

ST. MARK'S PARISH

21st April 2024 – 4th Sunday of Easter Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 20th April	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 21st April		10:00am	Marion & Jack Burns (Ann)
Monday 22nd April		10:00am	Eileen Morgan (Sp Int)
Tuesday 23rd April		10:00am	John Cairns (Sp Int)
Thursday 25th April		10:00am	Gordon Holmes (RIP)
Friday 26th April		10:00am	Aileen Traynor (RIP)
Saturday 27th April	Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28th April		10:00am	James Kelly (Ann)
CONFESSIONS available before Sat Vigil 4.15-4.45pm and before Sun Mass 9.15-9.45am or upon request after any of the weekday Masses.			
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

ETERNAL SHEPHERD

In John's gospel there are a number of times when Jesus uses a very common phrase but invests it with much more meaning. The phrase is "I am". Among these famous phrases are "I am the bread of life", "I am the way the truth and the life", "I am the light of the world", "I am the door" and "I am the resurrection and the life". Next week we will hear him say "I am the vine" but today we come across Jesus saying "I am the good shepherd". We don't follow Jesus because we feel he has some good ideas that will help us get through hard times. We don't follow Jesus because he has a philosophy that makes us feel good and improves our self-image. We don't follow Jesus because we're just like sheep that would follow anyone who promised grass and water. We follow Jesus the Good Shepherd, because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and because the pastures that he offers us do not simply promise a better life but life itself. The shepherd leads his sheep. But we are not simply sheep that aimlessly follow wherever we are led or because there are some paths that we need to avoid. And so we need to listen out for the true voice of Jesus amid the conflicting sounds of our world as they lure us into thinking that they have the solution to all our promises. Where do we look to in order to hear this word? Where would we expect to find the word of God? We find it in the Church, in the sacraments and in the proclamation of scripture. And we find it in the voice of those who speak with God's accent. Yet there is no compulsion about belonging to Christ's flock. Christ is the shepherd not the sheepdog. We enter the fold of our own free will and we remain there on the same condition. What the shepherd offers is guidance and protection. And so we can celebrate our liturgy about the Good Shepherd by painting a woolly picture of some sheep on a mountainside, or we can accept that if we want to get the most out of life, to eat and drink where pastures are at their freshest, then we have to recognise who our shepherd is and to listen out for where he is leading us.



PARISH NEWS

WELCOME If you are just visiting our parish today or if this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, welcome back! We hope our time together unites us in God's love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD, ADORATION & BENEDICTION will be held every Monday evening during the Easter Season at 7pm in St. Mark's beginning on Monday 8th April.

SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend (20/21) in aid of the Ecclesiastical Students Fund. There will be boxes available at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate to this cause.

MASS INTENTIONS: When requesting a Mass to be said for a specific reason, it would be helpful to use a Mass Intention Envelope for each request detailing the name for whom the Mass is to be offered and the purpose of the intention *ie* death, anniversary, special intention etc. Although it may not always be possible to fulfil every request - should a specific date be chosen, however Fr Seán & Fr. Nick will endeavour to accommodate all requests as close to the specified date. Mass Intention Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM If you wish to have your child baptised, please arrange an appointment with Fr. Seán or Fr. Nick either after Mass, by calling the parish office or sending an email to the above listed email address. Please remember that at least one of the child's parents should be a practicing Catholic as should one of the chosen Godparents/Sponsors.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: April 100 club draw results and prizes are: **1st: #49 Lesley Ann Baird £30. 2nd: #46 Wendy Doran £10 and 3rd: #11 Peter Matulaitis £10.** Numbers are still available for anyone wishing to join.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd April @ 7.30pm. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Pro-Life Chain: SPUC's Pro-Life Chain will be the main event of Edinburgh's Festival of Life on Saturday 27 April at 11:00am on Lothian Road. It will be preceded by the Rosary at 10:00am at Sacred Heart Church on Lauriston Street.

SCIAF WEE BOX: if you availed of a SCIAF WEE BOX during Lent, could you please return it by the end of April. Then we will count and transfer the funds to SCIAF along with any Gift Aid information you may or may not have provided. Thank you.

St. Mark's	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible
VIGIL	79	£291	
SUNDAY	130	£405	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles [4:8-12]

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

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.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23.26.28-29]

Response: **The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.**

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.

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

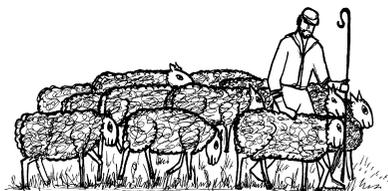
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

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.



Second Reading: A reading from the first letter of St John [3:1-2]

We shall see God as he really is.

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. © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman and Todd, and Doubleday and Co Inc., and used by permission.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John [10:11-18]

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

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.'

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