

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Who Wants to be a Sheep! - Who wants to be likened to a sheep! Sheep are seen as silly animals that follow each other blindly and do not act or think for themselves. When Jesus invites us to be 'his flock', he is not asking us to behave like sheep, rather his is asking us to think of him as our 'good shepherd'. As followers, we are not asked to follow blindly, we are asked to discern his voice and his values in a world full of distractions and competing values.

From the moment we get out of bed in the morning there are a million and one demands vying for our attention. We make a list of things we have to do in a day and discover we have more things to do than hours to do them in. Most of the things we have to do are things that we will get into trouble for if we don't do them. We have to go to work or we won't get paid. We have to do the housework or we will be considered dysfunctional. We have to pay the bills or we will receive a court summons. We have to help our children with their homework or we will get disapproving letters home from the head teacher. Finding time to listen for Jesus' voice probably isn't on our 'list-to-do'.

The good news is that we don't have to add Jesus to the list; Jesus is part of the list. The trick is to know, that Jesus' voice is in every little job that we do, and in each one of our day to day activities. We don't need a special time to sit down and listen to what Jesus is telling us. Hearing Jesus' voice is a habit we need to develop on a day to day basis. 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, the voice that encourages us not to gossip, the voice that encourages us not to ignore the person who needs a lift at home time. 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. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears from the first moment we get out of bed in the morning to last thing at night.

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.

**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 Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

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

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7TH MAY 2017 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses – Page 262 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Donor's Int.
Sunday	9.00 am	Donor's Int.
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass

Entry 6pm – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 804 – The king of love my shepherd is ...

Offertory Hymn 779 – O God, you search me and you know me ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 807 – Praise, my soul, the king of heaven ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 5.30pm, or on request / by appointment

Weekday Mass Times	(4 th week of Easter)	[Psalter Week 4]
Mon.	10.00 am	Easter Feria – Int. Barnwell Family
Tues.	No Mass today	Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Easter Feria – Int. Patrick Monaghan
Thurs.	10.00 am	Easter Feria – Donor's Int.
Fri.	10.00 am	Easter Feria – Donor's Int.
Sat.	10.30 am	Easter Feria – Donor's Int.
	6.00 pm	5 th SUNDAY OF EASTER – Donor's Int.

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

Anniversaries this week: Eileen Barker, Ellen Harding, Tim Lynch, Molly Herbert, Trixie Gibbons, Frederick Dance, Eric Atkinson Brown and Ann Dent. *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 (QEII), King’s Lynn, 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 Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell and Robert Anderson.

Money Matters – The collection for the maintenance of the parish last weekend amounted to £439.29. Thank you for your generosity. This weekend, there is a **retiring collection for the Priests’ Training Fund** and, for parishioners who are tax payers, there are Gift Aid envelopes available for use at the back of church if desired.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Mon. 8 th May	AA group – 7.30pm-9.00pm in Emmaus Room
Wed. 10 th May	UCM meeting – 11.00am in Emmaus Room
Fri. 12 th May	SVP Monthly Coffee Morning. After Mass. All Welcome.
Sat. 13 th May	Saturday Club – 11am in Emmaus Room

World Day of Prayer for Vocations - Today the Church celebrates the call to the priesthood and the consecrated life. We remember other callings at other times, but on this day we pray especially for those God is calling to be consecrated or to be ordained.

A Date for Altar Servers' Diaries: 27th May - Altar Servers' Mass at St. John's Cathedral on May 27th at 12.00 noon, followed by a B-B-Q. Families of servers are also invited. We will need to submit the numbers of those wishing to attend to the Bishop's P.A. A list will be put up. I cannot be with you this year as I will be on holiday.

Young Adults Pilgrimage to Santiago - walking the Camino - The Diocesan Youth Service is organising a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in the last week of July. For those age 18 - 35. For more information see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Children’s Pilgrimage to Walsingham: Tuesday, 30th May 2017 – This annual Diocesan pilgrimage for children takes place during school half-term holiday. The day will begin with a procession from the village at 10.45am, walking to the shrine along the safe path (formerly the railway line), with pauses for prayer along the way. Mass will be celebrated at 12.00 noon, with Bishop Alan, and afterwards with a picnic in the meadow. It is hoped to finish the day on the beach at nearby Wells-Next-the-Sea. Children

provide the music for Mass, serve and read. Any musicians or servers from the Parish would be welcomed. Parishes are asked to let Christine Storman know if they are bringing a group to ensure the children are included in the Welcome and possibly involve them more in the day. Contact Christine on 01493 717121 or email: chrissies18@hotmail.com

Newman Lectures - The 2017 Newman Lectures begin at UEA this Monday, May 8th at 6.30pm in the Julian Study Centre. The first speaker is Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland, who is speaking on Church and State in Ireland. The Newman Lectures are free to attend, and parking at UEA is also free. Future lecture dates are: 15th May: Dr Caroline Farey of The School of the Annunciation speaking on ‘Catholic Culture and Sacred Art’, and 22nd May: Professor John Charmley of St Mary’s University, Twickenham, speaking on ‘Churchill and the Churches’.

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for May - Christians in Africa - Africa is a wounded continent. It is bleeding from tribal, racial, and religious conflicts. As the European colonial powers departed in the 20th Century, they left behind a legacy of corruption and exploitation of resources that continues. For healing and change to occur, mercy is required. Visiting a refugee camp, Pope Francis said: “We must work and pray and do everything possible for peace. But without love, without friendship, without tolerance, without forgiveness, peace is not possible.” This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis’ prayer intention for May: “...**That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.**”

In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI 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.

Bitesize

“You do not wake up one morning a bad person. It happens by a thousand tiny surrenders of self-respect to self-interest.” ~ *Robert Brault*