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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Apostles 4:8-12

**Response to the Psalm:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

**Second reading:** 1 John 3:1-2

**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 10:11-18



**Dear Parishioners**

The early Church depicted Christ as a young shepherd lovingly caring for his sheep. In today's Gospel we find this image once more. We are reminded that it is Christ who knows each one of us, and that knowing gives us new life. He knows us and he knows the Father whose love he shares with us. This echoes the great command to love God and to love our neighbour. Here the knowing of which Christ speaks is one that binds us together. All those who hear his voice are drawn in unity to that one flock that knows the one true shepherd. Our knowing Christ makes us one. We are no hirelings.

This Sunday is designated as 'Vocations Sunday' or God's calling in our lives. Clearly each of us, as a Christian, has a calling that was born from the font of our baptism. Sadly, we take this vocation as a Christian for granted. If so, we need once again to hear the shepherd's voice calling to us amid our daily concerns and the loud drone of all our activities.

I think specifically though of those who may be called to the priesthood or the religious life. I do not believe that God suddenly stopped calling people to a religious vocation. Rather, today we so easily put God on hold. If you hear God speaking to your heart do not ignore such gentle voices. You might be at the start of your career and still a voice speaks to you. God calls us, but we for our part, must hear His voice. Do not reject the cornerstone of your life, do not refuse Christ's calling for you. Explore and discover if a religious vocation is part of you. At the end of the day, listening to this call is not wasted time. For the early Church the image of the youthful Christ shepherding his flock was an image of hope, let that same hope be yours. Hear the Shepherd's voice speaking to your heart

God Bless,  
Fr. Benedict OSB

# St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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Registered Charity Number 1063237

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

**Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B**

**Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (B)**

**Week commencing Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is responsible for our Parish and is committed to ensuring high standards of information security, privacy and transparency. Check our website, address above, for full details

### Masses

|                             |     |                                           |                          |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> April  | 5pm | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | Jill & Tony Smith<br>RIP |
| Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> April  |     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | People of the Parish     |
| Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> April  |     |                                           |                          |
| Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> April  |     |                                           | Susanna Westmeath<br>RIP |
| Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> April  |     |                                           |                          |
| Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> April |     |                                           |                          |
| Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> April  |     |                                           | Private Intention        |
| Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> May     | 5pm | <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | Sheila Hall RIP          |
| Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> May     |     | <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | People of the Parish     |

**Mass is celebrated daily except on Mondays.**

**If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery.**

**Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:** Faith Lyons, Steve Smith, Jane-Christina Thomson, Joan Smith, Derek Sollis, Michael Hall, Christopher Hurd, Edward O'Neill, Michael Smith, Barbara Wall, Mick Sollis, Margaret Birkett, Annie McHugh, Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Carol Shuck, Tony Lyons, Jackie Ingrams, Brian Arthur, Michelle Norton, Melvin Probyn, Peter Sollis, Fred Chadfield. Mary Cross, Alan Clatworthy, Anthony Woodhouse, Robinson Family.

**Those who have recently died:**

Jennifer Harvey, Anne Nora Finnegan, Mary Hadley, Barbara Flowers, Gerald Clarke, Alma Clarke, Eric George Dunton, Jill Smith, Paula Brookes, Jean McCarthy, Joe Brennan, Paul Bunn, Richard Flynn, Denis Charlton, Mary Gardner, Charles Maries, Sheila Hall, Donald Newell, Helen Meaney, Bridget Clarke, Sylvia Flanagan, Robert McCarthy, Pamela Young, Norah O'Neill-Thomas, Susanna Westmeath, Nell Bridge. Doleen Evans, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon, Judy Husband.

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:- Vacant**

### **Information**

A big thank you to Gemma Holdsworth for her loyal support and service to this parish over many years. She has served as the Parish Safeguarding Representative, Head of Children's Liturgy and a Minister of Communion, not to mention her support to me personally. Unfortunately for us Gemma has decided to resign from all her posts as living now in Bromsgrove she feels too distant to be a full member of our parish. We send her our prayers and best wishes and ask her to stay in touch.



### **PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this 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

*Based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori*

### **How to support your Parish**

We still have no idea what the government means by 'return to normal' after June 21<sup>st</sup>. It has been suggested that we will still have to continue with 'track and trace' and that face coverings and hand sanitisation will still need to take place. If this is correct, then presumably we will also need to continue to have the church cleaned after every service. Should this be the case the only way that this parish can continue is if we are able to put together a group of church cleaners who will be willing to be placed on a rota to **clean the church every Saturday evening after mass, and sometimes, if needed, during the week.** This is the only way we will be able to return to celebrating two masses on a weekend. If you feel you are able to help, then either telephone or email the parish office. Both the telephone number and email address are on the front of this bulletin and on the website. I look forward to hearing from you. God bless, Father Benedict OSB

**A big 'Thank You' to all those people who have sent cheques and cash over the last week. Please let us keep each other in our prayers**