



# St. Anne's Parish

Pastoral Community of Derriaghy & Colin

Fr. Peter O'Hare, PP  
Rev Pat McNeill, Deacon  
Sr. Mary Murray, Parish Sister

Parish Office: 02890610112  
[www.saintannesparish.net](http://www.saintannesparish.net)

Parish Centre: 07745169205  
Email: [stannes@downandconnor.org](mailto:stannes@downandconnor.org)

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

## Good Shepherd Sunday – Day of Prayer for Vocations

All our services will be celebrated in **private** by Fr. Peter. Mass will be celebrated for the intentions of all our parishioners.

### St. Anne's:

**Mass:** Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am, Sunday 10am

or visit St. Colman's via [www.derriaghy catholic parish.org](http://www.derriaghy catholic parish.org) and follow the link to a live-stream

### St. Colman's

**Sunday: Mass 10.30am**

- You can also find resources for your use at home on our parish website [www.saintannesparish.net](http://www.saintannesparish.net) or the diocesan website – [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org)

### We Remember them

**Anniversaries:** Mary Cox, Damien O'Neill

**St Anne's Parish Website:** [www.saintannesparish.net](http://www.saintannesparish.net)

It has been updated with all the latest information and advice on the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) - Diocesan Directives, Webcams, Prayer Resources, Praying at home, Children's Corner etc and lots lots more. Please check the website for regular updates.

**Parish WhatsApp Group** – Keep up to date with what is happening in our parish community and join in our parish prayer for each other at this very worrying and difficult time.....text your name and mobile number to 07714691281 to be added to our WhatsApp group.

**Your Giving:** This w/end - **Weekly Offering & Monthly Offering for Priests.**

- You may wish to set up a **Standing Order** and if so please call Barbara at the parish office – 028 90610112 and leave your details or email us on [stannes@downandconnor.org](mailto:stannes@downandconnor.org)

OR

- **Donate online** to St. Annes Parish  
**A/C No. 07707787 Sort Code 93 83 00**

OR

- **Envelopes**- Parishioners can use their weekly envelopes as usual and when Government policy allows us, we will look at measures to safely collect them. They are available for pick up in the porch of our church.

Your continued helpful generosity would be very much appreciated.

- Thank you in anticipation
- They are set out in the porch and can be picked up 11am -4pm.
- The boxes are laid out in **ALHABETICAL** order.

OR

- Use the "**Donate**" button on our home page of this website.

**Bereavement Support Group:** Have you suffered the pain of loss and bereavement? Talk in confidence – call 90610112 and a member of the Group will contact you.

**Accord:** Conscious of those who are experiencing difficulties in their relationships and family lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, Accord has set up a support line where callers can talk to experienced couples and relationship counsellors. **Call: 028 9568 0151** 9am - 8pm, Mon to Fri.

## **Vocations Sunday**

"The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice." On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate and consecrated life, especially for our Diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. Do you hear the voice of the Lord, the Good Shepherd calling you to a particular way of life?

If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the Diocesan Vocations Director:  
Fr Kevin McGuckien by email: [vocations@downandconnor.org](mailto:vocations@downandconnor.org)  
or Tel: 02890614567.

## **Saint Patrick's Breastplate**

I arise today through  
God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to see before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to secure me –  
against snares of devils,  
against temptations and vices,  
against inclinations of nature,  
against everyone who shall wish me  
ill, afar and near,  
alone and in a crowd...

Christ, be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit,  
Christ where I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.

## **Reflecting on vocations in the time of Covid-19 pandemic**



The following is a reflection by Bishop John Sherrington about Vocations Sunday in the time of pandemic.

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. We hear Jesus the Good Shepherd calling us to the fullness of life. As a shepherd, he has a keen and sharp awareness for the needs of each one of us. Lovingly he tends us, soothes us and leads us through our life journey into the embrace of the merciful Father. Christ walks close to us, sometimes leading, sometimes at our side, sometimes urging and cajoling a stubborn heart depending on our need at the time. He is the Gate through whom we come to life. Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to reflect on how Christ calls each one of us to follow him more nearly, know him more clearly and love him more dearly.

Around the world, many catechumens are waiting to celebrate their baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed their sacraments and so they wait to cross the threshold into full membership of the Body of Christ. The disruption and dislocation of the pandemic is causing many people to be aware of their fragility and vulnerability as well as to refocus on what is important in life. Many young people search anew for authentic living and to find the rich depths of love in their lives. We all need to be loved and to love.

Christ the Good Shepherd is the Gate who leads us to the fullness of life. We receive today an invitation to pray and thank God for the gifts we have received, to thank God for the gift of his Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as the 'gift of himself' poured out for us on the cross. His invitation is to model your life on Christ who came not to be served but to serve.

Today we recognise the need of being 'WE' to survive COVID-19 and the insufficiency of bring only 'ME'. Heroism and saintliness shines through all who serve us in so many ways at this time. This is the model to imitate.

Today, how is Christ the Good Shepherd inviting you to respond to him for the whole of your life in a calling or vocation?

St John Henry Newman wrote:

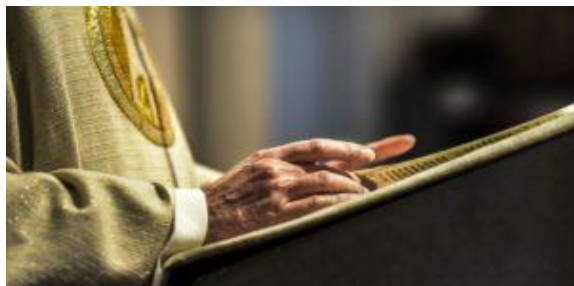
'God has created me to do him  
some definite service.  
He has committed some work to me which he has not  
committed to another.  
I have my mission.'

We pray,  
Holy Spirit, Lord of Life, breathe into me, stir my life, that I may  
love and follow Christ the Good Shepherd more nearly. Amen.

### **The spiritual communion**

*Those who are unable to make sacramental Communion with Christ by participating in the Eucharist, can express the desire to receive him in their spirit with these words that help to make spiritual communion with him:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.  
I love you above all things and desire  
to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself  
wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen  
Saint Alphonsus Liguori



### **Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel John 10:1-10**

On this fourth Sunday of Easter we hear the beginning of the Good Shepherd discourse from John's Gospel. Jesus portrays himself as a shepherd. And what is the duty of this shepherd?

To protect his flock, to lead the flock, to know the flock.

There is a beautiful line in this passage which reads: 'the sheep follow him because they know his voice.' What does it mean, to know the voice of Jesus? It is to be in deep relationship with Him, to know His voice above the 'noise' of the world around us. In order to know someone, we have to spend time with them, being aware of their presence, talking to them, listening, considering them friend and beloved.

So, in today's Gospel we are invited into a deep relationship with the Shepherd; invited to listen out for his voice, a voice that brings peace, not discomfort.

As I write this, our country is dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak. With social distancing, schools and colleges closed, it is a frightening time for many people. As Christ is shepherd to us, we are also called to be shepherds to others. There is a lot of hysteria online but there are also thoughtful suggestions for people, such as: take this time to write a letter to someone you care about; think of three things you love about someone and text it to them; check in on neighbours who might be vulnerable; each church undertake an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and share out the responsibility to phone them each day; practise the Christian discipline of sharing food; offer help and reassurance to others; don't demonise anyone or any group.

As followers of the Good Shepherd, may we live these suggestions, not just in times of crisis, but in all times so that all may 'have life and have it abundantly.'

