



*"I am the good shepherd"*

Today's Gospel speaks about sheep. This image of sheep would have been much more familiar to the audience that St. John was writing for than it is for us today. Jesus declares: *"I am the good shepherd"* twice in this reading. It's a key image of Jesus from the Gospels and has often found its way into religious art and music as consoling and comforting image.

Pope Francis has spoken about ministers having the "smell of their sheep", which suggests being close to the people they are caring for.

There is also a focus on listening in this parable. The sheep "listen" to the voice of Jesus. We too need to be attentive to the word of God in our lives. Father Martin Hogan says: *"We need that element of silence in our lives in our lives, at least occasionally."*

When referring to sheep and lambs. I often think how Jesus chose to appear as a lamb on the altar at the apparition at Knock. The Cistercian writer, Father Berchmans Walsh, said that Knock is the only apparition known to him in the world where the Lamb of God appears. I recall this particularly as we approach the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the parish office at Tel: 01-846 1561 if you would like to join the pilgrimage.

Saint John XXIII once said that *"the church is like an old village fountain and, from its tap, fresh water must always flow."* Reflecting on these words, Father Martin Hogan says that the church always has the responsibility to ensure that the fresh water of Jesus is always flowing.

In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks about the very close relationship that exists between the shepherd and his flock. As is said in the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians: *"the one who calls you is faithful."* (5:24). As we continue to journey through this Easter season, may we be inspired by the Good Shepherd as the one who *"lays down this life for his sheep."* **Deacon Gerard**

## *THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION*

will be celebrated for Candidates of 6<sup>th</sup> Class in **St. Marnock's NS on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am** and for **St. Helen's SNS on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 11.00am and 1.30p.m.** Each Candidate may be accompanied by 4 people which includes their Sponsor. Seating will be allocated through the Parish Office and School in advance of the ceremony. Please note that the **Parish Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am on both Confirmation days.** No other celebrations are possible in the church on the Confirmation Days. Every good wish and blessing to the young people and their Families in these final days of preparation.

*CONFIRMATION CONNECT MASSES* for **St. Helen's SNS** will be on the weekend of **27th-28th April.** (the weekend before the Confirmations).

Parents/Guardians are invited to bring the children to the Mass of their choice (6.30pm Sat Vigil / 10.30am Family Mass or 12noon) during which the **Ceremony of Light** will take place. Each Candidate should bring a candle, preferably their Baptism Candle, which will be lit by one of the Adults from the Easter Candle and handed on to the child. Full details have been sent to Parents/Guardians of all children Registered and Enrolled for Confirmation from the Parish Office.

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY:** Mass for **Vocations Sunday** will be broadcast at **11.00am on RTÉ One** Television on **Sunday 21st April** from the RTÉ studios in Donnybrook, Dublin. The celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore and Chair of the Bishops' Council for Vocations.

## *COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND*

First Collection	€ 1,215
Share	€ 1,050

**Good Friday**, Collection for the Holy Land €745  
We are very grateful for your continued support.

## *SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL*

The outdoor monthly Collection for St. Vincent de Paul will take place after all Masses this weekend.

TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI.

SATURDAY: 6.30PM (VIGIL), SUNDAY: 10.30AM. and 12 NOON. BAPTISMS 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL (SOME EXCEPTIONS AROUND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.). CONFESSIONS SAT. AFTER 6.30PM MASS, AFTER DAILY MASS (UNLESS THERE'S A FUNERAL), OR ON REQUEST.

**EASTER DUES** SINCERE THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS IMPORTANT COLLECTION FOR THE COMMON FUND WHICH SUPPORTS ALL OUR ACTIVE, SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. DUES MAY STILL BE LEFT IN THE SAFES IN THE CHURCH OR HANDED IN TO THE PARISH OFFICE OR SACRISTY.

### **SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**

The outdoor monthly Collection for St. Vincent de Paul will take place after all Masses this weekend.

**LAY MINISTRY COLLECTION** will take place on the weekend of April 27/28 and will replace the Share Collection.

### **ST PADRE PIO DEVOTIONS**

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Rosary 7.15p.m.; Mass 7.30p.m.

Followed by blessing with St. Pio Relic

#### **WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS**

##### **Recently Deceased**

**Lena McDermott, Carrickhill Drive**

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**6.30p.m.** Tom Ward, [A]; Statia Ward,[A];  
John McCarthy,[A]; Paul Carolan, [A];

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April**

**10.30a.m.** Patrick & Kathleen Toft,[A];  
Tom & Lil Toomey,[A]

**12 noon** Noel Kealy,[A]; Joe Reale,[10<sup>th</sup> A]; Brendan  
Savage,[A]; Patrick Carolan,[16<sup>th</sup> A]; Letty Fitzpatrick,[A];

### **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK**

Our Parish and Partnership group will join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock, led by Archbishop Farrell, on next **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April**. Coach will depart St. Anne's Church Carpark, Portmarnock at 7.30a.m. €60 pp which includes mid-morning refreshments and evening meal. Only a few places left – please book at the Parish Office.

### **PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

Will take place on the **15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024** accompanied by Canon John Flaherty, Spiritual Director. Please contact Pauline Geoghegan, 087 6293744.

### **ART CLASSES**

with Sinead Gregory, In the Parish Centre, starting back on the **15<sup>th</sup> April 2024: 10.30am – 12.30: 2pm-4pm. €35**

**POSTGRADUATE AND MISSION & MINISTRIES PROGRAMMES AT ST PATRICK'S PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY, MAYNOOTH.** Programme applications close from 30th June to 30th August for different programmes. Visit [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for more information.

### **PRISON SERVICE CHAPLAIN ROLE**

The Irish Prison Service is now recruiting for the role of Head Chaplain in the Irish Prison Service. For further information visit <https://www.irishprisons.ie/open-competition-for-head-chaplain-in-the-irish-prison-service/>. Please direct any queries regarding this competition to: [ipsrecruitment@irishprisons.ie](mailto:ipsrecruitment@irishprisons.ie). The closing time and date for applications is 3pm, Thursday, May 2.

### **ALL-IRELAND ROSARY RALLY**

**The All-Ireland Rosary Rally, Saturday, June 1, in Knock.** The day begins with a Marian Conference at 9.30am in St John's Centre. Bishop Phonsie Cullinan will be the Main Celebrant of the 3pm Mass, which will include Anointing of the Sick. Confessions are available throughout the day, and there will be rosary and scapular-making workshops in the marquee. For more information and to see a list of buses going from around Ireland please visit [www.AllIrelandRosaryRally.com](http://www.AllIrelandRosaryRally.com).

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit [www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie) for more information.

### **SENIORLINE**

Would like someone to talk to? SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10am-10pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91. Callers may feel isolated, alone, wish to discuss a problem in confidence, or for company during their day. SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support, to discuss options and to refer caller to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone if sharing a problem would help. Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91, open every day of the year 10am-10pm.

**DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION OF INTENTIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES AND NEWSLETTER ITEMS IS WEDNESDAY 4PM. ANY MASSES BOOKED AFTER THE DEADLINE CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER WHICH IS PRINTED ON THURSDAY MORNING. MANY THANKS.**

TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI.

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