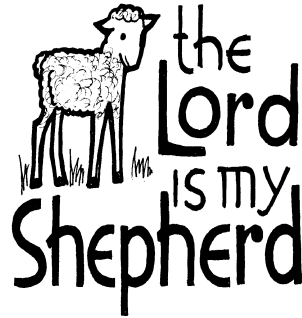


**NEWSLETTER**

**Gospel Reflection**

The 'I am' sayings of Jesus in the fourth gospel are very significant. 'I am ... the bread of life ... the living water ... the light of the world' etc. They indicate to us Jesus' divine status, since God himself (when asked his name by Moses) declared: I AM WHO I AM. The pictures and images which Jesus uses show us the face of God.

This is true of the image used here. When Jesus says he is the 'gate' of the sheepfold, his listeners will be aware that God is presented as a shepherd in the Old Testament - most famously, in Psalm 23. The ideal of a good, caring shepherd is even more vivid, when we are told that the custom was for the shepherd himself to sleep crouched at the entrance of the sheepfold - in other words, the watchful shepherd was, literally, the 'gate'.



The lovely phrase, found only in John's gospel, that Jesus 'has come so that we might have life and have it to the full', is very attractive. We have here a picture of total freedom, together with total security; really, a New Testament version of Psalm 23, where the sheep wants for absolutely nothing, and who is followed, for its whole life, by goodness and mercy.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon (01606 543877).

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

**St Joseph's RC Church  
Woodford Lane  
Winsford  
CW7 2JS**



Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor  
Tel: 01606 543877  
Website; [www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk)  
email: [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)  
General Queries – ring the Parish Number and/or send an email to the Parish  
Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025

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

<b>30th APRIL 2023</b>		
<b>4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (CYCLE A)</b>		
<b>MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b>		
Saturday 29th April	<b>11:00am</b> 5:15pm	<b>First Communion Mass</b> Mass
Sunday 30th April	10:00am	Catherine & Jack Insley anniversary (Livestreamed)
Monday 1st May		
Tuesday 2nd May		
Wednesday 3rd May		
Thursday 4th May		
Friday 5th May		
Saturday 6th May	<b>11:00am</b> 5:15pm	<b>First Communion Mass</b> Mass
Sunday 7th May	10:00am	Mass – Winefride Mary Cannon Anniversary (Livestreamed)
<b>There are no weekday Masses as Father Simon is away</b>		

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email to [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

**200 CLUB DRAW**

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mrs Ruth Vayro

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

**FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH**

If you would like to make a donation for the flowers please add your name to the list in the porch and place your donation into the wall box.

**SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS**

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases

**Coffee morning.** The next coffee morning will be on Tuesday 23rd May at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.

**First Communion Masses.** The First Communion Masses are on the following dates:

The first Mass is on Saturday 29th April at 1100am.

The second Mass is on Saturday 6th May at 1100am.

The third Mass is on Saturday 13th May at 1100am.

**PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

**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.

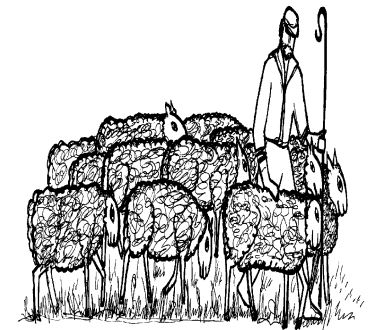
.....  
St Joseph pray for us

**Gospel** John 10 1-10

Jesus said to his disciples. "Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good - a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it."

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again.

"I'll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for - will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi