

4th Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter discovers his gift of healing. Only by the name of Jesus, he declares, can any of us be saved.

Responsorial Psalm 117:1,8-9,21-23, 26,28-29

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

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2

Whatever the future may hold, we have the assurance of being God's beloved children. Our vocation is to grow in the Father's likeness.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:11-18

Like a good shepherd, Jesus is dedicated to our care and protection. He willingly laid down his life for the flock, as well as for others not yet in his fold.

Parish of Corpus Christi

Sacred Heart (Goldthorpe), Sacred Heart & St Helen (Hoyland) and St Michael & All Angels (Wombwell)



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Sunday 25th April 2021

Sunday Year B

4th Sunday of Easter

Weekday Cycle II

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me."

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday (St Michael's)	24 Apr	5.30pm	Jack Barry RIP
Sunday (St Michael's)	25 Apr	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	25 Apr	11.00am	Jack and Mary Joyce RIP
Tuesday	27 Apr	12.00pm	Callaghan Family
Wednesday (St Michael's)	28 Apr	12.00pm	C J Thomas RIP
Thursday	29 Apr	12.00pm	Terry Dyson RIP
Friday	30 Apr	12.00pm	Joan George-Kelso RIP
Saturday	1 May	12.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday (St Michael's)	1 May	5.30pm	Francis and Cassandra Parkin RIP
Sunday (St Michael's)	2 May	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen's)	2 May	11.00am	Mary and John Coefield RIP

Please go to the link below so you can join in with Masses and Services, streamed live by Fr Declan, or catch up later at the following link:

www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiDearneValley/live

You might be surprised that a UK television programme about sheepdog trials should be so popular, but *One Man and His Dog* has been broadcast since 1976 and continues to attract millions of viewers. Most may be townspeople who love the views of open countryside, yet this is no pastoral idyll. It is an intense competition between rival shepherds. Their aim is to herd a flock of sheep into a small pen in as short a time as possible. The sheep want nothing better than to roam free, so shepherds must exercise cunning. Standing at a distance, they communicate to their dog with calls and whistles. The dog then circles the sheep, trying to keep the flock together, gradually manoeuvring them towards the pen. At last the gate swings shut. How clever that dog is, we may think, and how silly those sheep – they always seem to scatter at the last minute, or veer off in the wrong direction.

Maybe the sheep are not so silly after all. They are just trying to avoid getting fenced in. And who could blame them for running from what may look uncomfortably like a wolf? Exploiting the hunting instinct of dogs, and the instinct of sheep to flee predators, is what this kind of shepherding is about, for at the appearance of a dog, sheep naturally run. Some people's lives may feel like this – as though they are being driven by fear in a direction they do not want to go.

Shepherding was very different in Jesus' day. Shepherds did not "drive" their sheep: they walked with them, or went ahead if the path was narrow. Shepherds knew each sheep by name and understood their needs. If a wolf appeared, they would see it off. The sheep knew their shepherd and trusted that the shepherd was not trying to take away their freedom. On the contrary, the shepherd was expanding their horizons, for the springtime grass which carpeted the Judaeian hillsides soon turned brown, so shepherds would need to keep leading them to fresh pasture. They might even cut down leafy branches to feed their sheep. When the time came to move on, they would call to them and, hearing their names, the sheep came willingly. Waiting for the stragglers, the shepherd set off and, wherever the shepherd went, the sheep would be sure to follow.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes himself as that kind of shepherd, leading us, his flock, to where he knows we will find personal nourishment and fulfilment. We are known to him as individuals. We can trust him, for Jesus gave his life for us. No one made him do it; he did it because he loves us. That is the difference between a job and a vocation: the feeling of being called to something; doing it because you care; not looking for reward or recognition, just wanting to give.

Self-gift is never a waste. Dedicated people in all walks of life find fulfilment in the giving of themselves. Doing a good job matters; people matter. For some, work is more than a livelihood, it is a calling, and vocation is a word we associate particularly with the priestly, religious and consecrated life. Others may discover their vocation in the experience of parenthood, for example, or in their involvement with some worthwhile cause. It is certain that God calls each of us to some particular Christian service.

Many factors influence our life choices and it is not always easy to recognise what or who might be calling us in any particular direction. However, if it feels as though you are being pushed or persuaded, it is unlikely to be the voice of Jesus. Jesus, our good shepherd, knows us as individuals, each with our own personality and giftedness. He does not force or manipulate: he invites. Nor does he stand by as we struggle: he accompanies us. Occasionally he picks us up and carries us, for the day may come when God will call others to support us, instead of us caring for them: then we will have to learn a new way of being. None of us knows what we are to be in the future but, as St John tells us, "we shall be like him". That is the primary vocation of us all: to be like Jesus. While we need aptitude and skills to be nurses, engineers, parents, priests or whatever service to which God calls us, only our likeness to Jesus makes us *good* nurses, *good* engineers, *good* parents... *good* shepherds.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Janette Barber, Claire Selby, Amy Moore, Paddy McNicholas, Peter Hutchinson, Clare Dingwall, Anne Whittingham, Sue Bird, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Carol Beard, Edna Yates, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat and Colin Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Lesley Easton, Val Armstrong, Minnie Helen Pozorski, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Anne Lacey, Kath Cragg, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss, Mavis Guilcher, Andrew Chandler.

CAFOD

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent and for taking part in our 'Walks for Water'. In Lent 2018 we featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe, we are pleased to let you know that the community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

Priest's Training Fund

This Sunday the Church marks the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday', after the Gospel of the Day. The day also marks the World Day of Prayer for Vocations within the Church.

There will be a second collection for the Priest's Training Fund (PTF) which is aimed at supporting those who offer themselves for the priesthood within our Diocese.

Red Mission Boxes

Please bring in your Red Mission Boxes at your earliest convenience. If you are a UK Taxpayer, please consider using Gift Aid. Thank you for your support and for your continued prayers for missionaries around the world.

Donations and Weekly Offerings

Please continue to donations via PayPal, online payments and Standing Order. This is our main source of income. Donations to the parish can be made online via PayPal at corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com/parish-news/donate-if-you-can/

Another way to donate is by Standing Order and the form is available on the website. Please note that the full name of the account is

'Diocese of Hallam, Corpus Christi Parish'

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Prayer for Vocations

Loving and generous Father: it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. In particular, you call some to serve you as ministers in your church. Bless our Diocese of Hallam by raising up faith-filled and dedicated priests, deacons and religious. Bless our families and choose from our homes those who are needed for your mission.

Blessed John Anne	Pray for us
Blessed Robert Ludlam	Pray for us
Blessed Nicholas Garlick	Pray for us
Blessed William Richardson	Pray for us
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us