

Tea and coffee after Mass, please stay.

**TODAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tour of Norfolk Churches. 2:30 Thornage, Sherringham, Bale and Gunthorpe.

**This Week:** Divine office - Psalter Week 4

**Mon:** 9:30 Int: Walsingham  
(Acts 11v 1-18; John 10 v 1-10)

**Tues:** **ST. GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND. (Solemnity)**

9:30 Mass. (Rev 12v.10-12; John 15v.18-21)

Int: King and Country

10:00-12:00 Coffee, cake etc in Church.

**Wed:** 8.00am Mass (Acts 12v.24-13 v.5; John 12v.44-50)

Int: Funeral Directors

**Thurs:** **ST. MARK EVANGELIST (Feast)**

9.30am Mass. (1 Peter 5v.5-24; Mark 16v.15-30). Int: Bible Societies

**Fri:** 9.30am Mass (Acts 13 v.22-33; John 14v.1-6)

Int: Preparations for Heritage Fair.

**Sat:** 10.00am First Mass of Sunday - Int: The PCC

(Acts 9 v.26-31; 1 John 3v.18-24; John 15 v.1-8)

4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Next Sunday: FIFTH OF EASTER.

9.30am Parish Mass and Address,

(Acts 9 v.26-31; 1 John 3v.18-24; John 15 v.1-8)

Meeting after Mass for Heritage Fair.

### **NOTICES:**

1. Please note next Sunday's Meeting after Mass. We need more help for the Heritage Fair (6<sup>th</sup> May).
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May (5<sup>th</sup> May) is our May Fiesta. We are having a shared lunch after the May Procession. List on the table for offers of food.
3. Please see the notice about the Guild of All Souls Conference at Walsingham – Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May 10:45 – 3:00 and book if you wish to go.
4. Ascension Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May – 6:30 Said Mass (Eve). 9<sup>th</sup> May- Ascension Day, Said Mass 9:30 and Sung Mass 7:30pm.
5. Christian Aid Week – 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May. New collectors urgently needed. Please see Val Arnold or Anne Gray

Please keep silence from 9.25 a.m. to prepare for Mass.

21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## **PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM**

### **4th Sunday of Easter**

**THEME:** Today's readings are very rich in imagery and reality. Jesus, the good shepherd, knows and is known by his sheep. He may call them sheep, but he has made them children of God.

Blessing of Candles for Departed. **Entrance Hymn:** 311 v. 1-4

### **PENITENTIAL RITE**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we have strayed from you, our shepherd. Lord have mercy.

People : *(sing)* **KYRIE ELEISON** *(Ukrainian setting)*

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we reject you, the foundation stone of our lives. Christ have mercy.

**People: CHRISTE ELEISON**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for not always realising you are the lamb who takes away our sins. Lord have mercy.

**People: KYRIE ELEISON**

*Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness.*

**Gloria –** John Allen's Easter Setting *(on paper)*

**OPENING PRAYER:** *Let us pray that Christ our shepherd will lead us through the difficulties of this life. Almighty and ever-living God, give us new strength from the courage of Christ our shepherd, and lead us to join the saints in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

1st Reading: Acts 4 v. 8 - 12. As he defends his healing ministry in the highest court of Jewish authority, Peter declares that the name of Jesus is the only name by which we can be saved.

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.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 117

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

1. Alleluia!

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. ®

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

2. 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. ®

3. 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. ®

**2nd Reading:** 1 John 3 v. 1-2 We are children of a Father who has lavished his love on us. The day will come when we shall grow to become like the Father when we see him in glory.

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.

**Gospel Hymn:** 311 v. 5 & 6

**Gospel Acclamation: (all)**

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

**Gospel:** John 10 v. 11-18 In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about himself through the image of the good shepherd. He is dedicated to his charges, willing to lay down his life for them because they belong to him.

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 in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

**ADDRESS CREED – Nicene–** p7 of the hymn book

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** Jesus presents himself to us as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Let us pray that his flock today will show the fidelity and courage needed to follow his lead.

**Reader:** Let us pray for the unity of all Christians, that we may acknowledge Christ as our true shepherd.

Let us pray for all the leaders of the Church; that Christ may give them warm and caring hearts so they can be true shepherds to his flock.

Let us pray for those who make our laws and who apply them; that the Lord may guide them with his wisdom and discernment.

As we see the glaring injustices of wealth and food distribution in our world, let us ask God to give us courage to work in his strength towards building a safer and more caring society.

Let us pray for those who suffer from some physical or mental disability - may they call on the name of Jesus Christ for inner healing and peace of soul, so that they can see their suffering as taken up into his resurrection.

Let us pray for those suffering from the cruelty of others, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, and Iran.

We pray for those who are sick, especially David Jones, Penny Sugden, Taylor Birch, Jan Ross, Angie Wilson, Jean Martin, and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for the faithful departed, that the Lord will call them to himself to share the peace he has prepared for all those who love him. We pray Rik Spanner and Jim Wilson, recently departed (*pause while candles are lit*) and for Madge Bird, Phyllis Falco, Patricia Studden, Dennis Neal, Francis Mapson, Kathleen Last, Henry Syrett, Gordon Goodwin, Jim Sanders, Emma Emery, Russell Parker, Olive Partridge, John Donoghue and Sylvia Welham, whose anniversaries fall at this time.

May Mary, the Mother of the Good Shepherd, pray with us. **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

SILENCE

**All:** Father, listen to our prayers made in the name of Jesus, the only name by which we can be saved. Bless all your people including those who are present here, who have come to share the communion of his body and blood, that they may live forever. Amen

**Offertory Hymn: 106 v. 1&2** Offertory Prayers: Hymn 106 v.3&4  
*Mass continues on pg 9 of hymn book*

**SANCTUS:** John Allen Easter setting **Mystery of Faith:** John Allen Easter setting  
**Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! in excelsis.**

**AGNUS DEI:** John Allen Easter setting

*Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a communicant and/or would like a blessing, please come to the altar holding a hymn book.*

**Hymns at Holy Communion: 19, 99** (Please join in.)

**Hymn at Ablutions: 312 Post Communion Prayer**

**Regina Coeli** (*front of hymn book*)

Notices **Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: 107.**