

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R.v22

R) The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. (R)

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R)

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Jn 10:14

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:
'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock
and one shepherd.
The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Jesus makes great use of the imagery of a shepherd and his sheep. Sheep, and especially lambs, are meek and defenceless. They are easy prey to wolves and

can be picked off by them if they wonder from the flock, or if the shepherd runs away from them out of fear for his own life. A good shepherd does all in his power to look after the sheep he has been entrusted with. What Jesus is saying here is that his Father has entrusted the flock to him and he is ready to lay down

his life for the sheep. On another occasion, Jesus talks about the effort a shepherd goes to in order to recover one lost sheep out of a flock of 100. All this is said to

convey to us just how much God loves each one of us. We may belong to a large flock, but each one of us, individually, is unique and important. It is essential that we really believe in God's unique and immense personal for us. We need to remind ourselves, or be reminded by others, that we are the apple of God's eye.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
CHARITY

176. For many people today, politics is a distasteful word, often due to the mistakes, corruption and inefficiency of some politicians. There are also attempts to discredit politics, to replace it with economics or to twist it to one ideology or another. Yet can our world function without politics? Can there be an effective process of growth towards universal fraternity and social peace without a sound political life?¹⁵⁷

157. Cf. SOCIAL COMMISSION OF THE BISHOPS OF FRANCE, Declaration Réhabiliter la Politique (17 February 1999).

The Fire of Love*
ABOUT LOVE AND BEAUTY

If you take delight in what is beautiful this will make you loved by the supreme beauty, God. Of course, everything here on earth is passing. Earthly beauty deceives those who love it inordinately, whereas the truth and beauty of God last forever.

If we are true Christians who love God, we will scorn vain things and hear the sweet, secret music of love, which cannot be known like the love of earthly pleasures.

If our love is pure and perfect it means that what our heart primarily loves is God. Indeed, in loving ourselves and loving others in the right way, we are loving God in ourselves and in our neighbour. When we love God with our whole mind and heart and soul, we are surely loving other people and every other lovable thing too.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press




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Ei  **4th SUNDAY OF EASTER**
 www.facebook.com /rcdhnbillingham
 Week Beginning: 21st April 2024
 Prayer Week: 4

www.diocesehn.org.uk

Sunday 21st April <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 22nd April		NO MASS	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 23rd April <i>St George</i>	10.00am	In thanksgiving	St Joseph's school
Wednesday 24th April	7.00pm	NBF	Holy Rosary
Thursday 25th April <i>St Mark, Evangelist</i>	10.00am	Ken & Doreen Fields	Holy Rosary
Friday 26th April	10.00am	Ann Christeson/Maureen Maddren	St John's
	2.00pm	Teresa Baker (Requiem)	Holy Rosary
Saturday 27th April <i>(Vigil 5th Sunday of Easter)</i>	5.00pm	Denise Tamblingson	St John's
Sunday 28th April <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

Please pray for the sick: Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Grace Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, Sheila Holmes, Michael Bickers, Ann Christeson Denise Tamblingson

Lately Dead-

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

This weekend at each Mass

The Sisters are in especial need of funds to upgrade the special flooring in the Home. This is needed for the safety of the residents and it also makes for the smooth running of wheelchairs etc.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2024

Pilgrims please remainder of cost in an envelope marked "**Walsingham**" and your name. Cheques to "St Thomas of Canterbury" or cash: £194 per person

We have been asked to advertise the next 2 items:

- a) Public lecture by the renowned Professor Eamon Duffy at Holy Name church, North Jesmond Avenue, Newcastle, NE2 3JX, Saturday 4th May, at 11.30am- "*Celebrity Priest: Robert Hugh Monsignor Benson And the End of the World*". Professor Duffy will discuss the priest's life and work and that of his father who was Archbishop of Canterbury. One of Fr Benson's brothers wrote "Land of Hope and Glory" while the other wrote the Mapp and Lucia novels. This is a non-ticket event.
- b) The Good Counsel Network reminds us -27th April is 56th anniversary of the legalising of abortion in Britain. And asks us to pray and maybe fast for its end. There is a short article in the Catholic Herald which can be accessed on www.catholicherald.co.uk/can-pray-and-dasting-really-make-any-difference-when-it-comes-to-abortion

Cafod Race Night-

Catholic Club, Tuesday 30th April, at 7pm. Tickets on sale after Mass for next three weekends.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father,

In baptism you called us by name and made us members of your family, the Church.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life,

And to respond by living a life of holiness.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests for the Church of Hexham and Newcastle.

Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen our communities, our seminarians, and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen

Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert, pray for us.

Confessions St John's, Saturday 10.30-11am