

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. ■

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

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?



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.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
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Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
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We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

MASS BOOKINGS:

On Monday 26th April you can book for Masses from Sunday 2nd May to Saturday 8th May.

PLEASE remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend, and book **on** the Monday – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

CONFESSIONS

By appointment only for now. Please contact the **parish office** to book an appointment.

NEWSLETTERS

We are currently still not able to offer any printed material in church. Please bring your own newsletter with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

4th Week of Easter (Year B)

Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream

Sunday 25 April

10.15am Mass
2.00pm Mass in Polish
6.30pm Mass

Fourth Sunday of Easter

(Patrick O'Sullivan, RIP)
(Special intention)

Monday 26 April

9am Mass

(Special intention)

Tuesday 27 April

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 28 April

7pm Mass

(Special intention)

Thursday 29 April

9.30am Mass

St Catherine of Siena

(Mark Castle, special intentions)

Friday 30 April

7pm Mass

(Special intention)

Saturday 1 May

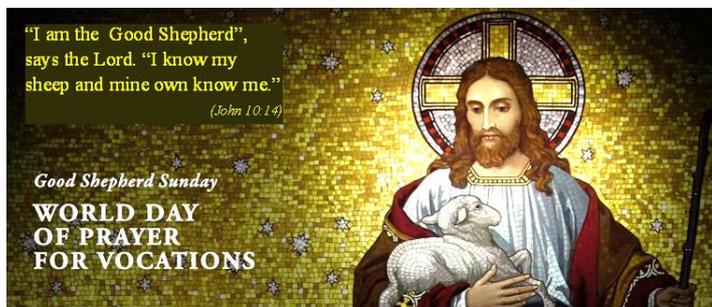
12pm Mass

(Clementina Guarracino, RIP)



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



VACANCY

Senior Leader, St Edmund's School

Our Governors are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and inspirational leader to join our Headteacher in leading our successful and much-loved school. This is an exciting opportunity to become a key member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Calls to discuss this position further with our Headteacher, Mrs Maria Delany-White are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk) to request an application pack.

Closing date: Friday 7th May 2021 (noon)



PENTECOST CHALLENGE

Friends of the Holy Land are organising a *Pentecost Challenge* which consists of walking, cycling, running or swimming the 84-mile pilgrimage route from Bethlehem to Nazareth. The aim is to enable children to stay in Christian schools. If you aren't sporty, you can just make a donation online (**please don't put it into the church collection**). For more information, please visit: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost

LORD OF THE HARVEST.

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace.

Amen.

(Adapted from a message by Pope Francis)



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

In response to a request from the 'Let's Be Honest' working group, the Bishops have chosen Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. So this year it will be on **Tuesday 4th May**. In this season of hope and new life, this is not a penitential day for the failure of the Church and others to respond to the scourge of abuse, but a day of prayer for those who have been abused.

Bishop David Oakley and the 'Let's Be Honest' Group have produced some materials for use on that day and the surrounding days, which can be accessed on the News page of our website. Much of the material in this resource has been written by and with survivors.

COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

The collection this weekend is for the *Clergy Training Fund*. Donations can also be made via the News page on our website.