

WELCOME

Good morning/ evening, and welcome to St Mary's Parish.

The sheep face a number of threats: thieves, robbers, strangers. Against all these the sheep find their safety and pasture by hearing, recognising, and following the voice of the shepherd. Surprisingly, as the Easter mystery makes clear, to reach the safety and pasture of abundant life we must first follow our Shepherd through the 'valley of darkness' (responsorial psalm) of suffering and death.

Please say "hello" to those next to you, and if you do not know those seated near you, introduce yourself and say "hello."

We now keep in mind our sick brothers and sisters, especially those in our newsletter.

Our presider this morning/evening is -

Please join us as we begin with the Processional Hymn.

First Reading

Acts 2:14, 36-41 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6 (JB)

R. 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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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

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. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:20-25 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:1-10 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

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 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

Celebrant: Gathered in the loving embrace of our Good Shepherd, we pray for the Church and the world.

Reader:

1. Let us pray for leaders of the Church, that they may serve as good shepherds of their flocks, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
2. Let us pray for world and civic leaders, that they may be guided by the loving compassion of the Good Shepherd, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
3. Let us pray for all who suffer from illness and for those who care for them, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
4. Let us pray for our Mother, the Earth, source of all greenness, that we may care for her with gentleness and justice, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
5. Let us pray for all of us here present, that we may recognise Jesus' voice in our lives and be ready and willing to serve where he leads us, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
6. Let us pray for Lily Mae Darney who is to be Baptised into the Catholic faith this weekend. May she always be close to God in this life and with Him in eternal joy. (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
7. Let us pray for those who have passed into eternal life, and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time. We also pray for those who have no one to remember them in their prayers. May they find eternal rest and comfort within God's own life and love. *Together we pray* (All) Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. (Pause) We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Shepherd of our lives, hear our prayers. Help us to be responsive to your call to serve in whatever ways you choose to lead us. This we ask in your name. Amen.