



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12*. This excerpt is a sequence of what was described in last Sunday's first reading. Peter had cured a cripple-from-birth and told the people that it was not by his own power that he did this, but through the power of Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Jews had crucified.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of John 3:1-2* in which he sets out in a couple of sentences the basic effect of the Incarnation. Already in this life men are made children of God. Because we are God's children here below we shall see him as he is in the future life.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 10:11-18*. The image of Christ as our Good Shepherd has always appealed to human nature. One of the earliest paintings of Christ in the Roman catacombs represents him as carrying an injured sheep on his shoulders. This is a manifestation of love which touches our innermost feelings. We do not mind being likened to sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness. Does not this describe the vast majority of men, even many of those who openly oppose Christ? Is there not something very sheeplike about the man who, because God gave him a limited intellect, thinks he knows all things and needs no further help from God? The sheep who thinks it knows as much, and even more, than the shepherd and sets out to fend for itself, is no more foolish than the man who thinks he can do without God's revelation and God's Church.

Indeed we all act like sheep on many occasions, when it comes to the things that concern our spiritual welfare. We often ramble off from the flock to nibble at little bits of forbidden pasture. However, we have a Shepherd who understands us, one whose patience and love are infinite. He is always ready to go after us when we stray too far; his voice is constantly reaching out to us in missions, retreats, sicknesses, crosses and other various ways. How many times have we already felt his loving grace calling and helping us back to the safety of his fold?

There are many who are not so fortunate as we, who either through no fault of their own or through their own fault do not hear his voice and do not know or follow him. This is an opportunity he gives us to show how we appreciate all he has done for us. He died on the cross for all men. He wills all men to profit by his death, and his statement "them also I must bring" is a direct appeal to us to cooperate with him in this work. Every Christian is a missionary. The very fact of living the Christian life in its entirety, in the midst of our fellowmen, is of itself a powerful example to outsiders. It influences for good the lax Christian and the non-Christian. It makes them stop and think and look into their consciences. This is generally the first step on the road back to God.

The devout Christian will not stop at good example only. If he truly loves God, he must truly love his neighbor and must want him to have a share in his own good fortune. He knows there is welcome and room in heaven for all men, and he knows that the greater the number there the greater will be God's eternal glory. He will strive then by every available means to help his neighbor into Christ's fold.

After good example, prayer will be his most potent weapon. Day in, day out the devout Christian must pray for the conversion of his fellowmen who are wandering aimlessly in the barren desert of this life far from God. He must also learn all he can about the truths of his faith in order to be able to help honest enquirers. He must also cooperate with any parochial or diocesan societies for the propagation of the faith, insofar as his family and financial state allow him.

The sermon preached by our Savior nearly two thousand years ago is still echoing and re-echoing around the world, calling on his faithful flock to do all in their power to help those other children of God who are still outside the fold. Do not shut your ears to this call of Christ today. Give him a helping hand by helping your fellowman to see the light of the true faith.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection

April 14/2024

Envelopes	\$345.00
Loose	\$10.00
	\$355.00

Notices:

1: Food Handler's Certification course for seniors over 55 in the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department area Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10 am to 3 pm. No charge for this course. Limited seating available. Call Debbie Johnston at 902-304-0558 to confirm your attendance.

2: Tentative List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall

Sunday July 7 - Strawberry Festival - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday July 7 - Guadalupe Mass - 2:00 pm
Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am
Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am
Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am

3: Pastoral Letter from Bishop Kirkpatrick

This Sunday we celebrate a World Day of Prayer for Vocations with the theme, 'Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace.' We are invited to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each one of us in different states of life. Pope Francis noted that all Christians are called to welcome our God-given vocation to serve in the world, whether it be through the consecrated life, the priesthood, marriage, or as a single person. He said gratitude should characterize World Vocations Day, as we recall the countless Christians who serve God in all walks of life. He also invited young people to make room for God, so that they might find happiness in God's call, which always respects our freedom. This Day is also dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the heavenly Father the gift of vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2).

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/20240421-messaggio-61-gm-vocazioni.html>

Seminarians

Our Diocese is blessed to have two men preparing for the priesthood. Deacon David Rankin will be ordained at St. Ninian Cathedral on May 31 at 3 pm. Mr. Joseph MacMaster who has completed two years of Theology will continue his seminary education on a pastoral internship year, in a parish to be determined. In support of our seminarians, Dr. Barry R. MacKenzie, President of Antigonish Diocesan Society said, "We are proud to be able to support the education of young men for the priesthood, and we are so grateful to the individuals and parishes of our Diocese for their contributions to our fund." This Sunday there will be a collection for this fund. We are grateful for the efforts of our Antigonish Diocesan Society.

New Priests Have Arrived

Father Isidore Chidi Enyinnaya from the Diocese of Umuahia, Nigeria arrived on March 21. He is age 53 and he was ordained July 18, 1998. He is at St. Ann Church in Guysborough.

Father Rowland Uzoma Agomuo from the Diocese of Aba, Nigeria arrived on April 3. He is age 41 and he was ordained August 14, 2010. He is at St. John the Baptist Church in New Glasgow.

Father Anthony Ndubuisi Eboh from the Diocese of Umuahia, Nigeria arrived on April 15. He is age 52 and he was ordained July 13, 2002. He has been working in the Diocese of London for the past six years. He will be the new Chaplain at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital and Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Grand Mira and Sacred Heart in Marion Bridge. He will live at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Glebe House

4: FLEE MARKET

St. Theresa's CWL Flee Market, Saturday May 4, 9:00-11:00 am. To be held at St. Theresa's Hall, St. Peters Road, Sydney.