



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



April 30, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The image Good Shepherd evokes an atmosphere of trust, intimacy, and tenderness. The shepherd knows his sheep individually, he calls them by name and they follow Him because they recognize and trust him, He takes care of them, protects them like a treasure, and is ready to defend them in order to guarantee their well-being, to ensure they live in peace. They shall want nothing if the shepherd is with them.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI

READINGS

1st Reading **Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

2nd Reading **1 Pt 2:20b-25**

Gospel **Jn 10:1-10**

Introduction: Today is called Good Shepherd Sunday, and, appropriately, this day is also the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. Today, the Church calls us to reflect on the meaning of God's call for each of us and to pray for generous respondents God's personal call (vocation), to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life, because the entire Christian community shares the responsibility for fostering vocations. Both the Old and New Testaments use the image of a Shepherd and His flock to describe the unique relationship of God with Israel and Christ with Christians. The first reading is taken from St. Peter's first sermon, given on Pentecost. Here, he exhorts his listeners, Jewish people gathered for the Feast of Weeks – the "Sabbath" of the seven weeks that have elapsed since

Passover -- to know beyond any doubt that the One they have allowed to be crucified is the true Shepherd, whom God has made both Lord and Messiah. Peter then proclaims that the proper response to the Good News about Jesus is to repent and be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ," and thus to become members of the Good Shepherd's flock. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, they will receive forgiveness for their sins.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23), introduces Yahweh as the Good Shepherd of Israel and describes all of the things the Lord does for us, His sheep, in providing for our needs. The second reading, taken from Peter's First Letter to the Church, continues the "shepherd" imagery. Peter encourages the suffering Christians to follow in footsteps of their shepherd ("the suffering servant"), and to remember that they have been claimed by him. Peter also explains how Jesus, the innocent sufferer, was a model of patience and trust in God, and he reminds us that it is Jesus' suffering which has enabled us to become more fully children of God. In today's Gospel, two brief parables about sheep reveal Jesus as our unique means to salvation. He is the selfless, caring "shepherd" who provides protection and life itself, and he is the "sheep gate," the one gateway to eternal life.



A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Retrouvaille is a Catholic programme but is open to married couples of any faith, or none. It is offered as a gift from the Catholic Church to any married couple who wishes to heal the difficulties they are experiencing in their marriage. The programme is presented by trained volunteers who themselves have experienced the programme and want to share the benefits they have experienced first-hand in their own relationships. The presenting team on the weekend also includes a priest who has experienced the programme and believes that it has something to offer couples in difficulties.

All priests are invited to come and experience the programme for themselves for free. We do need priests to help us present the weekend - their presence is

highly valued by the couples on the weekend. Please consider coming to one of our weekends. Please help us to help couples in distress or crisis by publicising this programme. Do explore the 'Retrouvaille' website www.retrouvaille.org.uk for further information or contact us for a chat about what we are doing.

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided.

The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

For more information phone or text: 07887 296983 or

07973 380443

(Complete confidentiality assured)

APRIL 22/23 COLLECTIONS

Loose cash	131.62
Gift Aid	95
<u>Total</u>	<u>226.62</u>

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	Intentions
30/04/23		For the Parishioners
01/05/23	Hilary	Healing of Hilary
02/05/23	Maria and Breganza	Peace in the Family
03/05/23	Zuby Rodrigues	Peace in the Family
04/05/23	Sr. Liberta	For Prisoners
05/05/23	Hirosha	For Kama Hirosha
06/05/23	Carmelina	Birthday of Domingos Fernandes

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277

ANNIVERSARIES (April-29-May-5)

Aldheim Parfitt: Eileen O'Brien, Alice Mills, Raymond Clarke '77: Fr. Edward Swarbrick '95:, Fr. Mark Elvins OFMCap 2014, Pauline Foster, Mary Fleming, Fr. Matthew Kelly, Br. Joseph Marshall '76: Peter Caldwell '78: Jean McCormack '97, Noreen Roberts., Fr. Kenneth Connolly '81:

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>

Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

Phone: 01352 711053, **0741-749-4277**

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