

The Parish of the Good Samaritan

Christ the King

St Mary of the Assumption

St John the Baptist

Burnley



NEWSLETTER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

3RD MAY APRIL 2020



FR DAVID'S REFLECTION

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. It refers to the fact that Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. A shepherd looks after the sheep entrusted to him, caring for them, seeing to their needs, guiding them and protecting them from harm and danger. In today's Gospel Jesus calls himself "the gate" of the sheepfold. A gate has an important role; to enclose the sheep and keep them safe, to allow access to those who need to be with the sheep and to keep out everything that would be harmful to them. Jesus always promises to look after his flock, the people who make up the Church, by making them feel that they belong to him, providing the care and love they need, feeding them with his Body and Blood and ensuring they receive the guidance and example of "shepherds" he has personally chosen for them to act on his behalf. In this way Christ, the Good Shepherd truly is the "gate" through which those serving in the Church must pass.

Today is also a day of prayer for vocations to the sacred priesthood and Religious life. It refers to the fact that people like myself who are priests, believe that because the



Risen Lord Jesus is alive, he keeps his promise to look after his Church. He does this by personally calling ordinary people, like Fr Kevin, Fr Emmanuel, Fr Benneth and myself to follow him and dedicate our lives to serving his people in the Church. As priests, we

have agreed to be his shepherds by modelling ourselves on Jesus and to be friends with him by being faithful to prayer. We are also to provide the people entrusted to us with the guidance they need, to help them to understand their Catholic faith as well as to celebrate the Sacraments like the Eucharist and Reconciliation for them.

The Gospel reading ends with a very famous line of Scripture: *"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."* (Jn 10 vs 10). These powerful words which were said by Jesus at the Last Supper just before he died, are full of Easter promise. He is telling us that he wants us to be free to enjoy life and not to be held back by our sins and mistakes. This is why he was prepared to go through the terrible hardship of the Cross in order to bring us all the joy and hope that His Resurrection promises.

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL



We're all deeply into our new way of life and for most of us we need to look for the silver linings. Till things go back to normal, let's try to cheer each other up.

Parishioner Tony Waters, who many of you may know from St Mary's, has contacted us with a brilliant idea – in the current climate, why not have a series of items on reasons to be cheerful? ... we reckon that anything that lightens up some of the doom & gloom has got to be good! We'll publish them on the website, and in the Newsletter when space allows.

Tony starts the ball rolling with his top 5 suggestions (and asks other parishioners for theirs):

1. Our Lady
2. The NHS
3. Grandchildren
4. Ice Cream
5. Songs of Praise on the telly

Just email us with your suggestions at website@goodsamaritaparish.org.uk

Join the fun—share the joy! Tell us *your* Reasons to be Cheerful!

MASS INTENTIONS

Lately Dead

Eileen Gavin
Andrew Torkington,
Susan Mayes,
Fr Paul Dillon,

Steph Jackson,
Leo Goodstadt,
Ann Wren,
John Timlin,
Olive Bennis
Margaret Donnelly

Anniversaries:

Joan Lawrence (1st Anniv)
Mary Ramsdale

John Michael Bailey (1st Anniv)
Stanley Roskill
Ronnie Smith
Francis Nicholas Carter
Christine Lillian Gregory



LOOK AT THE PARISH WEBSITE. PASS THE NEWS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT ON THE INTERNET!

<http://www.goodsamaritanparish.org.uk/>

Keep in touch! Keep others in touch through you! Call them and have a chat.
There is new material every single day—to lift you spiritually, to bring news, to stay together.
The longer this goes on, the more the friendly calls are needed.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE CORONA VIRUS

Because all churches are closed until further notice the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday and on a Holy day of Obligation is removed until further notice.

PARISH SUNDAY MASS—LIVE STREAMING

There will be a 'live' stream of the Mass from St Mary's every Sunday morning at 9.30am. A recording will be available later in the day for those who cannot view the live stream.

Daily Private Masses in the Parish

The priests of the parish will continue to celebrate Mass daily in the churches of the parish **in private**. This will enable you, the people of God, to join in "spiritual Communion" with the priests and each other. **St Mary's:** Fr David celebrates at 9.30am (9.00am on Wednesday this week)

St John's: Fr Emmanuel or Fr Benneth celebrate at 9.00am

WEEKLY EASTER REFLECTION FROM BLESSED TRINITY CC

As we did with Holy Week, for each Sunday of Easter there will appear on our website, a video reflection produced by Miss R Wilkinson and involving different pupils from the school along with Fr David. Many thanks to the school for this lovely resource for the Easter season.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

These daily reflections from the parish clergy team are available on the parish web site each day.

Burnley Together

We've learnt about a website offering support to all of the town's population. Burnley Together has been set up to bring together all the people who are helping our community to be safe in the most difficult times so that, if you aren't sure who to turn to - we'll know someone who can help.

The list of matters they will help with is long and very comprehensive.

They are available to call seven days a week: 01282 686402 between 9am and 5pm or go to the website <https://burnleytogether.org.uk/>

The Lord's Day at Home

These sheets, available on the website, are great for providing sacred time at home while the churches are closed. <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LDAH-Easter-4A.pdf>

Daily Streamed Masses

There are live streams daily Mass from Walsingham; www.walsingham.org.uk and from The Good Shepherd parish in Colne; www.goodshepherdpendle.org.uk.

Offertory Collection

With no Sunday Masses at which to take a collection, please hang onto your envelopes until things go back to normal then you can kindly bring your envelopes and contributions. Thank you.

Mailing the Newsletter

While the churches remain closed, if you need a paper copy of this Newsletter please contact Fr David tel 422007 with your name and address. He is happy to forward it to you.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY—A SPECIAL HYMN



One of our parishioners, Francis Ashworth who plays the organ at St Mary's Sunday Mass has written a hymn called 'Gentle Shepherd'. As this is Good Shepherd Sunday it is an ideal time to introduce it, along with the thoughts that inspired Francis to write it. "The hymn arose from thinking about how religion and faith can sustain someone through the hardest times, such as the Coronavirus crisis. I was also reflecting on the aspects of Jesus that see him offer comfort to all despite our tendency to sin, hate, struggle, fail, sicken, mourn and deviate from the right paths. Those characteristics came to me as:

- ♦ Unfailing and unconditional love;
- ♦ gentleness in the face of hostility;
- ♦ peace of heart, mind and spirit;
- ♦ unfailing guidance;
- ♦ hope in the face of despair;
- ♦ healing of mind, body, and spirit;
- ♦ forgiveness for the most awful sins;
- ♦ assistance at times of dire need;
- ♦ kindness without limit;
- ♦ eternal patience;
- ♦ all-encompassing understanding;
- ♦ absolute truth;
- ♦ universal knowledge;
- ♦ profound wisdom;
- ♦and just being there for us at the end of it all."

The Gentle Shepherd

1. Love is in his touch. Love is in his gaze.

Gentleness and peace flow through all his ways.

Even though we sin, even make mistakes,

Guide us Gentle Shepherd, to the better way.

2. Hope is in His touch. Hope is in his gaze.

Healing and Forgiveness flow through all his ways.

Even though we struggle, even though we fail,

Guide us Gentle Shepherd. Help us to prevail.

3. Kindness in his touch. Kindness in his gaze.

Patience, understanding flow through all his ways.

Even though we sicken, even though we mourn,

Guide us Gentle Shepherd, to the rising dawn.

4. Truth is in his touch. Truth is in his gaze.

Honesty and justice flow through all his ways.

Even though we wander, even though we stray,

Guide us Gentle Shepherd to the end of days.

Francis J Ashworth ©



ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!



Stay with us Lord on our journey

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2020

For Deacons We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

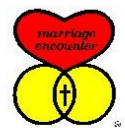


FEAST DAYS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon May 4th	English Martyrs
Tues 5th May	Easter Weekday
Wed May 6th	Easter Weekday
Thurs 7th May	Easter Weekday
Fri 8th May	Easter Weekday
Sat 9th May	Easter Weekday
Sun 10th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter

MARRIAGE WEEK 2020

11th – 17th May is the week that is nationally set aside to celebrate commitment to the Sacrament of Marriage. The theme this year is "*The Forever Conversation*," recognising the need for continual open communication to enable a marriage to be long lasting. Marriage Encounter is working in partnership with Marriage Week UK to promote events and celebrate marriage.



"As I Have Loved You" ®

For more information see <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>
or <https://wwme.org.uk/>
and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7aPwW6AIOVszW3yFlbrOA/>

CAFOD WEBSITE—PETITION



The CAFOD website has lots of new material to support those they help during the Coronavirus crisis, and other items of interest for us during our isolation. It's well worth a look. Included you'll find Liturgies, talks and a quiz. Perhaps most importantly there is a petition which you should consider. It appeals to the Government to not neglect those most disadvantaged in our troubled world, pointing out that their needs should not be lost whilst dealing with our own challenges. Please go there and sign if you agree.

There's a Newsletter with links across the web to more items of interest. Please have a look at all these important matters.

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Is there a voluntary organisation or charity you really admire? Do you wish you could give a little back—or a little 'extra' to them?

The Queen's Award is your opportunity. The Award recognises service from these groups, what is called "The MBE for Volunteer Groups". Our own Handicapped Children's Fellowship won it a few years ago, and it really was great recognition—and fun.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

If you would like to nominate a Group, there is lots more information on our own website as your first step, to help you decide if you want to go ahead,

<http://www.goodsamaritanparish.org.uk/>. The QAVS website is a good next stage: qavs.culture.gov.uk/guidance-notes.

Then, Terry Hephrun, a parishioner who works on the project, is happy to talk with you if you want to chat once you've read a little. (Tel: 01282 424626).

THANK YOU TO FR DAVID AND OUR WEBSITE TEAM

Thank you too, from the parish, to Fr David and the website team for their continuous input to the parish website. Every day there is new material generated by Fr David, Blessed Trinity and others. It serves to keep up our spiritual lives, and keeps us in touch with each other, sharing our community experience from our isolation. Enormous thanks too, to the students and staff of Blessed Trinity for their Holy Week and Sunday contributions.



FOODBANK



Please continue to support the Foodbank. Here's how: **Every local Spar shop** should have a collection point for groceries and other produce, so keep donating if you are able to do so. They welcome all non-perishable foods and oranges continue to be popular as they last a good while.

If you want to make a money donation here is the website <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/supportburnleyfoodbank>

At St John's only. You may leave a cash donation (in a clearly marked envelope) at the presbytery if your daily exercise takes you past the presbytery, or contact David H on 07434 763822 and we will see if we can collect. Sincere thanks for the caring donation of £100 posted off for the food bank. Such love, such caring. Remembering also the many direct donations through the Internet giving. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Clergy Team

Parish Priest:	Fr David Featherstone	St Mary of the Assumption	01282 422007
Assistants:	Fr Kevin Tierney	St Mary of the Assumption	01282 422007
	Fr Emmanuel Ugwuoke C.M.	St John the Baptist	01282 423824
	Fr Benneth Okonkwo C.M.	St John the Baptist	01282 423824

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