



ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY



COMBE, DUNS TEW, ENSTONE, GAGINGWELL, GLYMPTON, MIDDLE BARTON,
RADFORD, RAMSDEN, STEEPLE ASTON and STONESFIELD

SUNDAY 21 APRIL²

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Readings: Year B

Please pray for the sick and the housebound of our parishes: Paula B, Lynette M, Carol W, Tom C, Bridget K, Audrey N, Richard O, Mary W, Betty, Ania.

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?

Masses next week as usual.

We welcome Fr Bruno, a Dominican based at Blackfriars Oxford, to preach at St Teresa's at

9.15 am

God bless all.

Fr Clive.

Vocations Sunday: Second Collection

There will be a second collection at Mass this Sunday, which will be Vocations Sunday. As fewer people carry cash, the Archdiocese has helpfully set up a website (www.vocations.org.uk) with a suggested prayer and a link to a site (www.vocations.org.uk/ctf) from which you can donate directly online.



Pray for
Peace



NEXT WEEK in St Teresa's:

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Monday 22 April

Weekday of Easter

Open for private prayer

Tuesday 23 April

St. George, patron of

England

Open for private prayer

Wednesday 24 April

Weekday of Easter

Mass at 9.15am

Followed by

Benediction and

Exposition

Thursday 25 April

St Mark, Evangelist

Open for private prayer

Friday 26th April

Weekday of Easter

Mass at 9.15am

Saturday 27th April

Weekday of Easter

Open for private prayer

Sunday 28 April

5th Sunday of Easter

Mass at 9.15am

ALL WELCOME

For Confessions, please

contact Fr.Clive.

Weekday Mass in our sister

parish, Holy Trinity, Chipping

Norton, on Monday,

Tuesday, and Thursday, all

at 9.15am, with Rosary

group at 9.15am on Friday,

vigil mass at 6pm Sat and

Sunday mass at 11am

Parish Priest: FR. CLIVE DYTOR

fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk

07484 158642

Parish Website: www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com (see website for links to the Holy Trinity website)

To subscribe to the parish email group, please email : StTerasasNetwork+subscribe@groups.io

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

Sharnalee Foster. She can be contacted at sg.stteresa.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Saint Teresa of Lisieux is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust: Registered Charity number 234216

