

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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May 2nd/3rd 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

❖ Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

This is Good Shepherd Sunday, a day of special prayer for vocations. There is an enduring command of Christ for his Church to go out and preach to all nations. There is need for people of faith to accept this invitation and be prepared to dedicate their lives to this work for the sake of the Gospel.

❖ First Reading: (Acts 2:14; 36-41)

Here Peter proclaims Jesus as the risen Lord and encourages his hearers to repent and accept baptism.

❖ Second Reading: (1 Pet. 2:20-25)

Addressing slaves, Peter urges them to accept their unjust sufferings with patience as Christ, the Good Shepherd, bore his sufferings for love of us.

❖ Gospel: (John 19:1-10)

Jesus compares his love for his disciples to the love of a shepherd for his sheep.

Reflection

Compassion is not learned without suffering
Unless we have suffered and wept
We really don't understand what compassion is
Nor can we comfort someone who is suffering
Unless we have walked in darkness
We can't help wanderers find their way
But if we have suffered, we become pathfinders for others
And it is by reaching out to others
That we ourselves are healed
The wounds of Jesus were the proof of his love
They were the mortal wounds of the Good Shepherd
By his wounds we are healed.

Let us pray today for the dead, for those who, because of the virus, have lost their lives. In a particular way, let us pray for the health care workers who have died in these days, who gave their lives in the service of the sick.

For the month of **May** the **Rosary** will be said at 8pm in the Church.
Join in on the live stream on www.laurelodgeparish.ie/webcam

Vocations Sunday

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the National Vocations Office, email: info@vocations.ie

❖ Pray for the souls of:

Rafael Antonio Hernandez
Fr. Stan Brindley *and*
Fr. Gabriel O'Dowd

who died recently and all those who have died in Ireland.

❖ Remember also,

Áine Gallaghe, Giuseppi Fianza,
Séamus Ó Núnaín, Gerard O'Brien,
Peter O'Meara, Gerry Nangle,
Kathleen Frawley *and* Elsie Ryan

whose anniversaries occur at this time and all those whose names are on the Altar List of the Dead.