

***THE GOSPEL***

***John 10:11-18***

*I am the good shepherd.*

The Good Shepherd knows his sheep  
and calls them each by name.  
They listen, they wait for  
the sound of his  
voice.

We are  
so like them.  
O Jesus, Shepherd,  
we long to hear you call us.

Hold us in your arms awhile.  
Then help us take your unconditional love  
--the lay-down-your-life kind of love  
that you got from your Father--  
and wrap it around us  
into the lives of  
all people  
every  
where.

# Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Under the pastoral care of the Pallottines, Society of the Catholic Apostolate.  
Registered Charity No. 252929

358 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9AN  
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**COMMUNITY**

Fr. Eugene Lynch SCA, Fr. Liam O'Donovan SCA,  
Fr. Joe McLoughlin SCA, Fr. Tom Daly SCA

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Saturday	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sunday	10.00 am – 1.30 pm

**MASS TIMES**

Mass at 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.

These Masses will be streamed online.

**<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>**

Saturday – 12.00 noon and 7.00 pm

Sunday – 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.

Confessions – Saturdays 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.  
and 6.15 pm to 6.45 pm

**ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm,  
and Friday from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Also streamed online.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(YEAR B)  
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY  
25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

We pray for those whose  
anniversaries occur about this time:

Zofia Wierzan, Michelle Castiello, George Mistry,  
Eileen Cash, Roy Thorne and Elizabeth (Liz) Cregan.

† May they rest in peace. †

*Certificates are available for collection  
from the Parish Office for the following :-  
**Sunday School First Holy Communions 2020**  
**Non-Wiseman Students Confirmations 2020***

*The Office opening hours are  
Monday to Saturday – 9.00 am to 4.00 pm  
Sunday – 10.00 am to 1.30 pm*

***Confirmation and First Holy Communion  
gifts and cards are now available in the Parish Office.***

*We would like to thank all who gave us gifts for Easter, either  
cash or items. Your generosity is very much appreciated.*

**Good Shepherd Sunday  
25<sup>th</sup> April**

A common image of Jesus is that of the Good Shepherd. For those of us who live in a town it may never really have occurred to us what constitutes a good shepherd, or the relative merits of sheep. We may be a little prone to thinking about sheep as perhaps a little dumb and docile and the shepherd as the one who keeps them out of trouble. To some extent the view of the shepherd may not be far wrong. However,

the stereotype does little for the image of sheep. Sheep are far cannier than people often give them credit for as today's Gospel points out. We are told that they know their master's voice. In Jesus' day sheep were typically brought together in a sheepfold at night for safety, but it wasn't just one shepherd's flock. Instead, it was several. Each morning the shepherds would call their own sheep. This suggests that the members of the flock, namely us, have the ability to recognise the Truth of Jesus' call and his message.

Then what about the shepherd? Shepherds, then as now, had to be prepared for all eventualities, whether this had to do with the vagaries of the climate such as sudden storms or protection against wild animals, not to mention the tendency of sheep to get themselves into various sorts of scrapes. Taking care of a flock is quite a pro-active occupation which takes time, care, vigilance and the ability to think on one's feet in all sorts of circumstances. Jesus, the good shepherd, is out amongst his sheep, watching out. In the words of Pope Francis, a shepherd needs to smell his or her sheep. The image reminds us that Jesus meets us in the immediacy of the here and now, in all of the highs and lows of our existence, even when we get ourselves stuck in tight places and when we are under threat from the wolves. It also suggests that in the depths of our hearts we have the canniness to recognise his voice and to follow with assurance and trust that he will see us right. The passages in the Gospels referring to Jesus as the Good Shepherd, also give a model for those who are leaders in the Church, particularly for those who are called to the priesthood.