

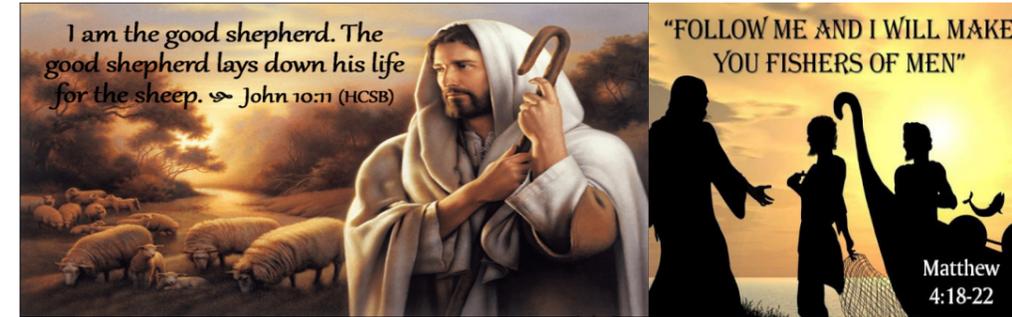
St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 25th April, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter - Vocation Sunday

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
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Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



Bishop Tom Deenihan. Vocations Sunday 2021.

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. The reason is somewhat obvious, the readings of the Mass, as well as the prayers, concentrate on the image of Christ as the Good Shepherd.

A good shepherd cares for, leads and protects his flock. The image of Christ as such a shepherd is consoling for those of us who need care, need guidance, and need protection from time to time. Indeed, we all fall into those categories more often than we'd like to and more often than we might care to admit or imagine! Perhaps it is easier to imagine or acknowledge it these days!

The Gospel also uses the imagery of the Good Shepherd laying down his life for His flock. Sacrifice and generosity are central to the Christian calling and are integral to Priesthood. That imagery has been appropriate too in the context of the current pandemic where priests risked life and health to minister to the sick and dying and by administering the Sacraments to those in need. Their ministry was valued by those who experienced it in a dark and lonely time and reflects the care of the Good Shepherd. That image of the Good Shepherd also causes today to be known as Vocations Sunday. And yet, today's readings put before us the image of a good shepherd. It is an ideal that Christ puts before all of us who wish to serve Him. It is an ideal that all of us in priesthood strive for. It is an ideal that none of us have reached though some are more successful than others. Despite the failings of some, the ideal is still there, the invitation remains and the need is, perhaps, even greater. Despite the bad publicity, despite a growing secularism and despite the sins of some, the majority, the vast majority of us, are doing a job, a job that often goes unnoticed, a job that we are sometimes criticised for and a job that we are sometimes praised for. We do it because we want to do it, we do it because we feel God has called us to it, we do it to the best of our human ability and, it must be said, we are happy doing it. That latter aspect is seldom commented on, seldom noticed or seldom reported but important nevertheless. Most priests are happy in their vocation. Perhaps that is an aspect that does not get enough attention?

The Diocesan Vocations team launched a Vocations website this week, **meathvocations.com** and I appreciate their work in promoting vocations, to publicise that initiative. However, the Vocations Team will readily admit that they cannot do it alone. We must all encourage vocations. There are, I believe, many people who still consider the idea of a vocation to religious life. In a sense, today's feast is directed towards them. The universal Church, this country, this diocese and this parish needs priests.

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 25th April, 2021

Sunday 25th April	10:00am	Eugenia Whelan <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke; Robert Campbell; Sue Murphy Manifold; Noeleen Gradwell; Margaret McLoughlin, Peggy Condra, Alacoque & Monica Rooney & Grainne Condra; James Treacy & deceased members of the Treacy family
Monday	10:00am	Thomas & Kathleen Cahill
Tuesday	10:00am	Noel Mc Kenna & deceased members of the Murphy family
Wednesday	10:00am	Peter Mohan
Thursday	10:00am	Dominic Nugent
Friday	10:00am	James Francis Prendergast & deceased relatives; Paddy Fanning
Saturday	10:00am	Special Intention
Sunday 2nd May	10:00am	Ted Dyer <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Maureen Gaffney <i>First Anniversary</i>



St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)

Mass will be celebrated privately each day at 10:00am and will be available via webcam. You can join us by going online to our website live stream.

We have changed our webcam provider. Our new provider is www.churchservices.tv. The Church will be open each day from 11.00am to 4.00pm so that people can call in to say a prayer or light a candle. Copies of the parish bulletin will be available in the Church.

Adoration in the main Church Monday to Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

LORD, help me to respond to your call, with the aid of wise and generous guides, and realize a proper plan for my life to achieve true happiness. To dream great dreams and always have a concern for the good of others. To stand with you at the foot of the cross and receive the gift of your mother. To witness to your Resurrection and the hope that it brings. To be aware that you are at my side as I joyously proclaim you as Lord. Amen

Prayer for those considering a vocation — Pope Francis

Jesus is still calling priests, he needs you to say yes to his call. Be a priest and find joy, bring people to God and let Jesus work through you. If you feel called to be a priest, open your heart to Jesus, follow the Lord and do not be afraid. Priesthood is not an office of the past. Jesus needs priests today more than ever.

Vocations Director :

Phone: Fr Tony Gonoude 044 9373923

Website: www.meathvocations.com

Facebook Page: *DioceseOfMeathVocations*

Instagram Account: *dioceseofmeathvocations*

Email: vocations@dioceseofmeath.ie



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A QR code (short for "quick response" code) is a type of barcode that contains a matrix of dots. It can be scanned using a QR scanner or a smartphone with built-in camera. Once scanned, software on the device converts the dots within the code into numbers or a string of characters. For example, scanning a QR code with your phone might open a URL in your phone's web browser. This QR code on our parish bulletin and on our website can be used to donate money to our parish. This is another way of assisting people to donate online. Thank you for your generosity and support.

A prayer for those who died...



Larry (Laurence) Murphy, Dublin Road
Mary Henry, (nee Curtin), Townrath, Drogheda
Sean Carolan, Slane Road
Philomena (Phil) Mc Entee (née Leavey), Carrickmacross & Julianstown

May they rest in peace

Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate button** facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.