

4th Sunday of Easter

26th April 2026 Readings

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:1-6. Response v.1.

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R/.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R/.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R/.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:20-25

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10-14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



4th SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Easter celebrates the joy and glory of the risen Lord Jesus. It acknowledges that he is indeed the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. He is completely faithful to his heavenly Father's will. Yet submitting to it had very serious implications for him.

Jesus loved sinners so much that he suffered and died for them. We need to realise that we are among those sinners and that we contributed to Jesus' suffering. But, as we know, Jesus' shepherding role did not end with his death on the cross. God raised him from the dead and, as a result, he freely shares his risen life with all those who, through baptism, have become his brothers and sisters. Living the baptised life requires that we imitate Jesus' example by obeying the Father's will.



Jesus used the image of the shepherd when teaching about the nature of God because he knew that his audiences understood the work of a shepherd and that they could easily distinguish between good and bad shepherds. Good shepherds ensured that their sheep were safely locked

in pens at night. They double-checked that no other animals had slipped in, animals that might harm the unsuspecting sheep. Vigilance is the watchword of good shepherds and that is what Jesus asks us to be - vigilant in our fight against temptation and sin, aware that we need the Good Shepherd's help to remain safe spiritually.

Being followers of Jesus demands that we are willing to be inconvenienced and, when necessary, to be prepared to suffer in defending our faith. This involves, for example, putting the needs of other people first, rather than being self-centred and selfish. This is what Jesus demonstrated by his preaching and lifestyle.

The reason why Jesus was able to behave so honourably towards those who treated him badly was because he was always in perfect union with God, his heavenly Father, who loved him and supported him. Jesus knew that, regardless of the circumstances in which he found himself, he was never alone. God never deserted him. This knowledge gave him great consolation and encouragement. In imitating Jesus' example, we are challenged by the Good News to imitate his behaviour, whatever the circumstances. We recognise and look to him as the Good Shepherd who never leaves us untended.

Wednesday 29 April 2026

St Catherine of Siena (1347 - 1380)



Catherine was born in Siena and, seeking perfection, entered the Third Order of the Dominicans when she was still in her teens. In 1370 she was commanded by a vision to leave her secluded life and enter the public life of the world. She wrote letters to many major public figures and carried on a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, urging him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States. She burned with the love of God and her neighbour. As an ambassador she brought peace and harmony between cities. She fought hard to defend the liberty and rights of the Popes and did much for the renewal of religious life. She also dictated books full of sound doctrine and spiritual inspiration. She died on 29 April 1380. In 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Catherine of Siena

Holy Spirit, come into my heart;
draw it to Thee by Thy power,
O my God, and grant me charity
with filial fear.

Preserve me, O beautiful love,
from every evil thought;
warm me, inflame me
with Thy dear love, and
every pain will seem light to me.
My Father, my sweet Lord,
help me in all my actions.
Jesus, love, Jesus, love.

Amen.