



Welcome to  
Saint Bernadette's Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> May – 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Fourth Week of Easter (A)

**Parish Priest: Canon Geoffrey Hunton KHS, STB, BA**

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**Parish Centre rooms to hire**

If you would like to book the Parish Centre hall or one of the three meeting rooms

Telephone: 01724 862804

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Registered No: 1134449

Co Registration No: 715164



**From Canon Geoffrey**

**To all Parishioners.** I do hope you are all keeping well and safe. Please continue to remember in your daily prayers those who are working hard to keep us all safe.

We are now several weeks into the lockdown and from personal experience I do realise how difficult this can be, perhaps finding things to do to occupy our minds and dispelling at times irrational anxieties.

This whole experience is something new and quite different for us all and daily we are being called to practice great patience with ourselves and perhaps at times with the people we are living with.

From conversations I have had with people over the telephone, especially those living by themselves, I know that the solitude can be at times difficult to manage and I would especially ask that you remember in particular those in our communities who are living by themselves.

I have been speaking with several elderly members of our congregations during this past week. They are members of that generation that lived through WWII. What came over during the conversations I have had with them was their quiet determination, gleaned perhaps from their experiences during WWII and also, their great faith. What they had to say, made me think about the need to call upon our faith and ask the Lord to grant us perspective during these times and reflect upon our own individual experiences of these past few weeks. Perhaps to identify hope and to recognise and acknowledge that we will get through this and out of disquiet and grief we will have a deeper understanding of ourselves and who we are.

This coming week we as a nation would have been celebrating publicly the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. As we are all aware the public celebrations have been cancelled, however, I would ask us all to remember not only the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives through armed conflict and bombardment of our towns and cities, but let us also remember and reflect upon the example and witness of those who endured those years and lived to share their lives for future generations.

To you all, please keep safe and well.

With every blessing to you all

Canon Geoffrey & Fr Liam

**Live Streaming of Masses and Devotions in the Nottingham Diocese**

For details visit the St Bernadette's website at : <https://www.stbernadettesashby.org/livestreamingofmasses>

For details of daily live streaming of masses by Canon Geoffrey and Fr Liam visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbernadettesashby/>

**Easter 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Gospel Reflection**

The presentation of the Good Shepherd is the nearest approach to a parable given to us in the Gospel of John. Jesus tells it immediately after a major clash with the Pharisees as a result of his cure of the Man Born Blind. This position gives it additional force, the hearers could not fail to understand it in the light of the chapter of Ezekiel 34, in which the prophet contrasts the lazy and self-seeking shepherds ruling Israel in Ezekiel's day with the ideal shepherd whom God would send as his representative. This shepherd would be God himself and of his servant David. So, Jesus' description of himself as the Good Shepherd is at once a claim to be the Messiah of the line of David and in some sense to be himself the divine Shepherd of Israel.

Stories and images of farming life abound in all the gospels, a testimony to the background of Jesus and his hearers in the farming communities of Galilee. These are the images which would naturally spring to mind. In most of these parables, sheep appear as helpless and gormless creatures, prone to getting lost and needing to be sought out, carried on the shoulders of the shepherd – an apt image of most of the time! Only in this parable are they more responsive and seem to have a real relationship with their shepherd, having confidence to go out through the gate into freedom when he opens it, recognising his voice, following him and even responding when he calls their name. We might pray to have that confidence and warmth of relationship. **(HW)**

**Unmentioned in Despatches**

*Some of them never come home to fanfares,  
they dump their kit-bags down at the door,  
kiss their wives and let their children  
wrestle them down to the kitchen floor,  
switch the telly on, pour out a whiskey,  
search for the local football score.*

*Some of them skip the quayside welcome,  
dodge the bunting and cannonade,  
make their landfall in silent harbours,  
nod to the coastguard, but evade  
the searchlight of public scrutiny  
like those engaged in the smuggling trade.*

*Some of them land at lonely airfields  
far removed from the celebration,  
hang their flying gear in a locker,  
cadge a lift to the railway station,  
make for home and take for granted  
the short-lived thanks of a grateful nation.*

*Some of them miss the royal salute,  
the victory parade along the Mall,  
the fly-past, the ships in formation passing  
the cheering crowds on the harbour wall.  
Remembered only by friends and relatives,  
some of them never come home at all.*

*Poet: Peter Wyton*

**Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady Walsingham**

**Sycamore Film Series 'What Do You Believe?' (2019) <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/event/sycamore/>**

This series of 25 minute videos explores the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. They are presented by Fr Stephen Wang, a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Westminster. The series looks at the challenges of living out the faith and will help enquirers who are curious about what Christians believe. The films avoid religious jargon and whilst making the faith accessible to ordinary people, they will also help committed Christians deepen their faith and learn about the riches of the Christian tradition.



Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April:	The Search for Happiness
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April:	The Existence of God
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May:	A God Who Speaks
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May:	Who is Jesus?
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May:	The Holy Spirit and the Church
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May:	The Bible
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May:	The Gift of Faith
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May:	The Power of Prayer
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May:	Finding True Freedom
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May:	The Meaning of Love

Recordings from 29<sup>th</sup> April are available for a limited time at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB7HRatqrA24RDmLU4algs93vyHsKxiG5>