

# The Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds - Registered Charity No. 249404

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**MASSES DURING THE WEEK** Readings and Mass texts visit [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

<b>Sunday</b> 2 May	9.30 AM	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Missa pro populo	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
Mon 3 May		SS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES FEAST	PRIVATE MASS	Sowerby Bridge
Tues 4 May		THE ENGLISH MARTYRS FEAST		
<b>Wed</b> 5 May	<b>12.00</b> <b>NOON</b>	Weekday of Easter	<b>November Dead List 2021</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
Thur 6 May		Weekday of Easter		
Fri 7 May		St John of Beverley	PRIVATE MASS	Sowerby Bridge
<b>Sat</b> 8 May	<b>10.00AM</b>	Weekday of Easter	<b>November Dead List 2021</b>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 9 May	9.30 AM	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Anne Bohan [LD]	GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

Please submit notices (by Wednesday 8pm) - to Fr Larkin by email at [pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Roger and Deborah married on the 1 May 2021.

We support them with our prayers and best wishes.

**CAFOD** The statistics around Coronavirus seem to be improving noticeably and the vaccination programme continues with great success, sadly around the world there are many signs of increasing infection and of health systems not being able to cope with widespread illness. Surely it is important that as our situation gets better, we should encourage that people all around the world have the opportunities we have. Speaking last September, Pope Francis had this to say: "If there is the possibility of curing a disease with a drug, it should be available to everyone, otherwise it creates injustice".

It's hard to know what practically we might do, but there are options. Organisations such as CAFOD are urging the cancellation of debt in order to fund vaccines and therefore to save lives. Visit the CAFOD website <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/77395/action/1>

## **FORTHCOMING ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

Please pray for Rev Christopher Butler as he prepares for his Ordination to the Priesthood on Saturday 17 July 2021, 11:00am at Leeds Cathedral. I hope that it will be possible to extend an invitation to all clergy, seminarians and religious to attend the Ordination. Please put the date in your diary and, if it proves possible, make every effort to come along and support Christopher with your presence and your prayers.

## **APPOINTMENT TO PAROCHIAL OFFICE AND MINISTRIES 2021**

Sean Elliott - was Ordination to the Diaconate on Thursday 29 April 2021 at the Church of St Malachy, Halifax. Sean undertook the greater part of his formation for the Priesthood at the Venerable English College, Rome, before commencing a pastoral placement at St Columba's and St Malachy's, Halifax, last September. Due to current restrictions, attendance at the Ordination are by invitation only. Following Ordination to the Diaconate he has been appointed for pastoral service in the Parishes of St Columba and St Malachy, Halifax, and within the Halifax Deanery

## **FATHER MICHAEL MCCARTHY: LIKE A TREE CUT BACK**

The Friday 16 April 2021 edition on The Catholic Universe published an article by Michael Winterbottom on the last book written by Fr Michael McCarthy (RIP, 10 July 2018), Like a Tree Cut Back, which was published on 1 April 2021. The book is available to purchase from The Catholic Universe online: <http://thecatholicuniverse.com/product/like-a-tree-cut-back-by-michael-mccarthy/>.

## **NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT**

The latest newsletter (issue 6) about the National Catholic Safeguarding Project is available  
Full updates of work can be found on the Project Website:  
[www.catholicsafeguardingproject.org](http://www.catholicsafeguardingproject.org)

**THE WEDNESDAY WORD** Lectio Divina - prayerfully preparing for Sunday with reflections on the readings. Available online: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

**MENTAL HEALTH IN EDUCATION** A Catholic Approach an online conference for those involved in the education or catechesis of young people. Friday 28 May 2021, 9-00am-3.30pm hosted by Leeds Trinity University. Input from Christian psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors, academics, clergy, media professionals and students. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. More information: [www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/](http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/) or email [h.hayward@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:h.hayward@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

**PENTECOST CHALLENGE** The Friends of the Holy Land who support the Christian communities in the Holy Land have launched a Pentecost Challenge inviting volunteers (individuals or groups) to walk, cycle, run or swim the equivalent of the 84-mile pilgrimage route from Bethlehem to Nazareth. To participate in the Challenge or to donate in support, please go to [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost)

**TUESDAY PRAYER VIA ZOOM AT 12.00 NOON** Anne & Mike Plunkett 4 May / Patricia & Paul Newman 11 May / Bernadette & John Gibson 18 May

**FLOWERS** Please place your donation into the box marked "Flowers" If you would like to contribute for one week's flowers for church, contact Doris Moorhead 01422 842931  
Rota: 2 May Roger & Deborah / 9 May Eileen O'Brien / 16 May Cathy & John Duffy  
23 May Anne & Michael Plunkett / 30 May Patricia Newman

## **BUDGET FOR A FULL YEAR OF NEWS AND SAVE**

If you are unable to collect your paper at Mass you can now get it delivered direct to your home every week POST FREE just call on 0161 820 5722

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS: - £25.00

SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months: - £99.00

DIGITAL COPY: - 12 Months: £55.00

DIGITAL COPY/AND HARD COPY FOR: - £115.00 (EASTER SPECIAL OFFER)

All papers are Covid safe and packed in a sterile environment.

**SHORT ONLINE COURSE ON THE EARLY CHURCH** The Church that Follows Jesus Christ, covering the early life of the Church leading to the Council of Nicea (325CE) is now available as six 30-minute recordings available on the diocesan website at:  
<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/education/finding-out-more/resources/>

## FIELD NOTES

Vinedressers work nearly year-round to help ensure the vineyard has a successful crop - Pruning is one of the preeminent tasks of a vinedresser - the two most common: cane and spur-pruning. These pruning techniques take into consideration the shape and consistency of the vine. Pruning removes dead, diseased or stunted fruits to make room for new growth, ultimately leading to a healthy and productive vine. The pruning process begins after planting, usually within a few weeks.

In John's Gospel (15:1-8) for the 5th Sunday of Easter, we have the image of the vine and its branches to express the relationship between Christ and his disciples. We should not be surprised that at one level it seems utterly simple, but that at other levels it fills us with a sense of mystery, awe, and perhaps makes us a little uneasy. St John suggests that in various ways God prunes our lives to make them even more fruitful than they presently are. There are some things we may need to shed if we are to become all that God is calling us to be. Some kind of letting go, which can be painful at the time and can help us to grow in our relationship with God and with one another.

While the images of Christ as king and Lord, teacher, shepherd and judge, have their own importance in forming our perspective on how Christ relates to us, these images need to be balanced by such images as the vine, which integrate the disciple into the life of Christ and Christ into the life of the disciple in a unity and closeness that the other images do not always convey. In every Eucharistic celebration we are drawn into a unity and closeness with Jesus and with each other at the Mass. And yet as soon as Jesus introduced the theme of the vine and the branches in the Gospel passage, he speaks of his Father, the vinedresser, doing two things that require a knife. Every branch that doesn't bear fruit, the Father removes, cuts away; and every branch that does bear fruit the Father prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

As we follow Jesus and come to know him personally, we find him calling us to submit to the pruning-knife, to cut out some things from our lives that are good in themselves and that would even have had the potential to develop into fruit bearing branches, in order that other things may flourish. Pruning is always a painful process. It is a form of loss or death. The vinedresser is never more intimately involved than when wielding the pruning-knife!

### **Go to YouTube – Search for**

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life · Ralph Vaughan Williams · George Herbert  
Do not be afraid - Marilla Ness

It is good to be together...

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**These petitions are taken from parishioners' requests sent in recently.**

For **Gisela Lea-McCann**: for timely resolution of her health issues

For **Sarah McCann**, recently diagnosed with cancer and shortly to undergo treatment

**Robert Morley** hoping to start treatment for cancer very soon.

With thanks for prayers received - **Doris Phillips** is now home from hospital and recovering.

21/02/21

For **Barry Harrop** he was unable to have the planned operation and now faces an uncertain future with cancer. 21/02/21

For **Alfie** born at 28 weeks and weighing 730 grams, and for his mother Emily, still struggling with her own health, that they may grow in strength and health together.

**Aileen Queenan** – asks for our ongoing prayers and thanks us for our support. 07/03/21

For **all receiving treatment for cancer** at this time.

Please pray for **Clive Barker** living with ongoing health issues. 14/01/21

Please pray for **Molly** suddenly admitted to hospital 20/02/21

Please pray for **Annis Peart - Binns** during this period. 28/04/21

Please pray for **Rosa** - remains in need of prayers and spiritual support. 21/02/21

For **those suffering from Covid 19** and its aftermath.

For **those in positions of decision-making**, to be guided by the Common Good.

For **the isolated and sick** at this time of Covid restrictions.

For **those in care and hospital work** – may they be given resilience.

For **the recently bereaved** – when we cannot console them directly.

**Of your mercy please pray for: Edward Casey, Joanna Delany, Ailish Cullen.**

All who have recently died. Pray for the repose of their souls.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

**If you have a petition and would like it to be included contact Fr Larkin by email at [pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.thegoodshepherd@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)**

### PRAY FOR:

**THE SICK** Maureen O'Reilly, Sarah McCann, Robert Morley, Doris Phillips, Barry, Annis Peart-Binns, Aileen Queenan, Thomas Davis, Mary Harwood, Mary Howard, Edna Harwood, Rosa Maria Santos, Fr John

**CLERGY** Remember to keep in your prayers those who are unwell or recovering from sickness at this time, especially Fr John Gott, Deacon Patrick Kelly and Deacon Edwin Murphy. Support with your prayers also, all the priests and deacons of our diocese who are burdened with long-term illnesses.

**LATELY DEAD** Edward Casey, Joanna Delany, Kath Fleet, Gez Hodgson. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.