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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Acts 2:1-4, 36-41

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**Second reading:** 1 Peter 2:20-25

**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

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Dear Parishioners

Today's gospel focuses on sheep and shepherds. The idea is that Christ is in some way like a shepherd – a good shepherd – one who looks after his sheep. Of course, Jesus is the best of all shepherds. He gathers a flock together, a flock which is the Church, making us, his sheep, part of his mystical body. He cares for his flock in every way he can. He seeks out the lost, whatever they may have done, in order to return them to his flock and he never stops trying to bring new people into his flock. Not only is he willing to defend his flock but ultimately, he gives up his life for it and he does all this because he wants to lead his flock to what God holds out for it – eternal life. Inevitably along the way difficulties must be faced. Fortunately, Christ prepared for them. Take the Last Supper: Christ's thoughts during that final Passover with his disciples were not about himself, but rather about the ones he had come to help, the ones he had come to save – human beings. And that was the disciples in the first instance of course, but beyond that to those who follow – us. Christ never stops trying to bring people into his flock, but we can help as well: sheep follow other sheep. If other people see the benefits that being a member of Christ's flock brings, then they'll be much more likely to seek out Christ themselves. Only Christ can justify, but we can encourage other people to open themselves to Christ's saving grace. And if we can do so then we'll be helping to pass on what we have received, just as Christ would want us to do.

**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



4th Sunday of Easter Year(A)

Week commencing Sunday 30th April 2023

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse
Contact in confidence sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk

Masses

Sat 29 th April	5.00pm	4 th Sunday of Easter (A)	People of the Parish
Sun 30 th April	10.30am	4 th Sunday of Easter (A)	Keith Cotterell RIP
Mon 1 st May			
Tues 2 nd May			
Wed 3 rd May			
Thur 4 th May		All Martyrs of England & Wales (F)	People of the Parish
Fri 5 th May			
Sat 6 th May	5.00pm	5 th Sunday of Easter (A)	Francis McLoughlin RIP
Sun 7 th May	10.30am	5 th Sunday of Easter (A)	Margaret Kickham RIP

Mass is celebrated privately daily except on Monday.

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, *please do not place it in the collection bag*. Thank you.

Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, , Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield. Alan Clatworthy, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Rachel Severn.

Those who have recently died: ,

Doleen Evans, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon, Judy Husband Graham Janes, Elizabeth Watton, Maurice Andrews, Max Stoddart. Tony Lyons, Michael Russell, Mary Cross, Agnes McIlravey, Helen McCarthy, Patricia O'Brien, Pauline Burton, Mary Judith Smith (nee Hewitt), Wyn Varley, Raimondo Gemeli, Anthony Woodhouse, Barbara Woodhouse, Kathleen McLoughlin, Peter McGoldrick, Anthony Roache, Lionel Quigley. Keith John Francis Cotterell.

Information

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting any new, unopened Christmas gifts and gift sets after Christmas for future fundraising sales. Please keep anything that you think might be saleable and check the bulletin for details of when we will be collecting these items. No alcohol. Thank you!

Sunday Coffee Today

Do please come and join us for after Mass this Sunday for coffee. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for coffee, cake and biscuits.

Second Collection

The weekly second collection will normally be for help towards the payment of the diocesan levy and the upkeep of the house and church buildings. Both the church and the house are Grade II listed so any work done has to be to a high standard as set by the requisite authority. Here are a few of the expenses for the coming year:

- Diocesan Levy £5,500 p.a.
- Building's upkeep £36,000.00
- Insurance £3,744.77 p.a.

At times the second collection will be for other charities and the details of these will be placed in the bulletin.

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