

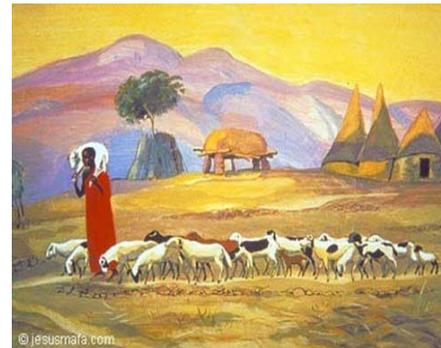
Reflection I Am The Door Of The Sheepfold

The sheep pen in the countryside, where the shepherds would keep their flocks in good weather was nothing more than a rough circle of rocks piled into a wall with a small open space to enter. Through it the shepherd would drive the sheep at nightfall. Since there was no gate to close—just an opening—the shepherd would keep the sheep in and wild animals out by lying across the opening. He would sleep there, in this case literally becoming the door to the sheep.



Not one that's gently hinged or deftly hung,
 Not like the ones you planed at Joseph's place,
 Not like the well-oiled openings that swung
 So easily for Pilate's practiced pace,
 Not like the ones that closed in Mary's face
 From house to house in brimming Bethlehem,
 Not like the one that no man may assail,
 The dreadful curtain, The forbidding veil
 That waits your breaking in Jerusalem.

Not one you made but one you have become:
 Load-bearing, balancing, a weighted beam
 To bridge the gap, to bring us within reach
 Of your high pasture. Calling us by name,
 You lay your body down across the breach,
 Yourself the door that opens into home.



**FOURTH SUNDAY
 OF EASTER**
SATURDAY 2nd MAY
Vigil Mass 4.00 pm
SUNDAY 3rd May
Mass 9.30 am

Saturday	2nd	Vigil Mass 4 pm	<i>Mary Woloszczuk RIP</i>
4th SUNDAY of EASTER	3rd	Mass 9.30 am	<i>Parishioners</i>
Monday	4th	Feast of the English Martyrs	NO MASS
Tuesday	5th	Easter feria	Mass 10 am Intention of two unborn babies in the Morris/Johnson families
Wednesday	6th	Easter feria	Mass 10 am Evie & Des Cullen RIP
Thursday	7th	Easter feria	Mass 10 am Pauline & Tom Johnson in thanksgiving for their help
Friday	8th	Easter feria	Mass 10 am Those suffering from Covid-19.
Saturday	9th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Vigil Mass 4 pm Parishioners

Next Week : Saturday 9th May 2020
Vigil Mass 4 pm
and FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10th
May 2020 Mass at 9.30am



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In May we honour Mary. Give her a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is. No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour.

Vocation Not only is it Good Shepherd Sunday, it is also "**Vocations Sunday**". On this day we are especially asked first of all to pray that the Church may be provided with the leaders needed to do its work of spreading the Gospel.

We know that at the present time there is a critical shortage of such leaders, at least in the traditional sense – priests and religious. However, while we may earnestly pray that our Church be supplied with the leaders it needs, there can be a tendency among us to pray that OTHERS may answer that call. We do not see ourselves as included. We may pray earnestly for more young people to offer themselves as priests and religious but clearly exclude our own children.

The problem is a wider one. We have for too long given a much too narrow meaning to the word 'vocation'. We tend to limit it to a calling to be a priest or a member of a religious institute, in fact, every single one of us has a vocation. For most of us, probably, it is what we are now doing; be it as spouses, parents, teachers, doctors, civil servants, running a business, salespersons... or whatever.

Nevertheless, each one of us should be asking ourselves today:

Is what I am spending my energies on every day my real vocation?

Is this what God wants me to be doing with my life?

How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith?

What contribution am I offering to making this world a better place for people to live in?

To what extent am I a spreader of truth, of love, of justice, of freedom, of tolerance and acceptance...?

Where is God calling me to make my own unique contribution based on the particular talents God has given me?

If every single one of us were to answer that question sincerely and to act upon it, I am confident that our Church would have all the leadership it needs.

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THAT SERVE OUR PARISH.

Please keep in your prayers the staff and children of St. Benedict's Primary School and St. Thomas More College as well as those of the MAC to which they belong. It is seven weeks now since schools were closed. Teachers have been going in to school to take care of those pupils who need to be cared for because their parents are on the front line or they have particular needs that can't be met at home. Eventually this pandemic will be over and schools will be opened again, however right now we are asked to stay home, protect our NHS and save lives. So, we pray also for those looking after children at home in this difficult time.

MASS LIVE ON

FACEBOOK

(PAUL ROY LOMAS)

AT THE TIMES SHOWN.

IF ANYONE IS STRUGGLING TO FIND THE LIVE FACEBOOK PAGE. THEN LET ME KNOW BY A PHONE CALL AND I'LL PASS YOU ON TO JO, A PARISHIONER, WHO CAN HELP YOU GET IT.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family

We now have in the porch printed Mass request Envelopes on which you can write the details of your mass request and place your mass offering insider. Paul has no outstanding Masses.

Your weekly offering for the Upkeep of St. Benedict's.

Those of you who make a weekly cash offering are not able to do so now. Can I suggest you either download a Standing Order form from the Diocesan Website. If not, then put your money in the weekly envelopes and bring them to Mass when we can all meet again. Can I suggest that you hold on to the Easter Offering for Fr. Paul until we are back together again. Thank you.