

# Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



Telephone: (043) 6671046

www.edgeworthstownparish.ie

edgeworthstownparish@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Easter - 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

This Weekend **Apr 25<sup>h</sup>**

11.00 a.m. 1. Donal Drake (First Anniv.)

Weekday Masses: *St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.*

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Apr People of the Parish

Next Weekend: **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

11.00 a.m. 1. John Victory (Second Anniv.)

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 25, 2021

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, speak to your local priest or Diocesan Vocations Director, or email the National Vocations Office: email: [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)

On this Vocations Sunday, we pray for those whom God is calling to serve him in the priesthood and religious life. May they sense that call with greater clarity and have the courage to respond generously. Lord hear our prayer.

• The Deep End • Day of Prayer for Vocations •

The Good Shepherd

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate, so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally lay down their lives for their flock. John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

This Good Shepherd Sunday the Gospel describes Jesus as the 'genuine' Shepherd who wants a personal relationship with each one of us and who would lay down his life for us. The Gospel emphasises the importance of relationship as the shepherd knows his flock and cares for them. They 'Follow Him' and it is not a Facebook or Twitter type of following, rather it is a genuine relationship. Everyone matters to the Good Shepherd, regardless of their situations. We are told 'I know my own and my own know me'. We are called today to follow Jesus in a more personal more intimate way. Even when we stray off the path and get lost, it is then especially that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us.

'We think we are feeling from God, but in fact we are running into his arms'. (Meister Eckhart) - Jane Mellett (INTERCOM)

"God has created my heart only for himself. He asks me to give it to him that he may make it happy". - St John Vianney

• Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel •

• Day of Prayer for Vocations •

1. Our relationship with those 'in charge' of us changes when we sense that not only are they in charge, but they care. Remember the difference this made for you as a child, and give thanks for the caring adults who were part of your life.

2. The good shepherd 'lays down his life for the sheep'. When has your care for another led you to 'lay down your life' for that person, e.g., as a friend, parent, spouse, son or daughter? When you have known another to do this for you?

3. Jesus speaks of the freedom of the Good Shepherd in laying down his life. Faced with the needs of others, we can at times feel trapped into looking after them, caught by duty, obligation, or guilt. We can become like the hired hands doing a job without care for the person. Perhaps you have experienced both attitudes, caring for others under duress and caring by your free choice. What difference did it make when you chose to care for the other, even in circumstances where you had little option?

4. What do these experiences of love and care in human relationships reveal to you about God's love for you?

### VOCATION QUOTES

*'You did not choose me, no I choose you and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last' (John 15:16).*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you came to birth I consecrated you" prior to being told "You must go to all to whom I send you" (Jer. 1:4-7).*

*"I know who it is in whom I have placed my trust" (2 Tim. 1:12)*

*'He called to him those he desired and they came to him' (Mark 3:13).*

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION

Understandably families are keen to know about arrangements for the celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Unfortunately it is very difficult to make plans under the current circumstances. As we go to print it is anticipated that the Government will review the current restrictions next week. Hopefully it will be possible for us to gather again for worship in our Parish Church in the near future. It remains to be seen what conditions might apply. It is still hoped that we will be in a position to celebrate First Holy Communion and Confirmation before the end of the school year. We will inform you as soon as we have time to consider the newest Government guidelines.

**TROCAIRE** - Lenten Donations to Trocaire can be dropped into the Letterbox at the Parochial House. Thank you for your generous support of this very worthy cause.

### PATIENCE

"Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself. I mean, do not be disheartened by your imperfections, but always rise up with fresh courage. I am glad you make a fresh beginning daily; there is no better means of attaining to the spiritual life than by continually beginning again, and never thinking that we have done enough. How are we to be patient in bearing with our neighbours faults, if we are impatient in bearing with our own? He who is fretted by his own failings will not correct them; all profitable correction comes from a clam, peaceful mind"

- St Francis de Sales

*"When you get to your wit's end, You'll find God lives there"*

### EDGEWORTHSTOWN PARISH WEBCAM

Parish webcam is accessible at:  
churchtv.ie ⇨ Longford ⇨ Edgeworthstown

- Fr Tom Healy -