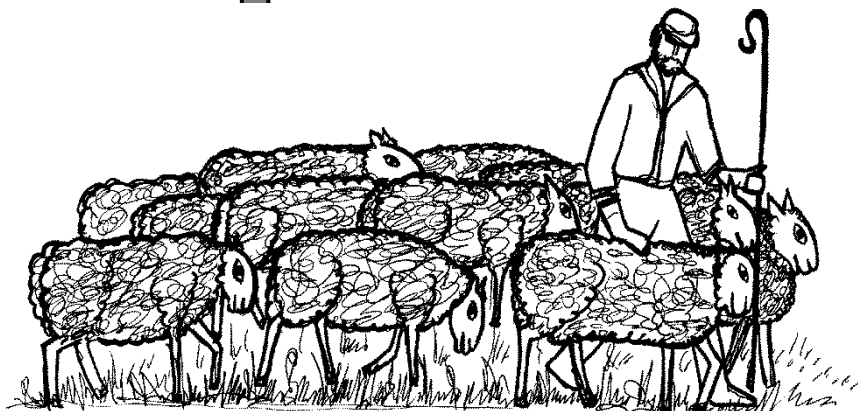




Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

17th APRIL 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

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The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.

The Resurrection stories of Jesus have all been told and from now to Pentecost the Gospels are from the teaching of Jesus before his passion and death, while the first and second readings are vivid illustrations of the life of the Church both on earth and in heaven. Today's first reading is the only one not to talk in so many words about shepherds, lambs or sheep. However, the preaching of Paul and Barnabas added to the flock of believers, of which (as part of that flock today) we can all confess our membership by singing the psalm response. Much history has passed in the reading of Acts since last week. The second reading shows the flock of Christ in a state of blessedness. One might question whether at the time of writing there were enough deceased Christians to constitute a huge number, impossible to count; but others will be in heaven, even if they have not 'passed through the great persecution' which in the Roman empire had started in the AD60s or so. The Gospel is a short passage but it defines who is one of the flock: one who listens to Jesus's voice, and follows him. This is the condition for attaining eternal life.

SMILE LINES

An elderly religious sister lived in a convent which was next door to a big building site. She could hear the bad language from the workmen. She decided to try and help them to change their ways.

She decided she would take her lunch, sit with the workmen and talk to them.

She put a sandwich in a brown paper bag and walked over to the spot where the workmen were sitting and having their lunch.

With a big smile she came up to them and asked, 'Do you gentlemen know Jesus Christ?'

They shook their heads and looked at each other very confused. One of the workers looked up into the steel structure and shouted out –

'Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?'

One of them yelled down 'Yeah, why?'

'His wife's here with his lunch.'

* * * * *

Did you know?

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

A... Their birthplace
* *

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windscreen wipers and laser printers have in common?

A.. All were invented by women.
* *

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A.. Honey

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th April

10:00 Private Intention

18:00 Dan Carlin (RIP)

Sunday 17th April

08.30 James Ryan (RIP) Anniv.

09.45 Iain Macaskill (RIP) Rec Dec

11.30 Ernesto + Alceste Bortoli RIP Anniv.

Monday 18th April

09.15 Special Intention (TR)

Tuesday 19th April ST. ALPHEGE

09.15 Ints Tricia & Gordon Lewis

Wednesday 20th April

09.15 Bridget Watters (RIP) Anniv.

Thursday 21st April

09.15 Por Chiv (RIP) Anniv.

Friday 22nd April

09.00am

Saturday 23rd April ST. GEORGE

10:00 The People of the Parish

18:00 James Hannafin (RIP)

Sunday 24th April

08.30 Denis Mann (RIP)

09.45 Con Cronin (RIP)

11.30 Bill Ramswell (RIP) Anniv.

QUOTE - Pope Francis

God does many things to attract the hearts of His people "This unfaithfulness of God's people is also ours. It is our own infidelity hardens the heart, closes the heart!

It does not allow [us to hear] the voice of the Lord who, as a loving father, always asks us to open ourselves to His mercy and His love. The Lord always speaks with us in this way, with the tenderness of a father who says: 'Return to me with all your heart, for I am compassionate and merciful.'