



THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD & ALL SOULS

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SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020

✠ **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** ✠

Good Shepherd Sunday

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Today is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. We are all encouraged to pray today for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Church is in great need of priests and consecrated religious, of that there is no doubt, but no less pressing is the need for **all** Christians to discern and live out the particular vocation that God has for them to achieve holiness. Pope Francis has written a message for today, which you can read [here](#), on our website. Other resources are available in **Praying for Vocations**. May God help each of us to find our way! God bless. Fr Paul

A Prayer to the Good Shepherd

by Saint Gregory of Nyssa

Where are you pasturing your flock, O good Shepherd, who carry the whole flock on your shoulders? (For the whole of human nature is one sheep and you have lifted it onto your shoulders). Show me the place of peace, lead me to the good grass that will nourish me, call me by name so that I, your sheep, hear your voice, and by your speech give me eternal life. Answer me, you whom my soul loves. Show me then (my soul says) where you pasture your flock, so that I can find that saving pasture too, and fill myself with the food of heaven without which no-one can come to eternal life, and run to the spring and fill myself with the drink of God. You give it, as from a spring, to those who thirst – water pouring from your side cut open by the lance, water that, to whoever drinks it, is a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

If you lead me to pasture here, you will make me lie down at noon, sleeping at peace and taking my rest in light unstained by any shade. For the noon has no shade and the sun stands far above the mountain peaks. You bring your flock to lie in this light when you bring your children to rest with you in your bed. But no-one can be judged worthy of this noonday rest who is not a child of light and a child of the day. Whoever has separated himself equally from the shadows of evening and morning, from where evil begins and evil ends, at noon he will lie down and the sun of righteousness will shine on him.

Show me, then (my soul says), how I should sleep and how I should graze, and where the path is to my noonday rest. Do not let me fall away from your flock because of ignorance, and find myself one of a flock of sheep that are not yours.

Thus my soul spoke, when she was anxious about the beauty that God's care had given her and wanted to know how she could keep this good fortune forever.

Celebrating, living and sharing God's word today



First reading

Acts 2: 14, 36-41

When Christianity drew pagan converts, they were curious about the short past of their new religion and its long roots in ancient Judaism. This section of Peter's Pentecost preaching tells part of that history.

Second reading

1 Peter 2: 20-25

The First Letter of Peter wants to give readers a sense of God's providence at work in the turbulent events they were enduring. Today the emphasis is on Jesus' unexpected responses to events in his life.

Gospel

John 10: 1-10

The original hearers of Saint John's gospel were exposed to many religious choices. Only one of those was the way to life.

✠ WORSHIP THIS WEEK ✠

DURING THE CURRENT PANDEMIC MASSES ARE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION AND LIVE-STREAMED

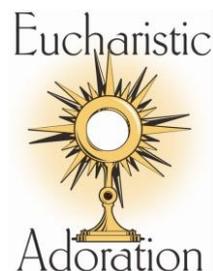
Sunday 3 rd	4 th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am MASS	<i>Jack & Bridie Carolan</i>
Monday 4 th	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	9.30am MASS	<i>Fr Joe McGovern</i>
Tuesday 5 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Josie McGrath</i>
Wednesday 6 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Mary & James Cunningham</i>
Thursday 7 th	Easter feria (<i>Later Mass time because of funeral</i>)	<u>10.30am Mass</u>	<i>Ann Pooler (funeral today)</i>
Friday 8 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Suzanne Cooke</i>
Saturday 9 th	Easter feria	9.30am Mass	<i>Paul, Stephen & Noel Cross</i>
Sunday 10 th	5 th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am MASS	<i>Tom & Dot O'Brien</i>

Daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12noon-1pm (live streamed)

PASTORAL NETWORK Thank you to all our volunteers who are phoning parishioners on a regular basis on behalf of the parish to make sure that they are well and safe, and also for a chat. Your efforts are being hugely appreciated by all.

A PEOPLE WHO HOPE IN CHRIST: A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales can be found on our website [here](#). Please take time to read these words of update and encouragement from our shepherds.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD At Mass today Fr Paul will read out Archbishop Bernard's pastoral letter addressed to all Catholics in the archdiocese. The text will also be available on the website. Please pass it on to others.



TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER

Our forebears were much quicker to fall to their knees and pray in times of crisis than we are. Modern men and women have a tendency to think of themselves as so clever and self-sufficient - able to solve every crisis for themselves - that they have no need of God. Advances in science and technology occupy the space where God

once was. But Science and Faith, Technology and Religion are not opponents in some zero-sum game. We need the brilliance of scientists and medical researchers and practitioners, but they are nothing without the God who holds them and all creation in his hand. Scientists are working like they've never worked before, and alongside then we need to be praying like we've never prayed before. **Every day from 12noon to 1pm** the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar in church and live-streamed for adoration and as a focus of prayer for an end to this pandemic, for the sick, the dying, the dead, the bereaved, for frontline and key workers, for scientists and medical researchers. Please bring all these needs to Christ in the silence of Adoration. It is time well spent. There are some prayers you may wish to use on our website home page.

LIVE-STREAMED DAILY MASS AT 9.30AM. If you have the means, please do join us for Mass on Sundays and during the week. Owing to the strain on the internet and our limited technology, the quality is not perfect, but I hope that people will suffer a bit of imperfection for the sake of maintaining a sense of parish community.

CATCHING THE RHYTHM Whilst each day is pretty much like every other at the moment, it is possible, and important for our spiritual well-being, to catch the rhythm of the Church's year. If you have a Missal with the lectionary (the scripture readings for each day) either in book form or electronically, do use them daily. Reading each day's Bible readings and praying the Collect of the

day will enrich and give shape to what might easily be an arid and contour-less time.

SUNDAY SPIRITUAL COMMUNION Please do remember to make an Act of Spiritual Communion each Sunday of the lockdown. Words for this are on our website [here](#). If you are watching the live-streamed Mass, simply pray this prayer at Holy Communion. If you are not watching the Mass, set aside some time in the day to make an Act of Spiritual Communion and to read the scripture readings of the day if you can access them.

JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER Every evening at 6pm around 15 parishioners gather on Zoom to pray the Evening Prayer of the Church together. As well as finding spiritual benefit from this, people are finding that daily vespers provides some welcome structure and discipline to the day. Why not join us yourself? Anyone is welcome. It's not a holy huddle! Just email Fr Paul at allsoulscof@gmail.com for the log-in details.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK Thursday 7 May: **Ann Pooler** (Canley crematorium). We pray for Ann and for her family. Please pray too for the repose of the soul of **Geoffrey Kirk**, whose funeral takes place on Monday in Yorkshire.

TOILETRIES FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS Thank you to the many people who are dropping off toiletries outside church for patients in the critical care units of University Hospital. The response has been amazing. Unused shower gel, spray deodorants, moisturising lotions, shaving foam, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes and new combs are most welcome. Please leave items in a bag and drop them in the box outside church if you're passing on your daily walk.

ONLINE DONATIONS TO THE PARISH The diocese has been receiving numerous enquiries from parishioners who would like to continue giving during this period when it is not possible to attend our parishes in person. The diocese has set up a system for parishioners to make online donations to their parish. There is a **donate** button (top right) on the home page of the diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk. From there, donations can be made to our parish via credit or debit card.

How to donate online Visit the diocesan webpage - www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk / Click on **Donate** (top right) / Click on **Donate** / Enter your **Contact details** / Click **next** and complete your **Payment details** / To make a donation to All Souls select **Coventry: Earlsdon** / Click on **I want to Gift Aid my donation** if you are able / Click **next** and enter your **card details** / Click on **Donate by card**.

Giving by Standing Order Perhaps you might also consider setting up a **standing order** to All Souls, as this remains the most cost-effective way for parishioners to donate. Please email allsoulscof@gmail.com to request the parish bank details

