

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



4th Week of Easter, Year B
Sunday Cycle B, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week IV

“Jesus said:
‘I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd is one
who lays down his life for his sheep’.”

John 10:11

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A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

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Gospel Reflection

“The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death. In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds. The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity. As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father. In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.”

Please do visit the “Wednesday Word” Website each week for short Reflections on the Sunday Readings: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>

The Bohemian Choir

This choir from the University of Liberec in the Czech Republic performed in Our Lady's in 2021 and was very well received. They are paying another visit to Suffolk and will perform at Our Lady's on Thursday 25th April at 7:30 pm. Please come if you can. There is no charge.

Dates for your Diary

11/05/2024 – There will be a celebration of our Parish Diversity with an International Food Evening. More info will be available soon...

Children's Liturgy of The Word

Commencing on Sunday the 5th May 2024 and each Sunday thereafter (unless otherwise announced) during the 11am Mass for 3-8 year olds, who have not yet done their First Holy Communion. Please come directly to the Stella Maris Hall by 10.45am for registration and so that parents and children can be settled and ready to participate in the Mass and Children's Liturgy respectively. Leaders are DBS checked. Children, please come ready to engage with the Liturgy and leave snacks and drink until afterwards.

Knock Tour

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 26th May 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Inviting ALL young people in Year 8 upwards to the Ignite Festival 4th – 5th May

Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way at the Ignite Festival. The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff! Followed by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday May 6th. See www.ignitefestival.co.uk for more information.

Upcoming Second Collections for 2024

20th/21st April – Vocations Sunday – for the Formation of Priests.

11th/12th May – World Communications Sunday – Catholic Communications Network.

15th/16th June – Day for Life – Bishops' Conference Life Charities.

29th/30th June – Peter's Pence – The Holy Father's Charitable Works.

13th/14th July – Sea Sunday – the Work of Stella Maris.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £413.46 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£477). Your continued financial support for your parish, the diocese and the wider Universal Church is much needed and very much appreciated.

We Pray for...

We pray for all in our Parish who are currently unwell and who are suffering from illness of one kind or another, praying especially for the housebound who are not able to join us for regular worship. We pray also for those who have recently passed away and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time; may they rest in peace. Names of the Sick and the Deceased may be written in the Parish Prayer Books and will be prayed for.

Mass & Service Times for the Coming Week: April 21st – April 27th

- Saturday 20th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Kathleen Wood (RIP)
- Sunday 21st - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Odete Sousa & Joaquim De Sousa (RIP)
- Sunday 21st - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Josie Langan (RIP)
- Monday 22nd - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for: Michael Mills (RIP)
- Tuesday 23rd - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Solemnity, St George)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Wednesday 24th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Thursday 25th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Feast, St Mark)*
Offered for:
- Friday 26th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for: Mary Sheila Cox (RIP)
- Saturday 27th - NO MASS TODAY** *(Easter Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 27th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Elizabeth Summerville (RIP)
- Sunday 28th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 28th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(5th Sunday of Easter, Year B)*
Offered for: Rodger Potter (RIP)

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place every week during Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (from 9:30 to c.10am) following the 9am Mass on Saturday Morning. One may also make an appointment with Fr Pádraig for confession at another suitable time.
Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for someone, living or deceased, or for a particular intention (exams, interview, etc.), please collect a pre-printed envelope from the back of the church. Details of your request, including the preferred date, can then be entered on the front of the envelope (legibly please) and then your offering may be placed inside before being given to Fr Pádraig.
