



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 21 April 2024 – Good Shepherd Sunday

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

This Sunday is " Good Shepherd Sunday" when we focus on vocations to the sacred Priesthood, in our giving and, more importantly, our prayers. The figure of The Good Shepherd, along with Kingship, is probably the most powerful and pervasive of scriptural images. Psalm 23: "The Lord's my Shepherd; I shall not want."

Through the Old Testament, the Lord God of Israel is seen as the Shepherd of His people Israel. The psalmist in particular cries out for His guidance and protection: "Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; Hail the God who saves us...For He is our God and we The people who belong to His pasture The flock that is led by His hand."

It was as a shepherd that Moses encountered God in the burning bush and was commissioned to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. King David was chosen by the prophet Samuel while a shepherd boy, the prophet Amos was a shepherd before the Lord called him....In the early Church, suffering persecution and death, the picture of The Good Shepherd looking after His flock was the most popular motif and is found in many places, including the Roman Catacombs (such as Priscilla's) where many Christian tombs have been discovered. It was natural that the first leaders of the Church should be described and exhorted to be shepherds of their flocks. I Peter: "Be shepherds of God's flock under your care, watching over them..." Our bishops carry a crook, symbolising the shepherd's staff, used to hook out sheep from difficult positions. All the ordained are described as "pastors", coming from the Latin for Shepherd: Pastor.

We are facing a serious issue in the Western world: we are running out of pastors! The projection for our own diocese is alarming and Deanery clergy meetings are taken up with talk of " clusters", shorthand for mergers of parishes. Smaller congregations are looking to shelter under larger ones for their own survival. What is the answer? Practical measures are important, such as sharing lay expertise in Finance/Buildings/Safeguarding, and the laity will have to be fully engaged, but the most vital action to take is...Prayer. Prayer for young men to respond to the Lord's call to a heroic life of self-sacrifice. Prayer for Good Shepherds to dedicate their lives to God's flock. Prayer for a deep and lively faith in Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. Can you put a time aside every day to pray for your future priests? If we all started to pray more and ask The Good Shepherd to come to His flock's aid...who knows what will happen?

God bless all Father Clive

Parish Notices

Masses next week: 9:15, Monday, Tuesday (Solemnity of Saint George) and Thursday. 9:15 Friday Rosary for Peace.

Confirmation Class Tuesday 5 pm at Holy Trinity and weekly thereafter

Tuesday 23 April Finance Meeting at 7pm

Friday 26th April: Daniel Lawson will share his Camino stories "My walk across Spain" **Parish Room 630pm** refreshments provided

A reminder of Upcoming Parish Events:

Saturday 11 May Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Please let Johnny know as soon as possible if you will join us as we need to arrange transport from Church.
johnnyhulme@me.com or call
0777 0433290

21 June at 7pm Wine Tasting (always competitive!) at the home of James and Juliet Byrne. More details to follow, including price of ticket to raise funds for CAFOD. Food will be served.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2024: For the role of Women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Amen.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes: Carol Wilson, Tom Cantwell, Bridget Kennelly, Audrey Nellis, Richard O'Farrell, Mary Ward, Paula Biggs, Lynette Murphy, Betty, Ania.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

