

# Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 4



## JESUS, THE MODEL SHEPHERD

(JOHN 10:11-18)

The readings from the Gospels continue to reflect on Jesus' fulfilling the mission given to him by the Father. He reflects on the difference between himself as "the model shepherd" and the one who simply does the job for money and is not committed to the members of the flock for any other reason.

The essential factor is that the paid employee has no meaningful relationship with those entrusted to his care: elsewhere, Jesus likens himself to the shepherd who knows all the sheep by name, illustrated by his addressing Mary Magdalene by name at the tomb on Easter Day. We might note that, although the Hebrew scriptures talk about the messianic shepherd who will gather the scattered people together, there is no notion of one who will give his life for the flock.

Jesus' commitment to the Father is shown by his being willing freely to lay down his life and take it up again, as he will demonstrate later in the washing of the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. Thus, what happens to Jesus is not some tragic accident, but rather "the command I have been given by my Father". It is in this mystery that the love of the Father will be revealed, difficult though it may be for us to understand. ■

### SAY

Jesus is the model shepherd: he knows my name.

(see John 10:11)

### LEARN

There is only one commandment in the Fourth Gospel: "love one another".

There is no equivalent to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew) or on the Plain (Luke) in the Gospel according to John.

The figure of the shepherd is used in the Hebrew scriptures to refer to the leaders of Israel, often in a context of criticism.

### DO

Notice the people in the street as you walk along: do you imagine Jesus having a general interest in their well-being or his having a personal interest in each one? How do you feel he relates to yourself?



## REFLECT

One reason why farmers apparently are reluctant to give names to their animals is that it makes them in a sense into pets and so would cause all sorts of problems when the time comes to send them to be slaughtered for their meat. On the other hand, there are stories of tough and seasoned shepherds being reduced to tears when their dog, which has been their companion perhaps for many years, has to be put down to spare it further suffering. The difference in reaction reveals the contrast in relationship. In our Gospel reading today, we are invited to reflect on what

the Easter mystery tells us about Jesus, ourselves and what being a disciple means.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus is not saying that he has power to lay down and take up his life again, so much as that he has authority to do so. He stresses that this is his own decision, freely taken. We might consider that what matters in the end is our own personal relationship with Jesus. It is easy to imagine the Church as a sea of anonymous faces, for example as pictures of St Peter's Square suggest: there is truth in this, that the

Church is the people of God, but not in the sense of an amorphous crowd: John's thought is that of a community of committed individuals, each with a personal relationship to Jesus, a relationship marked by love. There is very little ethical teaching, such as we find in the Synoptic Gospels, in the version according to John. This means that it can be more demanding: love is often more challenging – and exhausting – than simply living by rules imposed from outside ourselves. ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty 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,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Acts 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 117

Response:

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

or

**Alleluia!**

1. 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.)

2. 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.)

3. 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**

1 John 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**GOSPEL**

John 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.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

*(all bow during the next two lines)*

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**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.  
Amen.

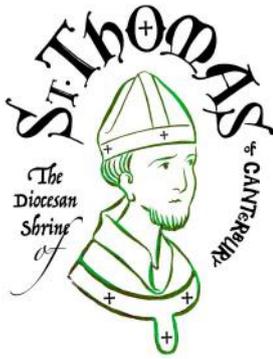
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**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.  
Amen.

# NEWSLETTER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>  St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: [johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: [tjherbst@gmail.com](mailto:tjherbst@gmail.com)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is open Mondays and Fridays  
9.30am to 3.00pm (closed 12.30 - 1pm for lunch)  
Linda works from home Tues & Thurs - please email

### ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00 pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

#### Sunday 25th Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter Jn 10: 11-18

8.00am: Francis Brown - RIP (2nd Anniv.) (Philomena)

9.30am: for the Filipino Community and families

11.00am: Carol Mary Kidby - RIP (Sue Purbrick)

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: Geoff Smart - RIP

2nd Collection:  
Priest' Training Fund

#### Monday 26th Apr: Feria

Jn 10: 1-10

7.30 am: Andrzej Czupkowski - RIP

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: John Delaney - RIP (Philomena Brown)

6.00pm: Live-streamed Prayer

#### Tuesday 27th Apr: Feria

Jn 10: 22-30

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Cordelia's Mother - RIP (Tessa Metcalfe)

6.00pm: Live-streamed Prayer

#### Wednesday 28th Apr: St Peter Chanel

Jn 12:44-50

7.30 am: Francis Brown - RIP (Eileen Brown)

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Wellbeing of Keven Cotton (Carol & Family)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

#### Thursday 29th Apr: St Catherine of Sienna Mt 11:25-30

7.30 am: John Delaney - RIP (Eileen Brown)

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Alan Skeet - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

#### Friday 30th Apr: St Pius V, Pope

Jn 14: 1-6

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Era - RIP (Eileen Brown)

1.00pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Charles Imoh - RIP (Sr Claire FMSL)

#### Saturday 1st May: St Joseph the Worker Mt 13:54-58

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation

10.30am: CHURCH CLOSED - Wedding of Megan & William

12 noon: Joseph McKee - RIP (McKee Family)

6.00 pm (Vigil): Private intentions of Novlyn Barreto

7.30 pm Rumanian Easter Service

#### Sunday 2nd May: Fifth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 1-8

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Michal Dabrowski - birthday (Maria Dabrowski)

11.00am: Mary & Matthew Qusted - RIP (Mary Reynolds)

6.00 pm: for the deceased owners of Novlyn's new home

### PARISH MATTERS

#### Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce

#### Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnett, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green, Paul Card, Alan Skeet, Rodolfo Ignacio, Isabella Bannon, HRH Prince Philip - Duke of Edinburgh and Dean Brazier

#### Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

John Todd and Maria Prado

#### COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

**This weekend: 24/25 April:** Ecclesiastical Education: this collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports ongoing formation of the clergy.

**Next weekend: 01/02 May:**

#### MIGRANT MASS

The 16<sup>th</sup> Migrant Mass is being hosted online this year by the Diocese of Southwark on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 at 11.20am from St. William of York, Forest Hill, London SE23. Please join the Mass at [Migrants Mass \(actionnetwork.org\)](https://migrants.mass.actionnetwork.org)

**SVP** are EXTREMELY GRATEFUL for Sunday's collection of £850. The demand for our services, including advice and emotional support, continues. Last weekend alone, following 6 requests, four from people previously unknown to us, we gave £325 in food vouchers plus £240 fuel top-up.

#### SHOP TABLE TOP CLEARANCE SALE.

Thank you so much for your generosity.  
We raised over £400.00!



#### SHOP OPENING HOURS

Our shop is currently operating from the Hall Foyer for safer social distancing.  
Our opening hours are : **Fri** : 11am - 3pm;  
**Sat**: 10.30am - 3pm, **Sun**: 930am - 12.30pm.

All of us, through our baptism and confirmation, have been called to a life of holiness. Our vocation is to be the person that God created us to be. Thomas Merton, in his book 'Seeds of Contemplation', says that this call to holiness, to be a saint, means to "to be myself. Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and discovering my true self." Within that call to holiness we all called to some form of service in the church. This can be as lay men and women, married or single, as men in the ministerial priesthood and a people consecrated in the religious life.

This Sunday, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a day when we are asked to think and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pope Francis, in his message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations, focuses on St Joseph. "God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognised the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal; to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers; hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays; times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of "the saints next door". At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey."

This weekend, let ask the Holy Spirit to stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the diocesan priesthood, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life and permanent diaconate.

May we be inspired daily to respond to God's call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability. We pray for the grace to remember our own baptismal call and so to invite the next generation to hear and respond to God's call.

May the Spirit guide parents and families to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service. May the spirit nudge inquirers and those discerning to learn more about monastic life, apostolic life, missionaries, cloistered contemplative life, and evangelical life. May the Church be set on fire with the confident humility so that there is an urgent need for religious sisters, brothers, deacons, and priests to live in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalised.

We pray that our comfortable lives and complacent attitudes be disrupted so that we respond courageously and creatively with a daily 'YES!'

#### GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 24/25 April 2021 Priest Training Fund 2nd Collection

This weekend is the World Day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. As members of the Church, we are encourage to pray earnestly for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. Next week we take up the second collection in support of the priest Training Fund which pays for the formation of Southwark Seminarian's and Deacons and the good work of our vocations team. Please be generous to this appeal. Your gifts will support 7 men currently in formation to the Priesthood for our Diocese. There will be donation envelopes available at Mass today, which can be used to Gift Aid your donation. You can also donate online via [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm), by scanning the QR code, or telephone on 020 7960 2504 (office hours Mon - Fri). Thank you for your prayers and generosity.



#### THE SHRINE PROJECT

You will remember our Church was designated a Diocesan Shrine in 2019. Canon Anthony has commissioned a design specification for our Martyr's Chapel as a fitting setting for our holy relics. This is the very earliest stages of the project and we have a lot to do to establish whether this design is right for us and how much it will cost if it is the right one. There will then be the small (!) matter of fundraising as well as establishing a team to put the project in operation.

At the moment, Canon Anthony wants to share with you the proposed design specification. It has been prepared by a well-known iconographer, Ian Knowles of Elias Icons (<https://www.artgiftedbygod.co.uk/profile/ianknowles/>). Details of the design specification will be displayed in the church near Our Lady's altar. Please let Fr Anthony and/or the Parish Office know if you have any views on the proposed design.

#### YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: 33 day consecration to St Joseph

Starting: 1<sup>st</sup> May St Joseph the Worker

Ending: 2<sup>nd</sup> June with consecration to St Joseph at 6.30pm in the Church

Follow the devotion at home using the book; Consecration to St Joseph: The Wonders of our Spiritual Father by Fr Donald Calloway. You can order the book online. Join us for the Litany to St Joseph after Livestream Evening Prayer (Monday-Friday)

**Holy Hour:** Beginning on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> May and throughout the 33 day consecration, there will be a Holy Hour between 10.30-11.30 am on Saturdays, starting with 15min input on the devotion to St Joseph.



**CONFIRMATION 2021** To all young people who started preparation in 2020 but could not complete due to Covid-19; and to those in Year 9 and above who would have joined in 2021: please contact **Linda in the parish office via email on :**

**canterbury@rcaos.org.uk** with your correct contact details (name, email and phone number) so that arrangements can be to complete the programme and celebrate Confirmation Mass.