

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B
(THE GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY)**

Dear friends, the fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally called the Good Shepherd Sunday taking from the saying of Jesus in the Gospel reading "I am the Good Shepherd" (Jn.10:11-18). It's the World Day of Prayer for Vocation and the church invites us to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Each year on this Sunday there is a reading from John about the Good Shepherd and our bishop "The Shepherd of the diocese" writes us to instruct and to admonish. As a shepherd, he is to lead, feed, nurture, comforts, correct, and protect Christ's sheep. This is no easy job!! so the need to pray not just for more vocations but also for God's grace on those called to be Good shepherds like Jesus.

The readings today present the various dimensions and qualities of a good shepherd. In the first reading, Peter asserts unequivocally before the Jewish assembly that there is no salvation except through Christ, the Good Shepherd – the one whom the Jewish leaders have rejected and crucified and in whose name the apostles preach and heal. In the second reading, St. John tells us how Yahweh, the Good Shepherd of the Old Testament, expressed His love for us through His Son Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by making us His children. The Gospel reading presents Jesus who introduces himself as the "Good Shepherd." Jesus claims that as Good Shepherd he knows his sheep and loves them so much he is ready to die for them. The Gospel text offers us both comfort – Good Shepherd, knows us, provides for us and loves us – and a double challenge: to become good shepherds to those entrusted to our care and good sheep in our parish, the sheepfold of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Apparently, If the Lord is our Shepherd, we are his flock. He guides, leads and protects us as we read in Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want". Nevertheless, to think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land, they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky and often dangerous ground, amid boulders and rocky cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed to be on the alert to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So, Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our stubbornness, our mistakes and our fears. Just like Jesus, our Bishop John and our priests, we are called to be good shepherds wherever the Lord has placed us, as parents, teachers, nurses, doctors, managers etc. We must radiate the light of Christ and work hard to protect, guide and nourish the flock entrusted to our care.

Happy Good Shepherd Sunday!!!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ST MARY'S CONFERENCE

Food parcels will now be given out every 1st Sunday of the Month. Do not hesitate to let us know if there is anyone or families in dire need of food or clothing.

Legacies: when making your Will have you thought of leaving a legacy to the Parish or diocese?

Gift Aid: If you pay tax as for a Gift Aid form and your one-off signature we get an extra 25%

The Scottish Parliamentary Elections

As you begin considering how to vote please check out our Scottish Bishops Election Resource link: [Scottish Parliament Election 2021 – Catholic Parliamentary Office \(rcpolitics.org\)](http://Scottish Parliament Election 2021 – Catholic Parliamentary Office (rcpolitics.org)) It lets you know where political parties stand on issues that impinge upon our Catholic faith and life and is also being updated with particular candidates' positions on these matters.

Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below: www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

163 George Street, PA12UN
Tel: 0141-889-2602 Fax 0141-889-6756
Church Hall: 01418892602
Email: StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk
Website: www.stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter Year B (The Good Shepherd Sunday)

Parish Mass & Prayer Times

Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 9:30am
Wednesday @7:00pm

Exposition/Adoration: Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:00am

Confessions: Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:00am

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil @ 4pm, & 5pm,
Sunday @ 11:00am & 12:00noon



N/B Because of the limited number allowed, we appeal to everyone to make use of the booking system on our Parish website www.stmaryrcpaisley.com to book a ticket for the weekend mass you wish to attend.

Baptism: Arrange with the priest

Marriage: Give at least six months notice (see Fr Jude)

SUNDAY HOLY MASS

FIRST READING: Acts 4:8-12

Psalm Response: "The Stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone"

SECOND READING: 1st John 3:1-2

GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 133

PARISH NOTICE

NEW HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT APPEAL

So far, we have raised **£21,170** with the interest free loan of **£4000** from a parishioner, making a total of **£25,170.00**. We appeal for more support as the total sum of the project is **£29,000**. You can send your donation to the Chapel house with your name or send a cheque payable to St Mary's Parish. If you wish to make bank transfer kindly use our Parish Account details: **Sort Code:80-09-29 Acc.No.00783824**. We thank our parishioners who recently set up a monthly direct debit of **£20**.

2021 Offertory Envelopes:

Are available now. This year boxes will be accompanied with a letter of appeal from Our Bishop asking for more assistance from everyone for the church. If you can pick up for your neighbour or our parishioners that are still shielding, please do. If you are a new parishioner and a UK tax payer, why not consider signing up for gift aid and have your name on our offertory envelope. Speak to Jim McKeown or Jim Kerr for details. Please support our parish

Special Collection this Sunday - Vocations and Ecclesiastical Students

This collection pays for our Paisley seminarians studying in Rome. Currently we have four students whose seminary fees are £20,000 each per year, costing the Diocese a total of £80,000 per year. As well as supporting them this collection goes to the upkeep of our Scots College in Rome that welcomes many visitors from Scotland as a place of hospitality for Scots in Rome.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Fourth Sunday of Easter - 25th April 2021

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for those discerning a call to priesthood or religious life. Is that you? Speak to our Vocations Director, Fr. John Morrison tel: 0141 8895056 or e-mail vocations@rcdop.org.uk

New Heating System Donations



Now £25,170.00

Thank You!!



Special thanks to the special donors last week.

£100.00 (Cash)

£250.00(Cash)

£120 (Cheque)

£40 (Postal order)

Total: £510.00

1ST CONFESSION

TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021

1ST HOLY COMMUNION DATES

Saturday 8th May 2021 & 15th May 2021
@ 10:00am

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

TUESDAY 8TH JUNE @ 7:00PM

Our Lady Help Of Christians' Grotto/ Memorial Wall Bricks:

we are offering a late opportunity for anyone who wishes to purchase a brick or bricks for their loved ones. If you are interested, kindly speak to **Gerry or Kay Steel** as we intend installing the bricks at the end of the month.

Note: There will be an extra charge for installation for later purchases.

SCIAF Boxes: are available in the porch. Please take some home and help families grow their way out of poverty and hunger.

Scripture and Spirituality Conference 10th - 11th July 2021

John of the Cross and the experience of transforming love. This year's conference focuses on St. John of the Cross and his life changing teachings of how love can transform each and every one of us. Through six thought provoking talks, each of us can learn how to become beacons of light to greater reflect Christ and offer hope to a world in much need of healing. This year, we have been blessed with six renowned speakers, authors and experts, who will bring St. John's teachings to life and transform how we grow in our love and spirituality. For more information www.carmelite.uk.net/ssc or contact ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk Tel: 07849 596 572

Online Marriage Counselling available during Covid 19 Crisis

Our diocese has a Counselling Service for Catholics Married in the Catholic Church with our dedicated Catholic Marriage Counsellor. If you are concerned about your relationship and feel you are both unable to reach a conclusion alone, it is likely that you will benefit from marriage counselling. The counsellor is there to maintain a neutral, non-judgmental position. For information or advice please email in confidence counselling@rcdop.org.uk

Alpha Course in the Catholic Context - Diocese of Paisley Evangelisation Commission

Dear friends of Paisley diocese

The mission of the Church is to "Go, make disciples of all nations..." Matt 28. Alpha's mission is like it - we equip and serve the Church in its mission to help people discover and develop a relationship with Jesus. Jesus calls us to faithfulness to his mission regardless of the time and place we live. We know that 2020 has been a particularly challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic: lots of parishes are struggling financially; limitations on Mass attendance; parish ministries have had to reduce or stop altogether; continued social distancing has left priests and parishioners feeling disconnected and isolated; many priests feel overwhelmed and under resourced at this time. The idea of doing anything new can feel daunting, if not impossible. That's why, at Alpha, we want to help lighten that burden and equip parishes to raise leaders, share the good news of Jesus, connect people with each other and with God, and create community with other parishes. The team at Alpha - Catholic Context UK have developed new training for parishes in your diocese. This is a unique opportunity to be trained directly by the Alpha UK team to get up and running with Alpha Online. To register for training please click here. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Roche at michael.roche@alpha.org.

As a parish Community we pray especially for

Those who are sick

Christine McAllister John Allison Sarah Jessiman Sarah McCann
Martin Rogers John Kerr Ella Craig Winifred Kidd Declan Healy
John Doherty Alan Morrison Donna Sim Helen Mackey Ian Scott
Doreen Chin Anthony Cannon Jimmy McMenemy Jim O'Shea
Brian McLaughlin Ian Gallacher Mary Johnston
Joseph McEnhill

Those who are recently deceased

Frances Lockhart R. Grisco
Thomas Canavan (Funeral on Thursday)

Those whose anniversaries occur

Henry Graham Mary Tierney Janet Tait Noel Kidd
John Morgan Anne Cassidy Sr. Luisa Emilia Zoia
Sr. Maria Grazia Teruzzi Sr. Sandralisa Campadelli
Sr. Italina Serato Sr. Rosalba Bertoni