



CARDIFF CATHEDRAL † GADEIRIOL CAERDYDD

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

3rd May 2020

Year A

Psalter Week 4

“What Our Lord asked us to pray for was labourers” - by Venerable Fulton Sheen

“The labourers must go into the harvest fields, to the masses, to the unbelievers, to the abandoned, to the rudderless. Is it not possible that the Lord withholds many vocations from dioceses and mission societies because of the growing use of priests in strictly secular activities? Why specifically does God call a man to the priesthood? It is not easy to justify the placing of a priest in insurance, building, accountancy, banking, publicity and promotion when the need is so great for convert makers, for missionaries to search out the lost sheep and gently lead them to the fold of Christ. Do we lack dedicated and reliable laymen able to do such tasks well or better? If the Lord was so particular about the fragments of bread, which He ordered gathered up, then will He not insist jealously that His priests do precisely that for which He called them?”

Why did Our Lord, when He spoke of vocations, single out precisely the word *pray*? Because prayer is the expression of the Christian community and the yearning of the Church. As the Church gets the kind of pope she deserves, so she gets the kind and number of priests she deserves. Why do some countries have so many vocations? Because the Catholic people of these countries, rich in their faith, *wants* priests and they pray to be given the priests they want. Why do some countries have so few? Because few people even few parents, pray for priests. “Ask and the gift will come”. Can we hope to receive if we do not ask? There are probably hundreds of thousands of vocations hanging from heaven on silken cords; prayer is the sword that cuts them. The labourers are available potentially in the heart of Christ; it is our petitions that actualise them.

Are there prayers in church for vocations? Do mothers pray for vocations for their children? Do the faithful pray to the Lord ‘to send labourers out for the harvesting’? Do schoolchildren pray for the call of God?

What the Christian community wants ardently, the Lord of the harvest will grant...”

From: The Priest Is Not His Own, by Archbishop Fulton Sheen

SERVICES DURING THE WEEK

The Masses and other liturgies are broadcast via Facebook Live.

Sunday <i>4th of Easter</i>	11:00am 12:00pm 3:00pm	Sung Mass: the Cathedral Community The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Glorious Mysteries</i> Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life <i>Concluding with Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction</i> Principal Celebrant: Archbishop George Stack
Monday	09:30am 12:00pm 3:00pm 5:00pm	Mass: Glyn and Mary Jones, <i>RIP</i> The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Joyful Mysteries</i> Divine Mercy Devotions Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Tuesday <i>St. Asaph</i>	09:30am 12:00pm 3:00pm 5:00pm	Mass: Marjorie Clow, <i>RIP</i> The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Sorrowful Mysteries</i> Divine Mercy Devotions Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Wednesday		
Thursday	12:00pm 3:00pm 6:00pm	The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Luminous Mysteries</i> Divine Mercy Devotions Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction Mass: Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
Friday	09:30am 12:00pm 3:00pm 5:00pm	Mass: Holy Souls The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Sorrowful Mysteries</i> Divine Mercy Devotions Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Saturday	09:30am 12:00pm 3:00pm 5:00pm	Mass: Maria and Peter Johnson (50th Wedding Ann.) The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Joyful Mysteries</i> Divine Mercy Devotions Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Sunday <i>5th of Easter</i>	11:00am 12:00pm 3:00pm 4:30pm	Sung Mass: the Cathedral Community The Holy Rosary ~ <i>The Glorious Mysteries</i> Divine Mercy Devotions Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction

INFORMATION

Archbishop: Most Rev. George Stack
Priest-In-Charge: Rev. Daniel Stanton

Parish Safeguarding:

John Fellows
(029) 20 23 14 07

Hospital Chaplaincy:

If you, or a loved one, are admitted into hospital, please contact the hospital Chaplaincy team:

Contact - (029) 20 74 32 30

Chaplains:

Rev. Peter Davies
peter.davies4@wales.nhs.uk

Rev. David Pritchard
david.pritchard@wales.nhs.uk

Divine Mercy Devotions

It is such a grace to be able to gather together each day in prayer. The Divine Mercy Devotions, celebrated each day **at 3:00pm** - *the Hour of Mercy* - enable us to immerse ourselves in the salvific action of Jesus upon the cross. Jesus said to St. Faustina: *“Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy”*.

Let us continue to seek the mercy of Almighty God.

May ~ Month of Our Lady

May is traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Lady. Pope Francis has written a letter encouraging us to *“rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May”*. The letter, along with two prayers, can be found here: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200425_lettera-mesedimaggio.html

During the month of May, we will offer the Holy Rosary each day, except Wednesday, **beginning at 12:00pm**, after the singing of the *Regina Caeli*. The Holy Rosary will be broadcast live. We are in the midst of an historic moment of our history. Let us, during this time, not fear to turn to Our Blessed Lady and seek her intercession and protection.

This week, we will pray the Rosary in a particular way for Vocations within the Church.

Vocations Sunday

Today is designated as the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. In particular, we pray for vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life within our own Archdiocese. Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI said in a talk that *“where people pray, vocations blossom”*. We continue to pray particularly for Elliot and Dale, who are in formation for the Priesthood

for the Archdiocese, and for those who are discerning their vocation.

This afternoon, Archbishop George will lead a special Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, which will be broadcast live, **beginning at 3:00pm**. The Holy Hour will conclude with Evening Prayer and Benediction.

As we mark Good Shepherd Sunday and the National Day of Prayer for Vocations the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese has released a new online publication to help promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The magazine contains interviews and articles that look at the life of priests and religious within the diocese. This can be downloaded from the Cathedral website.

A Letter from the five Metropolitan Archbishops...

Writing on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, the five Metropolitan Archbishops have addressed the COVID-19 pandemic, and, specifically, the measures taken and restrictions imposed to combat the spread of coronavirus. This letter has been included with this newsletter, entitled *'A People who Hope in Christ'*.

Finance Matters

During these difficult days we are all experiencing, I hope that many of you have benefitted from the Live Streaming of Mass from St. David's

Cathedral. We intend to continue this in order to keep the community of faith together in prayer and worship.

Sincere thanks to those parishioners who have continued to support the Cathedral financially in these difficult days, not least through Standing Orders. Needless to say, like so many other charities and businesses, the Cathedral has suffered a major drop in it's income during this time of closure and social isolation. Nevertheless, high expenditure continues on maintenance, insurance, security and much else.

If you would like to continue supporting the Cathedral and it's ministry in the future, please consider donating to it's life and work in either of the following ways:

Firstly, by visiting the Cathedral's *Virgin Money Giving Page* at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CardiffCathedral>, where you will be able to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral.

Secondly, please consider establishing a regular Standing Order to the Cathedral. This can be set-up easily via your internet banking apps, or, alternatively, by completing the Standing Order form available on the Cathedral website (www.cardiffcathedral.org.uk/finance). A Standing Order can be set up if you Gift Aid your donations via the offering envelopes. For Gift-aiders, please consider making this change to Standing Order.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

A People who Hope in Christ

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope.

In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: “In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.” (27 March 2020)

The impact of COVID-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country’s economy. As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Key workers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of COVID-19, and to

all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort.

When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted.

None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments.

Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though ‘seeing, touching, and tasting.’ We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones

at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and well-being.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling.

As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities.

None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare.

We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy.

On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise.

We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols,
Archbishop of Westminster

✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop
of Liverpool

✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of
Birmingham

✠ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff

✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of
Southwark