



Jesus: The Good Shepherd

In the Gospels Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock. He isn't forced into this role; the Scriptures tell us just how freely God behaves. We see in the actions and words of Jesus the words and actions of a God who, literally, lays down his life for his flock. He is the fulfilment of all that has been said of God in the Old Testament.

The Good Shepherd is one of us. He is the innocent lamb whose sacrifice takes our sins away. No longer does the shepherd lord it over his flock; instead, he leads and guides the flock.

One of Us

We are already the children of God and, in Jesus, we see what that word means. Jesus the Nazarene is one with us, and also one with God. In his humanity he brings the image of the Good Shepherd close to us, so we now know that God cares, and holds us in our need for love and forgiveness. God is not a distant God, he is with us and understands us from within our own stories.

Some Have Betrayed

Those of us who have heard the call to follow the Good Shepherd follow his example and become the caring hands, the listening ears, the tired feet of a pilgrim people. We are the presence of the Good Shepherd in the life of the Church. We know only too well that some of those whom the Lord called have fallen away from the example of the Good Shepherd and, instead of listening to Jesus' flock, have betrayed him and become wolves among the little ones. However, the reality of sin must never be allowed to blemish the image of the true Good Shepherd, which is Christ Jesus the Nazarene.

Faithful Followers

As we pray this Sunday for vocations, let us pray that those who hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow him will always be faithful representatives of Jesus the Nazarene, the one who came to serve and not to be served, the one who laid down his life for his sheep. ■

Summary

He is the Shepherd who became one with his flock.

The image of God as one who cares for his sheep tells us who God is in himself, and of his relationship with us.

We are the presence of the Good Shepherd in the life of the Church.

Question

How does the image of a Good Shepherd help us to understand God?

Prayer

Lord, may I follow you and so become your caring hands.



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 Vol. 46; No. 21; Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B; 21 Apr 2024; Readings: Acts 4:8-12, Psalm 117, 1John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18; Next Week: I Am The Vine.
 Sat 20 Apr Weekday : Sun 21 Apr Easter 4 : Mon 22 Apr Weekday : Tue 23 Apr St George; Adalbert of Prague : Wed 24 Apr St Fidelis of Sigmaringen : Thu 25 Apr St Mark Evangelist : Fri 26 Apr Weekday : Sat 27 Apr (Elphin: St Asicus) : Sun 28 Apr Easter 5.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Church : Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B, 21 Apr 2024

WALKING WITH THE PEOPLE

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as "Vocations' Sunday". It is the day on which we pray for the gift of priestly and religious vocations. Most of us who are either priests or religious say that we do not feel worthy of our vocation.

None of us chose by ourselves to be priests or sisters, brothers or nuns; we all admit that we have been called, chosen by the Good Shepherd himself, to follow him in this way of service.

The grace that we pray for this Sunday is for others to hear the call of the Lord, and to have the courage to follow it. However, the word "vocation" is not all about priests and religious. The word "vocation" applies to all Christians, most of whom have a vocation to marry and start a family.



The Shepherd Reveals God

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd reveals to us the mystery of who Jesus is – both God and man. Throughout the Old Testament, God is often presented as a shepherd who cares for his people, who guides them along the right paths if they are true to his name, the one who protects them from their enemies ... those wolves that attack and scatter the flock. The image of God as one who cares for his sheep tells us who God is in himself, and of his relationship with us.

Our God is not some angry, demanding god who despises his people and treats them as enemies. He is not a God who has to be placated and "jollied along". Rather the God we see in the Scriptures is a Good Shepherd caring for and watching over his people – those whom he loves.

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall (1964 – 2024, 60 years as a Parish)

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

Fourth Sunday of Easter 21st April 2024

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248
Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689 Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291

Mass Intentions Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th April 2024				
Monday	7.25	Thomas Arnold	10.00	Margaret O'Brien
Tuesday	7.25	Jack Hughes	10.00	Stephen Doyle
Wednesday	7.25	Stephen Doyle	10.00	Available
Thursday	7.25	Special Intention-Shop Mass Bouquets	10.00	Eddie Byrne
Friday	7.25	Tom O'Donohoe	10.00	Patrick Sutton
Saturday	10.00	Stephen Doyle	Confessions available after 10.00am Mass.	
	12.00	First Holy Communion Sacred Heart Boys School.		
	6.30pm	Months Mind Remembrance Mass Nora Meehan, Brian Gorman, Brendan O'Keeffe, Veronica Brennan, Kevin Lynch, Anne Woodford, Joan Finn, Sean O'Connor, Rita Colfer, Mary Carpenter, Dermot Downes, Bill Shiel		
Sunday	10.00	Available		
	11.30	Marie Malone, Margaret Hunter.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Stephen Doyle and Noel Bradshaw.

Easter Dues

The priests of the Parish wish to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all who have sent in their Easter Dues, your support is greatly appreciated.

Lay Ministry Collection, takes place next weekend at all Masses,

(April 27/28) and will replace the Share collection.

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock – some places still remaining

Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead the diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on **Saturday, April 27th**. This year we are celebrating 145 years since the apparition in 1879. **Our Lady of Victories** is organising a bus on the day. Leaving OLV at 7.45am, bring a packed lunch; leaving Knock 4.30pm after the Mass. Cost is €25. Contact Grainne 8420346 weekdays 10 – 1pm. See olv.ie for more details.

Lough Derg

2024 Pilgrimage Season is now available online. www.loughderg.org for more details.

Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie for more information.

Ballygall Community Centre (Fr. Maloney Hall)

The community council will hold its annual General Meeting on April 23rd @ 7.30pm. They encourage all Groups and Parties using the hall to consider sending a representative to this meeting in order to facilitate debate and interest in running the hall.

Glasnevin Tidy Towns

If you would like to lend a helping hand, this volunteer group meets up every second Saturday to tidy specific areas in our locality. The next date to meet is on Saturday 27th. April. The meeting point is at the shops at St. Pappins Road/Ballymun Road at 9.30am. It takes about an hour. All help greatly appreciated.

If you can, please donate online or over the phone.

Donations can be made online at

[https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation.](https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation)

Boxes can also be left into the sacristy after Mass



SeniorLine

Would like someone to talk to? SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10am-10pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91. Callers may feel isolated, alone, wish to discuss a problem in confidence, or for company during their day. SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support, to discuss options and to refer caller to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone if sharing a problem would help. Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91, open every day of the year 10am-10pm.