

Reflection **Cutting out the small talk**

Listening to politicians this week has reminded me how it is notoriously hard to get straight answers from politicians. Ask if their party will put up taxes, and you will very likely be told, "We have made it abundantly clear that ..." followed by something which is very far from clear. This weekend we've had the first of the First Communion Masses. A crowded church, full of people. With these two things in my mind I thought about Jesus answering questions.

Jesus is sometimes apt to avoid giving a straight answer. In his case the intention is not to cloud the issue, but to come to the point. People came asking him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" They are not really concerned with when he came there; Jesus knows exactly why they have come. They had been astounded by the way in which he had fed them in the wilderness. Jesus cuts out the small talk and tells them, "Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for the food that endures to eternal life."

This morning/yesterday people may have come looking for Jesus for all sorts of reasons. You tonight/today may be here for all sorts of reasons too. Perhaps you were attracted by the music, or lack of music; or the beauty of the church; or with your child as you attempt to help them in their faith journey. Or we may have been seeking help in a desperate situation. But when we found him, he did not give us a lecture on Church music, or an church architecture. Nor did he directly address the difficulty that set us looking for him. Instead he went straight to the point, exhorting us to work

for food that endures to eternal life. He may not engage in small talk; but he has the message of eternal life. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep."

**I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd
lays down His life for the sheep.**

John 10:11



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CHRIST CHURCH CATHOLIC CHURCH, HEALD GREEN

**Saturday 21st April 2018 (Vigil Mass) 5.30pm
Sunday 22nd April 2018 Mass 9am & 11am
(Children's Liturgy at 11am)**

				Intentions
Sat	21st Apr	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Vigil Mass 5.30pm	Mrs Chung RIP Parishioners Edith Lanigan 1st Anniversary of death
Sun	22nd Apr		Mass 9am Sung Mass 11am	
Mon	23rd Apr	St George	Celebration of the Word and Communion 10am	
Tue	24th Apr	Ferial	Mass 10am Funeral Service 12 md	Barbara Wharmby RIP Peter Edward Coughlan
Wed	25th Apr	St Mark	Mass 10am	Camilo Tintiman 40th day Of Death
Thu	26th Apr	Ferial	Mass 10am	William Lisgo RIP
Fri	27th Apr	Ferial	Mass 10am– Requiem of Ursula Gray 2.15pm Requiem of Margaret Vosper	Ursula Gray Margaret Vosper
Sat	28th Apr	Ferial	Mass 11am First Holy Communion	For those receiving Holy Communion for the first time

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional on Saturday 5-5.20pm. OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.

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Next Week : FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)
28th. APRIL Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm
29th. APRIL Sunday Mass at 9am & 11am

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INTERFAITH EVENT—TUESDAY 24th APRIL 7.30PM -St. Catherine's Outwood Rd – Celebrating the bonds between Muslim & Christian Faiths. ALL WELCOME

CHRIST CHURCH LADIES' CLUB

Next Meeting 26/4/18 - 2-4pm. Speaker John Dwyer "Plodding to the Top"

ALSO

Trip to Rochdale Pioneers museum - "The opening of a Cooperative Store", and a visit to Garden Rigg Garden Centre. Thursday 10th May. Spaces available. Cost £15: Call Collette 437 7968.

AND

We are running an extra trip this year which may be of interest to the parish in general. We are going to see the exhibition of **TERRACOTTA WARRIORS AT LIVERPOOL** World Museum Date - 21st June 2018 departing 9.15 am for a 10.30 admission Cost - £25 - includes admission to the exhibition and coach fare from and to Church. On the journey back we will be stopping at a Garden Centre to give you the opportunity to have lunch or a sandwich etc.

This is NOT a "Ladies Only" trip. Interested? Call Collette on 437 7968.

RACE NIGHT SATURDAY 19TH MAY 7PM IN THE HALL

Horses available for £3:00 or Sponsor a race for £30. Bring your own drinks & nibbles: See poster in the porch & sign up to come

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Andrea Lomas will be available each Tuesday 7.30 -8.30pm for anyone wishing to discuss arrangements.

NO TO DECRIMINALISING ABORTION PETITION

The Abortion Act 1967 is a bad law but keeping abortion within the law offers some safeguards for mothers & their unborn babies. Decriminalising abortion would mean vulnerable women buying online abortion pills & taking them without medical supervision. It will mean abortion up to birth for any reason. Leaflet available in the porch. Please sign the petition in the porch

Parish Draw Winners

1st Prize: 153 Robert Symms
2nd Prize 29 Anne Byrne.
Cheques are available to collect from the Parish Office.

To all members of the Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality.

At the last AGM we voted to begin a working party to look at our constitution and ensure that it is fit for purpose for the future. We have come up with some draft proposals. We will meet again at St Mary of the Angels, Hooton. CH66 1QJ - Exit J5 M53 and head in direction of Chester A41. Church is 200 yds over the lights beside a car wash on right hand side - on Saturday, 12th May at 1.30pm. Anyone who wishes to join us will be very welcome. If you would like to receive a copy of the existing constitution and the suggested changes or, if you are unable to join us but want to make a comment, please email me at

annerogowski584@hotmail.com and I

will ensure that your points are fed back.

NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION?

There are many Reasons why people come to Mass and don't receive Holy Communion.

But we as a church family wish to encourage all at Mass to come forward. Please join the line and receive a blessing from the Priest. Just place one arm across your chest so as the priest knows to give you a blessing.



PLEASE NOTE COPIES OF ROTAS FOR EMs, READERS & WELCOMERS ARE IN PLASTIC POCKETS PINNED ON THE BOTTOM OF THE 'This Week' Notice Board (next to the office)

VACANCIES

See School vacancies in the porch

The Governors of St James' Catholic High School are seeking to appoint an exceptional Headteacher who is an outstanding classroom practitioner and a practising Catholic, committed to the ethos and vision of Catholic Education. This post commences on 1st September 2018 and offers an exciting career development opportunity for a hard-working and ambitious leader.

Further details from the TES tes.com or the school website"

CHEADLE CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

Is looking for a Foundation Governor. A Foundation Governor is one who represents the Bishop and the Diocese, and needs to be committed to the values of Catholic education. Applications are sought particularly, but not exclusively from those with a background in education.

PARISH YOUTH MINISTER FOR RUNCORN

Full time (£19,000 -£22,000) or job share www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/curia/vacancies See post in porch

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY EDUCATION

Have vacancies for Foundation Governors within the Stockport Local Authority area ; if you are interested go to the Diocese Website and click on Education/Governors/Governor Vacancies or email Sue.Blackwell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

HOLY WATER Please note *Holy Water* is available from the stone jar on the altar steps near the Baptismal Font.



LOST PROPERTY

Please check in the box in the porch for any items you are missing.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND



May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

Gift Aid & Planned Giving Envelopes

The envelopes for the 2018/19 tax year are now available for collection in the porch. They should be used from 8th April. If you would like to give regularly by envelope or standing order, please contact the office and fill in the appropriate forms.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

The Readings at Mass today are about Christ the Good Shepherd. For this reason, today is designated as Vocations Sunday when we are asked to pray particularly for vocations to the priesthood. - SERRA, which meets here 1st & 3rd Thursdays, work & pray for vocations—new members/visitors welcome.

SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

in Liverpool -A group from Christ Church will be taking part in the Eucharistic Procession. This will begin at 1pm and finish with Benediction at 2.45pm. Please let the office know as soon as possible if you would like to take part. If there is sufficient interest we will arrange a coach as parking will be difficult.

This is a unique opportunity to celebrate our Catholicity.

if you are unable to attend Mass ? Go to www.Catholicmass.org.uk and click on "Find a Church", then click on Shrewsbury Diocese, then Christ Church Heald Green

CARDS & GIFTS for First Communion available in the porch

