

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Cf. Ps 32:5-6*

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone
before. Who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen

FIRST READING *Acts 4:8-12*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 proven 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.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 117*

Response:

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

1. 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)**

2. I will thank you for you have given
answer 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)**

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **(R)**

SECOND READING *John 3:1-2*

A reading from the first letter of St 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL *John 10:11-18*

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:
'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down
his life for his sheep.
The hired man,
since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the
sheep; this is because he is only a hired
man and has no concern 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 my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock
and one shepherd.
The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been
given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and
was buried, and rose again on the third
day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is adored and glorified, who
has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these
paschal mysteries, so that the renewal
constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this
Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal
pastures the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever
Amen

Seapatricks Parish

Living and sharing Catholic faith within the Banbridge community

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PARISH OFFICE: PARISH CENTRE, EDENDERRY ROAD, BANBRIDGE BT32 3AF

Please contact the Parish Office for the arranging of Anniversary & Month's Mind Masses, applications for Baptism & Marriage, bookings of the Parish Centre & other Parish-related enquiries

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am - 1pm

TEL: 028 406 62136 - Voice Messages can be left at this number outside Office Hours

Email: seapatricksparish@dromorediocese.org

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew McMahon 028 406 29551

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Michael Rooney 028 406 71401

MASS TIMES (Winter Schedule)

St Thérèse's Church, Scarva Road	
Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
St Patrick's Church, Dromore Street	
Sunday	9am, 10.30am & 12 noon
Tues - Fri	10am
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Drumnavaddy	
10.00am – Sunday 12th May	

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard each Saturday between 4.15pm and 5.15pm in the Church of St Thérèse



THE ROSARY St Patrick's Church 9.30am
Tuesday-Friday

St Therese's Church – Weekday Opening

St Therese's Church will be open for individual visits and personal prayer on **Tuesday and Wednesday** 10.45am - 12.45pm.

Access Church by door closest to the Parish Centre

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION TIMES

St Patrick's Church
each Wednesday morning 10.30am – 1pm
each Saturday morning 9 – 11am
The Oratory - St Patrick's Meeting Rooms
Tues – Fri 5 - 8pm

Children's Liturgy

12 noon Mass, Sunday 21st April
Parental Permission is required in advance:
seapatrickschildrensministry@outlook.com



PARISH DRAW WINNERS – 18th April 2024

£100 Winning No: 3182

Winner: **Conor Murphy, Lotus Heights**



St Vincent de Paul **new** Helpline
number **07821296076**

Vocations Sunday – 21st April

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society exists to help student clerics on their journey to the Priesthood. The Society was founded to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and to assist financially in the education of students to the priesthood at home and abroad.

A **Church door appeal** will be taken up at all Masses **this weekend** to support the work of St Joseph's Young Priests Society.

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

"O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls,
you called the apostles and made them fishers of men.
Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls
from among the young,
to make them your followers and your ministers.
Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of
all...
Open before them the horizons of the entire world.
By responding to your call,
may they prolong your mission here on earth,
build up your Mystical Body, which is the Church,
and be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world'.
Amen.

from St Paul VI



Please use the baskets in the Church porches to return any remaining Trócaire boxes by next weekend, if possible. Cheques may be made payable to Trócaire (these will be forwarded directly to Trócaire). Thank you for your generosity.

SOLITUDE SATURDAY at GLENVALE

Saturday 27th April

An opportunity to take some time for yourself, in the beautiful surroundings of Glenvale Convent to refresh mind and body.

The day begins at 10am and ends at 3.30pm

Refreshments and a light lunch included.

Suggested donation £20

Places limited so early booking essential
contact 02830832828

SUMMER PILOT MASS SCHEDULE

Dear Parishioner

I invite your attention, once again, to the details of the new summer Mass times - beginning just two weekends from now, on Saturday/Sunday 4th- 5th May:

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm & Sunday 9am & 11am

All Masses will be in **St Therese's Church**, as will Weekday 10am Masses from Tuesday 30th April.

Please draw the new Sunday morning times (and location) to the attention of others who may benefit from knowing about them at this time.

As always, we would encourage you to look out for any parishioner whom you may be in a position to help with transport to Mass. We ask younger members of families to be especially mindful of elderly relatives, in this regard, and to offer them every possible support.

The merging of the three Sunday morning Masses into two is being attempted at St Therese's Church because it has the greater capacity and occupies a larger site. That said, car parking spaces at St Therese's still need to be used efficiently, so that we can maximise the number of places available. It is vital, too, that 'yellow box' sections of the Church's car park are left free and that access for emergency vehicles is guaranteed at all times during Masses.

We look forward to having the music of the Parish Senior Choir at the new 11am in St Therese's and thank them for transferring to this Mass. We appreciate having the continued input of the Parish Folk Choir at the 5.30pm Vigil Mass.

I thank our Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for adjusting, in advance, to the new Mass times and to the Altar Servers and their parents for similarly adapting to the revised schedule.

The Offertory Collection will be taken up *during* all Masses - in the traditional manner - once the summer schedule begins. There will no longer be collectors, therefore, at the exits of St Therese's Church at the end of Masses. I thank those collectors who attended the meeting a few evenings ago, and would ask all collectors to clarify - in advance of Mass - which section of the Church has been allocated to them.

I thank all our regular Mass attenders for your cooperation and understanding as we approach this new Summer Pilot in the parish. I look forward to hearing your feedback and evaluation of it - and of the now concluding Winter Pilot - during the weeks and months ahead.

Fr Andrew McMahon

Remembering the Faithful Departed

'It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.'

ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday 21st April

Molly Fitzpatrick, *Mount Royal*

Susan Quinn, *Annaclone*

Maureen McLean, *Larchwood*

Bernadette Smyth, *Primrose Gardens*

Kenneth & Evelyn McParland, *Hillhead Park*

David Sinclair, *London*

Christy Campbell, *Edenderry Park*

Michael McConville, *Windsor Terrace*

Elizabeth (Bessie) McGivern, *Osborne Gardens*

Gerald McGivern, *Canada*

Jack & Lily Lacey

David & Margaret Andrews, *Old Newry Road*

Maureen Curran, *Oakridge*

Ann Sheehan, *England*

Dolores Downey, *Reilly Park*

M.M. John (Jimmy) Mooney, *Huntly Bungalows*

M.M. Michelle Salloum, *Syria*

Tuesday 23rd April

Mark Grady, *Hillside Crescent*

Thursday 25th April

John McStraw, *Huntly Bungalows*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Kathleen McRoberts, *Windyridge*

Pat Farrell, *Loughbrickland*

Reflection Day at SMA Dromantine

Saturday 4th May 2024 9.30am – 5.00pm

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DROMORE DIOCESAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONDAY 29TH APRIL 2024 @8:00 in the Parish Den at Laurencetown Church. The Society is delighted to again welcome Plunkett Campbell, renowned local historian and author of several publications on Tullylish Parish, who will speak on "The Family of WB Yeats: The Tullylish Connection." All welcome. *Note the change of date from that previously stated.*

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Diocesan Designated Person:

Mr Stephen Sherry [t] 07301246329

[e] safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org

Local Safeguarding Contact:

Mrs Cathy Devine [t] 07714214702

Shepherds did not have sheepdogs in Jesus' time. They didn't need them, because sheep would follow their shepherd of their own free will. Jesus called himself a shepherd: the People of God are not to be driven by fear but led freely by love. In the early centuries the figure of Jesus as a shepherd was a favourite one, and the earliest representation of him (some art historians claim) shows him as the good shepherd.

Shepherds were humble folk. If Jesus had been born in the inn at Bethlehem rather than in the stable, the shepherds would not have been allowed in to visit him; this was the first signal of his accessibility. St Thomas Aquinas saw the same wisdom in the incarnation itself: the Word became flesh, he said, so that God would be accessible to us in Jesus.

The good shepherd, Jesus said, "lays down his life for his sheep." Who were the bad shepherds, then? Not the literal shepherds, the simple men on the hillside looking after their sheep. Not these, but the 'shepherds of the people', the leaders. In the Old Testament the term was applied to kings, royal officers, the elders, all who have any kind of authority. In nearly all Scriptural passages such 'shepherds' were being faulted for neglecting their responsibilities to the 'flock', the people. In Ezekiel 34 for example they are being severely

reprimanded for neglecting "the weak, the sick the wounded, the strayed, the lost," for fattening themselves instead of tending to the needs of the flock. It is in contrast to these and to the religious authorities that Jesus calls himself the good shepherd.



On every page of the gospel we find him seeking out these marginalised people: public sinners, lepers, Samaritans, the sick, the tormented... He stood up to the authorities for their sake, he defied the systems that made them outcasts, he laid down his life rather than turn his back on them and kowtow to the authorities.

The imagery of shepherding has become so much part of the Christian mind that it becomes almost invisible. The words 'pastor' and 'pastoral' come from the Latin for shepherd. A bishop's crozier is really a sort of stylish shepherd's stick. Those ancient shepherds carried a stick not to beat and prod their sheep but to beat off any wild animals that threatened the flock.

In today's reading, mention of the shepherd's death seems very sudden and unexpected, but in its own setting perhaps it was less so. This fidelity of the shepherd to his flock continues even into modern times. W.M. Thomson (+1894), describing his travels in the Holy Land, wrote, "A poor faithful fellow last Spring, between Tiberias and Tabor, instead of fleeing, actually fought three Bedouin robbers until he was hacked to pieces with their khanjars, and died among the sheep he was defending."

Yes, your bishop and your pastor are expected to die if necessary in your defence. Your parish priest too. In fact all Christians are challenged to lay down their lives if necessary for others. The cross of Christ is not an ornament to hang on the wall but a pattern of Christian life.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

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