

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

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.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

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 were 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.

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

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.'

Readings of the day can be found on the Clifton Cathedral website: Faith; today's readings

*Jesus Christ is Risen, Alleluia*



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## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A**

### **First Reading: Acts 2:14,36-41**

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in 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 your 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.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22(23)**

The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

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.

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 me comfort.



Today is Good Shepherd Sunday; the Lord Jesus is our Shepherd and we are his sheep. Like a shepherd who knows every lamb in his flock, Jesus knows each one of us. The Church was built by the Lord Jesus to be a community of believers who are one in mind and heart. He has put us together in the Church to protect us and has appointed the Twelve Apostles and then Popes, bishops, priests, nuns, parents and godparents, to be shepherds in His place to protect and feed us. He has also given us the Scriptures that we might know His will and purpose in all areas of life.

We should fully know our shepherd, gladly listen to his voice, confidently follow him and willingly obey his teachings and commands. Because as long as we choose to live our lives according to the instructions of the Lord, we can rest assured of God's promise of abundant life. Everyday Jesus calls us by name and leads us out to the best places where we can find everlasting peace, joy, and fellowship with God and his people. He provides us with our daily bread. He feeds our souls with His word. He nourishes us with his own body and blood in the Eucharist. He guides us in prayer. He directs us in our moral life. He encourages us to face our daily challenges. He leads us through green pastures and still waters, and protects us from all evil. As our Shepherd, He provides salvation, safety, and sustenance for anyone who enters the community of believers.

Today is also 'Vocation Sunday'; we pray that more men and women offer themselves to God as priest, nun, religious or deacon. A parish priest once said that it saddened him that good catholic families in his care were reluctant to encourage a vocation in their children. As we pray for today's vocations, let us give thanks for the leadership of Pope Francis, his predecessors, Cardinal Nichols, Bishop Declan and the bishops of the United Kingdom; remembering too those who have died. We pray for our Parish Priest, Father Philip Thomas, that he will continue to preach the gospel, administer the sacraments and may we in turn continue to support him as he provides pastoral care to us. May we remember too the previous priests of both parishes; those who have died especially the last residential priest of St Michael's Mgr. William Mitchell and former parish priest of both parishes 'Fr Michael Davies. We remember too Deacon John Fothergill of St Peters who died in 2013. We offer our gratitude to all bishops and priests living and dead of the Diocese of Clifton. Those who are still with us that God may continue to guide them in their ministry and those who have died 'Eternal Rest' with God in his 'Heavenly Home'.

**We ask for your Prayers:** For those who are sick in mind and body, in our parish family, our own family, the people of Tetbury and Cirencester.

For those who have died recently especially of the Corona virus and all whose anniversaries are at this time.

In our Diocesan prayer link we remember the priest and parishioners of Devises and Lavington.

On Monday we celebrate the Feast of the English Martyrs.

**Parish Finances:** Thank you to all those who continue to support our parishes through standing order; this is a great way to support your parish. If you do not currently donate this way; it is easy to do, whether you pay tax and 'Gift Aid' your contribution or not, please email the parish office and a form will be sent to you. A cheque made payable for your parish would also be most welcome. Make the cheque payable to the parish and put through the door of St Peter's or the post box for St Michaels. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mass Obligation:** There is no Sunday or weekday Mass – the Sunday obligation has been lifted for the time being. We can still pray together and look after one another. We can take care of those around us who might be in need. We can build up a sense of community in the area in which we live and maybe we relearn the simple things of faith whilst we hunger for the Bread of Life in the Eucharist.

**Mass Livestreamed:** Several parishes throughout the country are livestreaming the Mass each day: Clifton Cathedral Sunday Mass is @ 9.30am; St John The Evangelist Church, Bath Sunday Mass is at 10.00am. Please check their website for weekday Mass times and also the Rosary and other services.

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things, and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to you, now and forever. Amen

**Memorare:** Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

We can still be instruments of peace, of joy, of faith and love in so many ways. We are a community of hope and faith and love, and we can still be proclaimers of the Gospel even when our normal, everyday routine is upset. May God watch over each and every one of us, and remind us – always – that he is near.

Please stay well and stay safe. God Bless.