

Loving God, accept the cries of our heart
as we offer our prayers;
through them transform us and all creation
until you are in all and through all.
We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen

BLESSING

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year
bring peace and happiness to you and to those you hold most dear
And may Christ our risen Saviour always be there by your side
To bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Canon Ken, Bishop-elect George, Joyce, Eddie, Johnny,
Adam & Hayley, Cora, Audra, Sylvia, Adam

Senior members resident in care homes

Nan, Isabel, Leslie, Lillian, Tom, Sally, Kay



**Remember all who have been bereaved especially during
this time when restrictions prevent the usual funeral services.**

The Wade family following the death of Ronnie, formerly of Hemsworth
Court Nursing Home, Shankill Road.

We continue to hold the Adair and Hill families in our prayers at this time
following the death of Liz's husband Bobby and then her brother Brian.
Pray for Liz and Pauline as they come to terms with the loss of their
husbands, that they and their families will know God's comfort and peace.

PARISH PRAYER LINE – TEL: 07553404711 (New)

*Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:4,5*

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St Aidan's Parish Church
Enabling people to find a Living Faith in a Loving
God by "Serving Christ in the Community"

3 MAY 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE EASTER GREETING

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed.

Alleluia!



TODAY'S PSALM 23

PENITENCE (*We say sorry to God*)

**O God our loving Father, we are very sorry for all the things we
have done which make you sad. We have sometimes been selfish
or bad-tempered or disobedient. We are sorry for the things we
have failed to do, for the work we did not finish, the thank-you we
forgot to say, the friends we did not help, the quarrel we never
made up. For these and all our failings, forgive us through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our
Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the
world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAISE : Blessed is the Lord

For he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

And in our song we will praise our God.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 23

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*Refrain: And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights. *Refrain:*

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know. *Refrain*

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ACTS 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

JOHN 10:1-10

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.



The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

PRAYERS

Take a few moments and in your imagination place yourself in church and as you look around at familiar faces, ask for God's blessing on each one as you name them in your heart.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray
Our Father, who art in heaven....

On this fourth Sunday of Easter we have the beautiful twenty third Psalm and the passage from John's Gospel with Jesus identifying himself as the Shepherd, the one who protects the entrance to the sheepfold. One who has come to give life, abundant life. Here is another version of this greatly loved Psalm for reflection.

Personal Psalm (adapted from Psalm 23)

The Lord is my friend, ever by my side;
He is my protector, teacher and guide
He gives not all I want but all that I need
To faithfully follow him, in word and in deed

He offers rest, refreshment and renewal –
Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual
He skilfully guides through confusion and strife
He gives meaning, purpose and direction to my life.

In tough times, he protects, and takes away my fears
In rough times, he comforts, and dries all my tears
He's quick to discipline, when I go astray
But he's always with me, he will never go away

When others condemn and mean things are said
He's the defender who comes to my aid
I know he has called me and set me apart
To follow the purposes of His own heart

Together forever – that's how we'll be
My Lord and me

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