voice of Jesus the good shepherd is the one that offers us spiritual sustenance, guidance, love and protection. Jesus wants us to recognise his voice as the one who addresses what we are and what we stand for. Key to a healthy spiritual life is an overriding commitment to hearing the word of God and applying it to one's own life, but in a world of competing values can we always recognise the voice of Jesus?

The trick is to know that Jesus' voice is everywhere that encourages us to impact our world as Christians. Jesus' voice is the voice at work that encourages us to do our best. Jesus is the voice that encourages us to respond to family members and the wider community who are in need. Jesus' voice is the voice that tells us how to vote and how to campaign for those who do not have a voice of their own. The voice of the impostor on the other hand is everywhere that encourages us to act out of self-interest and greed. Sadly, this has to be an oversimplification. What seems to be the right answer for one person might be completely different for someone else. How is it that armies can fight each other, each believing that God is on their side? How is it that so many different denominations can interpret Jesus' words differently, each believing that they have got it right? How, throughout centuries of history, could heads of states have made such bitter and cruel decisions in God's name?

Clearly, recognising the voice of our shepherd isn't an easy task. Recognising the voice of our shepherd takes discernment, practice and continual self-evaluation. Have we all been doing the same things in the same way year in and year out? Is there anything we could be doing better? Recognising the voice of our shepherd relies on what we already know from scripture, and not what we fondly imagine Jesus might be telling us. Most importantly, recognising Jesus must always be rooted securely in the love for each other and in love for our enemies. If we adhere to this important commandment, then surely Jesus will find us, whoever we are. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears.



PARISH PRAYER – Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word and a new consecration to your service, that your love might grow among us and your kingdom come, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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3RD MAY 2020 – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year C

THE CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

Mass Times for the coming week		
4 th Week of Easter, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 4		
<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sunday, 3rd May	11:00 am	4 th Sunday of Easter
Monday, 4th May	12:00 Noon	The English Martyrs
Tuesday, 5th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Wednesday, 6th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Thursday, 7th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Friday, 8th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Saturday, 9th May	12:00 Noon	Easter Feria
Sunday, 10th May	11:00 am	5 th Sunday of Easter

A PRAYER IN SUFFERING

Dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I hold up all my weakness to your strength. My failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived without cowardice and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition and true love. Amen

The parish newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Anniversaries this week: Thomas Delahunt, Philomena Hutton, Hubert Barker, Winifred Gaylard, Patrick Charles Coyne, Eileen Barker, Ellen Harding, Tim Lynch, Molly Herbert, Trixie Gibbons and Frederick Dance. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits: If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – **Please pray for:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

Money Matters: I expect to be able to report on last month's standing orders/direct debits when the Bank Statement arrives shortly. Thank you to those who have been doing this for some considerable time and to those who have recently set up standing orders. It is a great help to the parish to have some income during the lockdown.

Diary Dates for this week – All parish group meetings are currently suspended while the church remains closed at this time.

Day of Prayer for Dereham: Thank you to all of you who joined in the Day of Prayer for Dereham. Christians from all the local churches participated in one way or another. It speaks to all of us about our unity in the faith in Jesus Christ and of the hope we have in our hearts and of our sense of community within the town. Our prayer for Dereham is not just on one day, however, but every day

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Alan for Good Shepherd Sunday. Please read this on the parish website.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday 3rd May 2020 - *“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.”* On this, Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

UCM Activities - The ladies of the UCM would like to report that despite lockdown and many of us socially isolating for 12 weeks, we have not been idle. On behalf of the parish we have twinned our toilet with one in Afghanistan, and the tap with one in Uganda. We hope this will be of immense help to people in villages living in great poverty with few facilities. When we are able to return to church, the certificates will be displayed for everyone to see. Although this is a UCM initiative, we have sent the money on behalf of

the whole parish. We are mindful, and very grateful for all the support we receive for our cake stalls, Christmas raffle and gift stall, as this is where our income is derived. We also sent a cheque for £100 to the Mid Norfolk Foodbank to help at this difficult time. Thank you for all your support, and we hope you approve of the way we have spent some of the money.

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for May 2020: For Deacons - As clergy numbers decline, the role of the deacon becomes increasingly more important. Deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, assist at Mass, administer the sacrament of Baptism, and officiate at weddings and funerals. Deacons may evangelise through helping the sick and needy. They may be school, hospital or prison chaplains. They may help others by managing their activities, assisting with catechesis, parish or community administration. This month Pope Francis invites us to join this month's prayer intention. *“We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.”*



Peace Actions for May 2020

- **Pray the Rosary** every day this month for world peace.
- **9th May is World Fair Trade Day.** Play your part in bringing about trade justice.
- **10th-16th May is Christian Aid Week.** As Coronavirus sweeps the globe, we are reminded how closely we are connected. Consider how you and your family can play a part in eradicating poverty.

Bitesize – *“The supreme end of education is expert discernment in all things--the power to tell the good from the bad, the genuine from the counterfeit, and to prefer the good and the genuine to the bad and the counterfeit.”* ~ Johnson



In Eastertide, we recite REGINA CÆLI in place of the ANGELUS:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.

For he, whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.

Has risen as he said, Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: *O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*