



TO ACHE WITH COMPASSION

MARK 6:30-34

Today's Gospel describes the return of the Twelve whom Jesus sent out on mission. After they return, Jesus suggests they go away to a deserted place to recover, reflect and pray. Time apart in a deserted place will help the Twelve to understand more fully the mission they now share with him.

So Jesus and his disciples set out across the Sea of Galilee by boat. But the plan fails spectacularly. Seeing the boat, people recognise who the passengers are and race around the lake to meet Jesus and the disciples when they reach land. Mark says that the people came "from every town" around the lake. This is his way of letting us know just how popular Jesus was.

Mark says that Jesus "took pity on them". In Greek the text reads that "he was moved with compassion for them in his inward parts". In the Hebrew way of associating feelings to parts of the body, compassion was always associated with the womb. In the case of men, it was the intestine. While that may seem strange to us, it means that when Jesus sees the people gathered, he has such compassion for them that he feels it in the pit of his stomach. It's a really strong statement of the degree of feeling Jesus has for the people.

His reason for such a strong feeling is that the people "were like sheep without a shepherd". This phrase is used in the Old Testament to describe the people of Israel whenever they suffered from failed or negligent leadership. But Jesus will not fail and he will not neglect God's people. He will be the true shepherd. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be compassionate as you are compassionate. Amen."

PRAY

The biblical phrase "like sheep without a shepherd" describes those suffering from ineffective or defective leadership. Pray for those in authority in our Church, that they will be the kind of leaders we need.

LEARN

The Church teaches that action for justice is a constitutive part of living the Gospel. It is integral to the Christian way of life. Sharing God's vision, we confront injustice wherever we encounter it. We defend those who are poor and voiceless. We always work for the good of all.

DO

Visit (or FaceTime) someone who is sick this week, or in need of a kind word or support.



REFLECT

Care for people who were poor and oppressed was central to Jesus' life and ministry. He identified with them. He was born in poverty in an obscure town of a colonised country. He mixed with those on the margins – sinners, prostitutes, sick people, outcasts – to stress that nobody was excluded from God's love. He washed feet, a demeaning task reserved for servants and slaves. He died a failure. All Jesus said and did pointed to a new way of living in accord with God's vision of a kingdom of justice, love and peace. To act justly is key to Jesus' vision.

It's unfortunate that Catholics and non-Catholics alike tend to be more familiar with what the Church teaches about sex

than with what it teaches about social justice. But the Church has formulated a wonderful body of teaching on social justice, stretching back to Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* in 1891. This teaching embraces issues from workers' rights to the dangers of unregulated capitalism, from care for the politically and economically oppressed to opposition to capital punishment. In 2015, Pope Francis published the first papal encyclical devoted to the environment, *Laudato Si'*, placing care for the earth as a central tenet of the Church's mission.

The biblical emphasis on God's care for the poor and for all creation is the basis for the Church's focus on social issues and for its pro-life stance. In

his letter *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis stresses the need to protect the unborn. He goes on to say: "Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection." What Pope Francis is saying is that God's justice and compassion extends from womb to tomb. Jesus ached with compassion for all who suffered. Following the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we also look with compassion on those who need our help. We seek to ease their burdens. ■

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.

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

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,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 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

Ephesians 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.
Thanks be to God.

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

Mark 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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.
Amen.

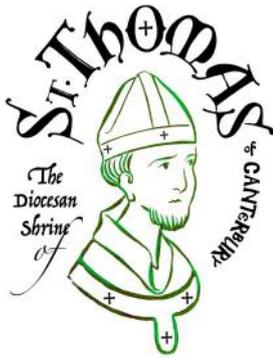
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**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.
Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: **01227 462896** Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

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

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton** email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: **Fr John Howard**

email: 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

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, Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 3.00pm
(closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm for lunch)

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00 pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

2nd Collect: **SVP**

Sunday, 18th July: Sixteenth Sunday (B) Mk 6: 30-34

8.00am: Dr Kazimierz Krynicki RIP (*Mrs Krynicki*)

9.30am: Tsige Buta - RIP (*Sherington Family*)

11.00am: for the intentions of Fr John Howard on the
1st Anniversary of his Ordination (*Joan & Linda*)

12.15: *Baptism of Andrew Thomas Hyner*

6.00 pm: Michael Cash and family (*Mary*)

Monday 19th July: Feria Mt 12: 38-42

7.30 am Private intention (Blows)

12 noon: Welfare of Barry Doherty (Elizabeth)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

6.00pm: *Parish Pastoral Council Meeting*

Tuesday 20th July: St Apollinaris Mt 12: 46-50

12 noon: Alan & Veronica - *ad multos annus*

6.00 pm: Live streamed Prayer

Wednesday 21st July: St Lawrence of Brindisi Mt 13:1-9

7.30 am: NO EARLY MASS

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Andrew Scott Martin RIP (Scott Martin)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene Jn 20:1-2; 11-18

7.30 am: NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: Philo, Hermino & Ossie Correa - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7 - 8pm: *Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John*

Friday 23rd July: St Bridget John 15: 1-8

12 noon: Linda's intentions

After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: NO MASS

Saturday 24th July: St Sharbel Makhluf Mt 13: 24-30

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Intention of Stephen Oly-Alawuba

6.00 pm (Vigil): Dominic Everson - birthday

Sunday, 25th July: Seventeenth Sunday (B) Jn 6:1-15

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: for the Filipino Community & Families

11.00am: Dominic Savvides - RIP (Jennifer Lang)

12.15: *Baptism of Fleur Cassar*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: Thanksgiving (Patty Baxter)

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), Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce and Sandra Monger

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

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, Dean Brazier, Marion Nash, Fr Kevin Alban (O.Carm), Apollonia Citro, Bianca Wood, Deideri Maria (Vedova Roffinella) and Angelina Glynn

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

Anthony Kenny, Maria Daniels and Hannalore Hall

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 17/18 July: SVP Collection Please give generously as usual to our local branch of the SVP who work within our immediate community

Next weekend: 24/25 July: No Second Collection

Summertime 2021 Altar Servers Summer Break

Tuesday 3 – Friday 6 August

Following last year's cancellation, we are pleased to announce that this annual activity is back for altar servers aged 10 - 15 years within Southwark Diocese. Summertime 2021 will take place at the Oratory School in Reading For more details, please see poster and forms in the Narthex or contact Fr Stephen Boyle, Chaplain to the Guild of St. Stephen. Tel: 01322 220075

Enclosure of Lady Loretta de Braose 800th Anniversary Symposium Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th at St Stephen's Hackington.

SECOND COLLECTIONS GIFT AIDING

Thank you to all who so generously support our regular second collections. When making these donations, please do not use your Parish Gift Aid ordinary envelopes (small envelopes with an unique number) for donations to **SVP** or **CAFOD** or other organisations because we cannot, by law, transfer gift aid donations between organisations. SVP and CAFOD gift aid envelopes are available in the Narthex or please speak to Linda in the office. Your help is appreciated.

From Fr Anthony ...

Yesterday, Saturday 17th July, two men were ordained priest in St George Cathedral by Archbishop John. Please do pray for them. They are Matthew Donnelly and David Hunter. You might remember Matthew. He was here in the parish for three weeks on a pastoral placement and also he went, as a helper, with our Loudres group to Hosanna House. He has been appointed as assistant priest to Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon. Today, 18th July, is the first anniversary of Fr John Howard's ordination to the priesthood. He is very much in our prayers and we thank God for his year of service with us. It is so good to have him with us and hopefully in the coming year, with the lifting of restrictions, he will be able to be more involved with our local schools.

I love those words in the opening prayer from the Mass on the anniversary of the ordination of a priest: "Holy Father, who by no merit of my own, chose me for communion with the eternal priesthood of your Christ and for the ministry of your Church. Grant that I may be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of your mysteries."

For myself I had thoughts about becoming a priest while in Primary school and it was the example and personality of my parish priest at the time who affirmed and encouraged these thoughts. He was a man of great humour and great humanity. It was clear from his life that being a priest didn't mean that you were somehow other worldly. Having Christ at the centre of your life didn't mean that you were somehow cut off or remote from the ordinary everyday concerns of life. He was certainly an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel through the example of his life.

Priests are called pastors, these are men called to relate to those in his care as a shepherd cares for the sheep. In the first reading today the prophet Jeremiah cries out: "You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them." The Lord promised: "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!

Pope Francis has emphasised that priests must be joyful, stubborn shepherds who take risks and seek out even those who are most distant from God, in imitation of the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ. "A shepherd after the heart of God has a heart sufficiently free to set aside his own concerns. He does not live by calculating his gains or how long he has worked: he is not an accountant of the Spirit, but a Good Samaritan who seeks out those in need."

As a priest I ask forgiveness for the many times I have failed to be a caring shepherd, and ask your prayers that as a priest I may have the heart of the Good Shepherd.

Safeguarding – Volunteers - Disclosure & Barring – Re-check Meeting 18th July 2021

This is the **last** Sunday for submission of forms in the Church Hall any time between 09h00 and 16h00
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Safeguarding Representative, Peter Jones, on the safeguarding email Canterburysg2@safeguardraos.org.uk

Harvest Festival -26th September, The Social Committee are arranging a display in the church and items collected will be donated to Catching Lives. Hopefully some activities will take place in the hall; more details to follow.

'Grief in Loss, Hope in the Lord' retreat for those who have lost a loved one through death. A time to mourn and share with others. Aylesford Priory 8-10th October 2021. For more information, please contact the Retreat House 01622 717272 or email enquiry@thefriars.org.uk

Christian Aid sponsored Walk Tuesday 27 July 2010. Elham Valley Way.. See details on the notice board

Diocesan Annual Marriage Mass Sat October 9 2021 St George's Cathedral, Southwark at **noon**. Please contact Carole on mflkent@raos.org.uk if you are celebrating your 1, 10, 25, 40, 50 or 60 year wedding anniversary and would like to attend the annual marriage mass.

Archbishop John Wilson wrote to me this week

"Thank you so much for the warm welcome when I came to Canterbury. It was a real joy to be with you, to see our church, and of course, to celebrate the Mass of the Translation of the relics of St Thomas Becket in the Cathedral. It was delightful and I am very grateful to you and to both Johns for the hospitality and organisation. It was also lovely to bless the refurbished shop and to meet with people who serve there. Please pass on my sincere thanks to everyone in the parish."



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mary's Meals has a new job opportunity in the London/SE England region. The role of 'Supporter Engagement Officer' is an exciting and varied one which will suit someone with good organisational and people skills. The closing date is 19th July. Job details are here <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/useful-links/work-for-us/supporter-engagement-officer-london>

The **11th Annual GK Chesterton Walking Pilgrimage** will take place on Saturday 24th July 2021. You can sponsor Stuart as he raises funds for Good Counsel on this 27 mile walk here; www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gkcwalk21 You can email prayer intentions to be prayed for along the way, to; catholicgkcsociety@yahoo.co.uk You can join us for Mass or part of the walk on the day or even just join us by saying the GK Chesterton Prayer