

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Thought Word and Deed

Jesus is the 'Good Shepherd' and we are his flock or are we? It's easy to call ourselves Catholics or Christians, but unless we act like it we are only Catholics in name. How can we call Jesus our shepherd or our role model yet not model our behaviour after the most basic of church teachings? How can we be a part of Jesus' flock if we condone violence, ignore poverty or harbour un-Christian attitudes? To be truly part of Jesus' flock we have to be

Christians not just in name, but in thought word and deed.

Today Jesus tells us how to live our lives. "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Hearing Jesus' voice and following him is no easy task. Jesus asks us to follow him in many individual ways. Imagine how sad it would be to meet Jesus on Judgment Day, to hear him say, "Didn't you hear me? I was inviting you to travel the world, open a nursing home research a new drug, become a campaign leader, make a film, write a book, adopt a child, raise funds for a well in a third world country or become a missionary. Weren't you listening?" How would we reply? "Well.... I thought I was listening... but perhaps I was spending too much time watching TV or following Facebook!"

Deciding to follow Jesus might take some radical thinking and a good deal of courage, but for those who make that decision, Jesus promises "... I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."

Bite Size

"When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep."

Author Unknown

**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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17TH APRIL 2016 - 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses – Page 268 of Parish Mass Book

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

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 269 – At the Lamb's high feast we sing ...

Offertory Hymn 762 – At the name of Jesus ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 877 – Will you come and follow me ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (4th week of Easter) [*Psalter Week 4*]

Mon.	10.00 am	V. & E. Brady and Family - Easter Feria
Tues.	No Mass today	- Easter Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	No Mass today	- Easter Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Una O'Dwyer - Easter Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Rosemary Oakes - Easter Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Donor's Int. - ST. GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND (Solemnity)
	6.00 pm	Hugh Rogers - 5 th Sunday of Easter

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

Anniversaries this week: Enid Whatmore, Bernard Reddington, Edwin Gatt, Margaret Warner, Frederick Hetherington, Tony Lannon, William Robertson and William Gibbons. *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, Michael Reavey, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Pat Grout and Pam Clark.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend amounted to £488.48 and £512.00 was given to the parish by standing order in March. Thank you for your continuing support. The retiring collection today is for the Priests' Training Fund.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2016 – Sunday, 17th April marks the 53rd Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfil the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. For anyone thinking about a religious vocation www.ukreligiouslife.org/ is a great starting point.

Parish Census – For those who missed the census last week, there is an opportunity to complete the form this weekend. Cards and pens are on the chairs. Please complete the card and return it after Mass. Thank you.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Sat. 23rd Apr. – Saturday Club meets – 11.00am in Emmaus Room.

The Ministry of Priests Programme is on at Clare Priory this week and so there will not be a Mass on Wednesday morning.

Union of Catholic Mothers - £55.80 was raised from our recent cake stall, all monies going to the UCM nominated charities. Many thanks to all who baked, donated and bought.

The 2016 Newman Lectures at UEA on Monday Evenings through April – The Lectures continue on April 18th, when Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor will be the speaker, followed by Bishop Philip Egan on April 25th. Lectures begin at 6.30pm in the Julian Study at UEA, and are free to all.

News from our Rome Correspondent – "The Easter Octave is over, and we are back in the thick of it as essays, reading and teaching – all of the students here take turns at leading seminars and class presentations – add to the overall workload. But Easter was indeed a blessed time, with all of the Triduum liturgies in-house at the college and being conducted in the spirit of reverence, simplicity and full and active participation by the congregation. We are now enjoying the fruits of Eastertide, and the only slightly worrying aspect of this is the unaccountably tall Paschal candle, which towers around 12 feet over the sanctuary: for what it's worth, I don't think that the daily ritual of lighting it would pass any reasonable health & safety risk assessment, and the rather rickety stepladder used in the process looks less than secure.

For the time being, however, I don't have the dubious honour of carrying out this task. That is reserved for the second year students who were recently instituted as acolytes and so are now involved in most of the serving roles during the liturgy: the ceremony at which second year seminarians become acolytes takes place each spring here at the college, just as the ordination of third years as deacons occurs in June (at the end of the academic year) and the ordination of graduating students from the fourth year as priests occurs shortly after the end of studies in late June or July; this typically takes place in the home dioceses of each seminarian, being carried out by their own bishop.

Us first years have our own milestone next month on May 11th, when we are instituted as lectors (or readers) as the first formal step in our preparation for ministry; and as always I humbly ask for your prayers and thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting all of the seminarians of this diocese. All of you were very much in my thoughts during Lent and Easter, and I look forward to seeing you again in the summer. Best wishes now and always. *In Christ, Mike Brookes, (Currently enduring the heat of Rome, for which I expect no sympathy at all)."*

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.