

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 2:14,36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with
the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a
loud voice: "The whole House of Israel can be
certain that God has made this Jesus whom
you crucified both Lord and Christ."

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart
and said to Peter and the apostles, "What
must we do, brothers?" "You must repent,"
Peter answered "and every one of you must
be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for
the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive
the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that
was made is for you and your children, and
for all those who are far away, for all those
whom the Lord our God will call to himself."
He spoke to them for a long time using
many arguments, and he urged them, "Save
yourselves from this perverse generation."
They were convinced by his arguments,
and they accepted what he said and were
baptised. That very day about three thousand
were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 22

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**
or
Alleluia!

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing
punishment patiently when you are punished
after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do,
because Christ suffered for you and left an
example for you to follow the way he took.
He had not done anything wrong, and there
had been no perjury in his mouth. He was
insulted and did not retaliate with insults;
when he was tortured he made no threats
but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He
was bearing our faults in his own body on
the cross, so that we might die to our faults
and live for holiness; through his wounds you
have been healed. You had gone astray like
sheep but now you have come back to the
shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus said: "I tell you most solemnly, anyone
who does not enter the sheepfold through
the gate, but gets in some other way is a
thief and a brigand. The one who enters
through the gate is the shepherd of the flock;
the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear
his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep
and leads them out. When he has brought
out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the
sheep follow because they know his voice.
They never follow a stranger but run away
from him: they do not recognise the voice of
strangers."

Jesus told them this parable but they failed
to understand what he meant by telling it to
them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

"I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through
me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

(all bow during the next two lines)

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these
paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE WORD**SAFETY IN
NUMBERS?**

(JOHN 10:1-10)



During these Sundays of Easter, the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, describes the life and mission of the early Christian community. The extracts from the Gospel of John concentrate on the relationship of the individual disciple to Jesus.

In the image of the sheepfold, we can imagine more than one flock of sheep together. The animals do not have distinct markings, but this does not matter, as the way in which the particular shepherd gathers his own is to call them by name: the individual sheep recognises the voice of its own shepherd and comes obediently to him. The shepherd then walks off and the sheep follow trustfully: no need for dogs or whistles.

Jesus also describes himself as the gate of the sheepfold. Sometimes there was no gate or door to keep the sheep safe, so the shepherd would lie down across the opening and the shepherd's body would then become the barrier to protect the flock from predators. But Jesus is more than that. He is offering ultimate safety, which we call salvation, pasture which the prophets declared the messianic shepherd would provide, and finally abundant life. Jesus is also making a contrast between himself and the leaders of the people who have failed in their responsibilities to care properly for those entrusted to them. ■

REFLECT

This passage is leading up to Jesus' describing himself as the good shepherd, the model for all those who are given a position of authority in the community. He will act out dramatically what this entails when he washes the feet of his disciples to teach them that authority manifests itself in humble service. The ultimate expression of this dedication to others is to lay down one's life for them: we can see this most clearly in the likes of Archbishop Oscar Romero who followed the example of Jesus in caring for his people to the extent of literally giving his life for them.

We might think today about our relationship with the risen Jesus. We consider in this Easter season that he entered into glory by way of the cross, so the gratitude which we feel is an important part of our attitude towards Jesus. It is, in some ways, easier and less demanding to think of ourselves as one of the flock, one of the crowd, and that Jesus gave his life for a vast and anonymous group. But John the evangelist does not let us off so lightly. In the Gospel today, Jesus is presented as calling his own sheep out of the amalgamated flocks one by one. He knows and can recognise each member of his own flock. Each one must respond: each one must follow. To cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus rather than simply be a member of the congregation is a challenge which some of us might rather not face; but the proper relationship of the disciple with Jesus, according to the Fourth Gospel is love: no one else can do that for us. ■

LEARN

A sheepfold would be formed of a circular stone wall with an opening: it would have thorny branches on the top to deter predatory animals.

Shepherds in the area would bring their flocks to a common sheepfold for safety at night and put them in together.

Smaller, more remote sheepfolds would have no gate or attendant: the shepherd would lie down across the opening to keep the sheep in and predators out.

DO

Look at the congregation at Mass: do you find it easier to imagine yourself as just one of the crowd or as a guest invited personally to a celebration? Remember that Jesus, the good shepherd, knows your name.

**SAY**

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall
want (Psalm 22:1)**

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

NEWSLETTER

3rd May, 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

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Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, a day when we reflect on the pastoral nature of Our Lord's ministry of care to us all. We may feel like lost sheep at times, but he is always there for us. It is fitting on this day to remember and pray for all who have a ministry of Pastoral care, which is especially challenging at this time. We remember also those who are in training for the priesthood. Six new candidates for the Diocese will begin their training in September. Such training does not come cheap and so there is traditionally a special collection today for the Clergy Training Fund. Donations can be made through the parish arrangements (see below) but in this case it is probably simpler to make a donation directly through the Diocesan website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please also remember in your prayers the following who have died:

Jimmy Wilson, a long-standing parishioner and Bournemouth hotelier. He and his wife Tish moved away last year to be nearer family.

Also Stephen Buxton whose funeral will be this Thursday at 3.30 p.m.

May they rest in peace.

Fr Andrew is most grateful to those parishioners who, by one means or another, contributed generously to the Easter Offering.

A 'Thank you' to those who are using the 'Donate' button on the website. The 'Donate' button has the facility of adding a reference and also the option to Gift Aid any donation. Any donation with no specific reference will be treated as ordinary offertory. The parish's bank details are set out below for those who may wish to take out a standing order or make a bank transfer.

Bank: Lloyds
Account Name: PRCDTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Account Number: 00875075

Liturgical Calendar: Fr Andrew continues to offer mass privately.

With only one mass on Sundays – which is always said *For the People of the Parish* – additional intentions booked for Sundays will be moved to the nearest free day. To request mass intentions please email or phone the Parish Office.

Sunday May 3 rd	Fourth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
Monday 4 th	The English Martyrs	Judy Coltman RIP & Coltman Family
Tuesday 5 th	of 4 th week of Easter	Jimmy Wilson RIP
Wednesday 6 th	of 4 th week of Easter	Margaret Denbury RIP
Thursday 7 th	of 4 th week of Easter	Margaret Collins RIP
Friday 8 th	of 4 th week of Easter	Fr John Corcoran RIP
Saturday 9 th	of 4 th week of Easter	-
Sunday 10 th	Fifth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Philip Rockford and Germaine McAulay.