

St German's Church

25 April 2021 - Easter IV



The image of the Good Shepherd was one of the earliest expressions of Christianity in art. That was because anyone could look at it and see an image of nurture, care, and goodness, regardless of whether they recognised its secret meaning for people of faith. Also, a shepherd makes for a more appealing picture than a stone rejected by builders, or a cornerstone. It looks as if our God has a human face, to help us relate to him simply and naturally. But it would be more accurate to say that we have a divine face to help us feel at home with God. Whichever way round we put it, it is because, through Christ, we are God's kin that we are drawn to him. It is also the reason that we have an innate capacity to grasp some tiny fraction of the divine mind. (Cally Hammond, Church Times 8249)

Parish Notes:

Welcome Back - to Fr Keith Kimber, who is presiding and preaching for us today.

Weekday Services - No mass this Monday.

Covid Risks Update - Please continue to adhere to social distancing and so go straight to their chair and at the end of the service leave orderly. Once outside in the carpark, catch ups and some fellowship is possible because it is much safer in terms of infection rates and chances of the coronavirus spreading. We are hopeful for some further freedoms to do with worship and singing in the coming weeks.

Gardening - Our gardening club meets on the first Saturday of each month at 11am (weather permitting). Please join us next Saturday 1st May.

Prayer for Christian Unity - usually happens in the Octave for unity in January or in and around Pentecost. This year we will pray for Christian Unity from Ascension to Pentecost whilst combining this with our usual Thy Kingdom Come novena.

PCC and AGM - Unfortunately current regulations only permit AGMs on zoom and we would prefer an AGM in person and so we will petition to have our AGM postponed until later in the year. There is likely to be another, extraordinary, parish AGM later in the year as we prepare for the new ministry area.

A Quiz Night open to all and led by Richard Davey, will take place later in May when it will be possible for people to meet in person in our hall. Donations of prizes will be welcome & all proceeds will support our Lenten charity. Date to be announced once we hear official guidance from government or Church in Wales.

Faith QI - meets on Wed 5 May via zoom at 7pm. Each time we explore a different topic related to our faith and spirituality. The next topic will be 'Whose in Charge? God, Authority and Power'.

Recently Departed - Rosaline Carew

This week:

Sun 25: Easter 4

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

Mon 26:

No Mass (St G)

Tues 27:

10:00 Mass (St S)

Wed 28:

10:00 Mass (St G)

Thur 29:

17:45 Mass (St S)

Fri 30:

No Mass (St S)

Sat 1:

No Mass (St S.)

Sun 2: Easter 5

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,
02922 411229,
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(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt
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www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org

READINGS THIS WEEK

Acts 4:8-12
Ps 118:1+8-9, 21-23,
26+21+29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Acts 9:26-31
Ps 22:26-27, 28+30,
31-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

PSALM RESPONSE

The stone which the
builders rejected has
become the corner
stone. (3vv)

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Acts.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Acts 4

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men; it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **R/**

I will thank you for you have answered and you are my saviour. The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **R/**

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; You are my God, I thank you. My God, I praise you. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **R/**

Psalm 118

SECOND READING

The Second Reading is from the first letter of John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Jn 3

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep
and my own know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father

knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

John 10

THE REGINA CAELI

Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia!
He who thou wast meet to bear alleluia!
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to him thy prayer, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad,
O virgin Mary, alleluia!

R./ For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray,
O God, by the resurrection of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have brought joy to the whole world: Grant that, by the help of his mother, the virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life; through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

TODAY'S HYMNS:

Immortal, invisible
Gifts of bread and wine
Loving shepherd of thy sheep
This Joyful Eastertide