

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

EASTER IV (a)
May 3rd 2020



PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

I am the Good Shepherd

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EASTER IV (A)

Psalter Week 4

Introduction: Jesus the Good Shepherd promises rest and contentment to those who follow Him.

First Reading : Acts 2 : Peter urges his listeners to be baptised and turn to Christ

Resp.Ps. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT

Second Reading : 1 Pet 2: The disciples of Christ must be ready for persecution, and suffer as did Christ.

Gospel : Jn 10 : The Good Shepherd longs to gather all into his flock.

MASS INTENTIONS

God willing, Masses will be offered for:
Sheila Doyle RIP (WG), (J&RM), (MG);
S Furse RIP (PL); E Heffron RIP, & G McSherry RIP (JM);
Nora Gavin RIP (MG)

My thanks for your kindness in requesting Mass Intentions

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Phillippa Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time : Frs James McGhie, Rev Harry Tomlinson; Beryl Rawlinson, Keith Rule, Violet Harvey, Michael Thackeray, Brian Ellison, Colin Pitchford, Eileen Metcalfe: *Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord: may they rest in peace : Amen*

MAY HE REST IN PEACE We lament the death of **Mark Binks (89)** erstwhile of Printer's Fold, Hollingworth. He died on 28th April in hospital. Mark came to worship at St Charles with Ines his wife half a dozen years ago. He had served many years in Eucharistic Ministry in St Peter's, Stalybridge prior to enhancing St Charles congregation. His devotion to Our Lady and the Sacred Heart was inspiring as he journeyed to and from their candle stands after Mass. May our Blessed Mother escort him to her divine son, to enjoy his eternal rest.

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we journey into the fourth week of Eastertide. Ordinarily on this Good Shepherd Sunday we pray for an increase of vocations to the ordained ministry in our diocese (with a second collection to support their training). I'm sure you'll pray for that intention in your home & family church.

DEACON OWEN has kindly offered this reflection on Sunday's readings:

Every year on the fourth Sunday of Easter, we have a reading from somewhere in chapter 10 of John's Gospel, in which our Lord says that He is the gate of the sheepfold and then that He is the good shepherd. We have already seen Jesus in this Gospel giving a drink of living water to the Samaritan woman and food to a crowd of starving Galileans. Food and drink are symbols of eternal life, and probably of the Eucharist as well. The symbol of the shepherd is used in the Old Testament for the priests and kings of Israel (Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 34) and for God himself (Psalm 23). Is Jesus claiming to be priest or king or God himself in this passage? Probably all of them: John's Gospel usually speaks on many levels at the same time, and passages are packed with meaning. Is Jesus speaking of the Eucharist when he describes himself as the gate through which the sheep arrive at salvation? People argue about this, but I think it is true.

The reading from the first letter of Peter is very timely: it is written to people who are having a difficult time, encouraging them to understand their faith in a way which encourages them to be faithful in spite of the difficulties they face. No one is sure of what difficulties they had, or indeed of who they actually were, but that makes it easier for us to apply this letter to ourselves in these difficult times. Readings from this letter occur on most Sundays in Eastertide this year, but they don't together amount to the full text. This letter is only four or five pages long, and there is an excellent introduction to it on the North American bishops' website <http://uscgb.org/bible/1peter/0>. If you want, you can follow links from that page to the text of the letter and read it.

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS are honoured with a feastday on Monday. They suffered and died for fidelity to our church at the time of Reformation persecutions. May they intercede for us in our beleaguered country these days.

KINDLY PARISHIONERS occasionally bring church-collection to the rectory letterbox. Thank You! From time to time such offering may contain cheques. The bank is quite precise these days about payee-names. "St Charles church" or St Margaret's church" is perfectly and simply acceptable. And if you are setting up a BACS standing order or transfer, in the message box put HAD or BB or GAM. That's enough!

RESPONDING TO PASTORAL EMERGENCIES Fr Martin and Fr Daniel are taking turns at being the priest on call for 24 hours at a time. To ring the duty priest, at any hour of day or night, please phone the special number: 01457 620272. You will hear some information, then you can press a button on your phone to be connected automatically to whichever priest is on call.

DISCOVERIES

- ◆ A curious visitor chanced to pass at a leisurely pace through the rectory grounds: a stout pig named Bessie strolled by. She's visited before, and always draws a small (socially-distant) crowd of folk. She is a local pig, and her owner soon came and shuffled her off. It's been a while since I've spotted other curious visitors: a doe & fawn, a slinking fox or two, and any number of badgers. Are they all in lock-down too?
- ◆ This Sunday is Dawn-chorus day, and we are invited to listen to the early morning avian symphony:
- ◆ Only a 8 weeks ago I never thought I'd dig out my umbrella with such anticipation for permitted exercise; thank God for the rain!
- ◆ Parent great tits urging their fledgling offspring to take the leap of flight from the belfry tower

nesting site outside my window.

- ◆ *And on this Good Shepherd weekend to give thanks for the local farmers whose spring flocks of lambs confetti the fields of our area.*

SHEILA DOYLE RIP *Sheila's graveside service takes place at New Moston Catholic cemetery on Monday 11th. The cortege starts from Hadfield and comes to St Charles' church door for a prayerful pause & blessing at 11am that day. I know more than a few parishioners are choosing that time & place for their constitutional, and to pay respects.*

MY DAY BY DAY *for Eastertide sits on the rectory porch table—as do printed copies of this newsletter. If you are on your walk near St Charles, you are welcome to take one, and even another for a housebound friends or neighbour. No charge!*

HIERARCHY MESSAGE *The metropolitan archbishops of England and Wales, have issued an encouraging statement to guide us through these difficult days. This is an extract:*

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: *'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.'* (27 March 2020) None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare. On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise. We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing : Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; ✠Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool; ✠Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham; ✠George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff; ✠John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark. *You can find the complete text at the CBEW website.*

AND FINALLY *Parishioner Jimmy Dickson has sent this message:*

In these Eastertide days, our thoughts can turn to The Holy Land of Our Lord's birth, death and resurrection. Jimmy is a Knight of The Order of The Holy Sepulchre and is a Trustee and Secretary of The Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. This is established to raise funds to build a Day Centre and Hospice to meet the needs of the poor and elderly in that area. The knights and dames of the Order have so far raised some £250000 of an initial target of £2m to purchase a suitable property for this enterprise.

It has been a long and difficult road but following a meeting with local and national Israeli officials the Trust has been given a disused property suitable for renovation. The Holy Land Heritage Trust has agreed to provide an architect who will oversee the design of and actual renovation. Sadly the Holy Land is closed because of the pandemic so progress is on hold.

Furthermore Jimmy has been invited to speak at a World-Wide conference to be organised by and in The Vatican. This will enable us to attract volunteers to help with many aspects of the work to be done now and in the future. The audience will include young Volunteers from all over the Catholic world.

The invitation came personally from the Development Secretary to The Vatican and His Holiness has apparently asked to be kept informed of our work in The Holy Land.

Enjoy next Friday's bank holiday!