

St German's Church

3 May 2020 - Easter IV



The image of the gate is not as well known as that of the shepherd and is more difficult to enter into, but if we make the effort it can be very touching. Leaders that are like a gate are the opposite of possessive; they are content to be the humble instruments through which others can 'go freely in and out', making their own way to 'life to the full'. A wonderful picture indeed of great parents, teachers, community leaders and friends. (Michel de Verteuil *Lectio Divina - Year A*)

We ask God to send us today, in the midst of this new pandemic crisis, people and leaders who will be like a gate to a sheepfold, happy to let others pass through on their way to fullness of life. Help us in our own contexts to always have an enabling openness to others seeking truth and life.

Parish Notes:

Easter Course - This year we will follow the 'Why on earth' course created by the Church Army. It builds on last year's Faith Pictures course and runs over 6 weeks. The topics for each week begin with the question 'why on earth' and then: faith v science; bother with the church; are Christians so judgemental; do bad things happen to good people; would I believe the Christian message; bother with Jesus. Each session has a video to watch and guided questions for our discussion. We will host a zoom meeting on these questions each Wednesday at 7pm. Ask Fr Phelim for details and an invitation. Session 2: why on earth do we bother with the Church is this coming Wednesday 6 May at 7pm.

Coronavirus Support - If you know of anyone who is in need or can't access food shopping or collecting medicines please let at least some of us know as we may be able to help.

Thank You for the Music - Many thanks to Brian Williams who both read for our online mass this week as well as providing some organ music to add more colour and variety to the service. If anyone else would like to add a reflection etc to future services just let Fr Phelim know.

Lift Up Your Hearts - Spiritual Support during the pandemic. We will make available for download also a weekly page prepared by the Church Times. If you can't access the internet please let us know and we will print out some copies that can be delivered posted to you.

Online Services - The liturgical life of our community continues with online services. The format of these are youtube videos taken in either our churches or in the vicarage. Church based videos are allowed involving the priest/minister and one other person to film or say the responses. We also have scope for other use of video in our exploration of digital ministry in this time of social isolation.

Foodbank - Please continue to donate food locally. For dropping off donated food Cardiff Foodbank Hub remains open in Splott on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 09:30-13:30 plus many supermarkets. Again see website for details.

Recently Departed -- Gwenllian Jones, Lorraine Boardman, Mark Evans, Barbara Tottle, John Edward Baker (RIP)

Llandaff Diocese Prayer Cycle:

Sun 3

4th Sunday of Easter

Llanilid w Pencoed & Heol y Cyw, Ian Hodges (V), Anglican Communion in Japan.

Mon 4:

Glyncorwg & the upper Afan Valley w Caerau St Cynfelyn, Bev Reaney (V)
The English Martyrs

Tues 5:

Llangynwyd w Maesteg, Martyn Evans (V)

St Asaph

Wed 6:

All officers of the diocese of Llandaff

Thur 7:

Troedrhiggarth, Christopher Reaney (PinC)

Friday 8:

Margam Deanery, Elaine Jenkyns (AD)

Julian of Norwich

Saturday 9:

Baglan, Stephen Jenkyns (PinC)

Sun 10

5th Sunday of Easter

Cwmafan, Elaine Jenkyns (PinC), Anglican Church of Kenya

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,
02922 411229,
phelimohare@gmail.com
(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt 02920 763754
Richard Hill 07519 352840

READINGS THIS WEEK

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
1 Pet 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Pet 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

PSALM:

**The Lord is my
shepherd; there is
nothing I shall want.
(4vv)**

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.

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Acts 2

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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/**

Psalm 23

SECOND READING

A reading from the 1st letter of Peter

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

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Peter 2

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 Gospel according to John.

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 a 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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

John 10