



# ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY

COMBE, DUNS TEW, ENSTONE, GAGINGWELL, GLYMPTON, MIDDLE BARTON,  
RADFORD, RAMSDEN, STEEPLE ASTON and STONESFIELD

SUNDAY 8 MAY 2022  
Sunday Readings: Year C

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Please pray for the sick and the housebound of the parish: Paula Biggs, George Huxley, Johanna, Hugh P*

## 4th Sunday of Easter : Good Shepherd Sunday - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Dear Parishioners,

Each year on the Fourth Sunday after Easter the Gospel reading for Mass is taken from Chapter 10 of the Gospel of St. John. This is the Chapter that contains the teaching of Jesus about himself as the Good Shepherd and a different part is read each year. The understanding of the part that is chosen each is hinted at by the first and second readings that are chosen for that year. So in the Gospel for this year we have the teaching of Jesus: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life'. The commission given by Jesus to the Apostles was to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News. This is precisely what we read Paul and Barnabas are doing in our first reading. They take the Gospel to a very distant part of the Roman Empire of their day. After an initial warm welcome at the synagogue of Antioch in Pisidia, the leaders in the Jewish community there create great opposition to the Apostles' teaching about Jesus. In the turmoil that follows Paul and Barnabas are led to conclude that the only way forward is to proclaim the Gospel to the gentiles. It was a moment of revelation for them and because of it the Church is given a new missionary impetus and direction. We are the beneficiaries of that new direction and we acknowledge that the Gospel is for people of all times and places.

Our second reading from the book of the Apocalypse presents us with a mystical vision of where our Christian faith is leading us to; a fulfilment in a new and glorious creation that Jesus, the Lamb who was sacrificed, has brought into being through his redeeming Death and Resurrection.

It is because of the important message of this Gospel teaching that today is dedicated to Jesus the Good Shepherd. The vocation for each Christian is to live with the dignity of that calling. At the same time the Church recognises the specific call and need for some individuals to dedicate their lives in a particular way through the ministry of the priesthood, diaconate or religious life. Let us pray for such people and ask the Lord to grant others the grace of such a vocation.

In our own diocese today we have the annual **Second Collection** for the **Clergy Training Fund**, a vital source for the formation of our future priests and deacons.

In spite of the great negativity all around us, let us pray for a genuine optimism which is rooted in our amazing Christian Faith..

Father Tony

### Diocesan Prayer for Vocations:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call may have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The ACN 2021 report:** The 2021 report can be downloaded here:

<https://acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Executive-Summary-2021-EN-single-pages-small.pdf>

or explored online here: <https://acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport/home/>

Later today, there will be a clickable link to these pages on the newsletter page of our parish website.

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Saint Teresa of Lisieux is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust: Registered Charity number 234216

All welcome at all Masses

### NEXT WEEK

Monday 9 May

Weekday of Easter

Mass 9.30am

Tuesday 10 May

St John of Avila

Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 11 May

Weekday of Easter

Mass 9.30am

Holy Hour: 6pm

Thursday 12 May

Weekday of Easter

Mass 9.30am

Friday 13 May

Our Lady of Fatima

Mass 9.30am

Followed by benediction / exposition

Saturday 14 May

St Matthias, Apostle

No Mass today

Sunday 15 May

5th Sunday of Easter

Parish Mass 9.15am

ALL WELCOME

For Confession at

St. Teresa's, please contact

Fr. Clive.

**SAFEGUARDING:** If you ever have any concerns regarding safe-guarding please contact our Safeguarding Rep Sharnalee Foster on 01608 678731

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