

Gospel Reflection

Philosophers and scientists of the Enlightenment were enthralled with Reason. They looked at the universe and saw logic and law, and they likened God to an expert watchmaker. He had created a Rolex of a universe and was now contentedly allowing his creation to run its course. The perfect and implacable laws of physics had freed him from the cares of creation — a visit to his celestial office would reveal a vacationing God “gone fishing.” This deistic notion of God is not the God we worship. Our God is an ever-present God, intimately concerned about his children. He has not forgotten about the world. He is not far away. He became man and even when his time came to leave this world, he devised a way to remain with us. Could God get any closer than being truly present within us through the Eucharist? He shows infinite intensity in the focus of his love. Anyone who threatens the sheep of this loving God does so at his own risk: “No one can take them out of the Father’s hand!”

If Jesus is the Shepherd unlike any human shepherd, we should be sheep unlike any typical wool-covered mammals. Their ardour for the next tuft of grass is such that the voice of the shepherd hardly suffices to keep them in the flock. Barking dogs are an essential element to good flock maintenance. But Christ’s sheep don’t need that kind of coercion. In prayer we “hear [his] voice.” May we never tire of belonging to the blessed flock of Christ! May we always listen and heed his voice.

NEWSLETTER

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“United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind”
Philippians 2:2

8th MAY 2022 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (CYCLE C) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 7th May	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 8th May	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 9th May	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 10th May	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 11th May	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 12th May	10:00am	Mass
Friday 13th May		
Saturday 14th May	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 15th May	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr Charles McTasney

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel John 10 27 – 30



Jesus and his disciples were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon’s Porch. The Jews, circling him, said, “How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you’re the Messiah, tell us straight out.”

Jesus answered, “I told you, but you don’t believe. Everything I have done has been authorised by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don’t believe because you’re not my sheep.

My sheep recognise my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him.
I and the Father are one heart and mind.”



“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi