

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## 21st April 2024 Readings

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 117:1.8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22*

**R/. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in men;  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes. **R/.**

I will thank you for you have answered  
and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **R/.**

Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
You are my God, I thank you.  
My God, I praise you.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end. **R/.**



### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been  
revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep and my own know me.  
Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said:

I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for  
his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd  
and the sheep do not belong to him,  
abandons the sheep and runs away  
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,  
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;  
this is because he is only a hired man  
and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;  
I know my own  
and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep.  
And there are other sheep I have  
that are not of this fold,  
and these I have to lead as well.  
They too will listen to my voice,  
and there will be only one flock,  
and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life  
in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me;  
I lay it down of my own free will,  
and as it is in my power to lay it down,  
so it is in my power to take it up again;  
and this is the command I have been given by my  
Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year B

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

*"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep."*

**J**esus, in today's Gospel, says that He is the good shepherd the prophets had promised to Israel.

He is the shepherd-prince, the new David, who frees people from bondage to sin and gathers them into one flock, the Church, under a new covenant, made in His blood.

His flock includes other sheep, He says, far more than the dispersed children of Israel. And He gave His Church the mission of shepherding all peoples to the Father.

In today's First Reading, we see the beginnings of that mission in the testimony of Peter, whom the Lord appointed shepherd of His Church. Peter tells Israel's leaders that the Psalm we sing today is a prophecy of their rejection and crucifixion of Christ. He tells the "builders" of Israel's temple, that God has made the stone they rejected the cornerstone of a new spiritual temple, the Church.

Through the ministry of the Church, the shepherd still speaks, and forgives sins, and makes His body and blood present, that all may know Him in the breaking of the bread. It is a mission that will continue until all the world is one flock under the one shepherd.

In laying down His life and taking it up again, Jesus made it possible for us to know God as He did—as sons and daughters of the Father who loves us. As we hear in today's Epistle, He calls us His children, as He called Israel His son when He led them out of Egypt and made His covenant with them.

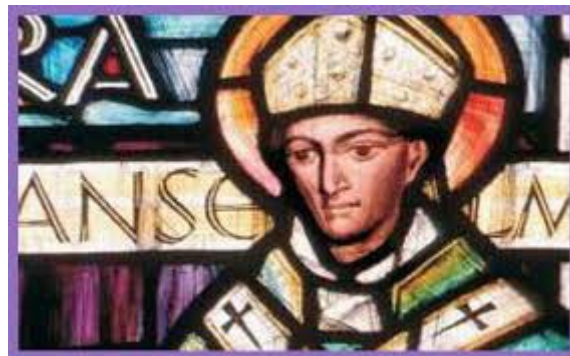
Today, let us listen for His voice as He speaks to us in the Scriptures, and vow again to be more faithful followers. And let us give thanks for the blessings He bestows from His altar.



**Sunday 21 April 2024**

**St Anselm (1033 - 1109)**

He was born in Aosta, in northern Italy, and became a monk of Bec in Normandy, where he taught theology and devoted himself to the spiritual life. After some years as abbot, he succeeded his master Lanfranc as archbishop of Canterbury. His bitter disputes with the kings of England over the independence of the Church resulted in his twice being exiled. He died at Canterbury on 21 April 1109. He is remembered for his theological learning and writings, and for organising and reforming church life in England.



Prayer of the Week

**A Prayer of St Anselm**

O my God, teach my heart where and how to seek You,  
where and how to find You.  
You are my God and You are my all and I  
have never seen You.  
You have made me and remade me,  
You have bestowed on me all the good things  
I possess,  
Still I do not know You.  
I have not yet done that for which I was  
made.  
Teach me to seek You.  
I cannot seek You unless You teach me  
or find You unless You show Yourself to me.  
Let me seek You in my desire,  
let me desire You in my seeking.  
Let me find You by loving You,  
let me love You when I find You. Amen