

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Sunday 7th May 2017

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Acts 2: 42-end

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING – 1 Peter 2: 19-end

Brothers and sisters: It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL READING – St John 10: 1-10

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

CARTMEL PENINSULA TEAM MINISTRY CONFIRMATION 2017

There will be an outdoor baptism service in the afternoon (place to be confirmed) on **Sunday 17th September** followed by a service of Confirmation for the whole Team in the evening at St. Mary's, Allithwaite with Bishop James. **If you are interested in either being baptised and/or confirmed, please speak with either Rev Rach or Rev'd Andrew.**
Confirmation classes will commence in July.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN - We will be holding a Church Spring Cleaning day on Saturday 20 May from 10.00 am until 12.00 Noon and would appreciate all the help we can get, please. This will be to restore St Paul's to its former 'very clean' state once the contractors have completed their work and left the site. There will be cakes/biscuits and coffee/tea. Just come along for as long as you can manage, with your dusters, etc. *Thank you, Rosemary*

CHRISTIAN AID: . There are no door-to-door collections this year. **Envelopes are available at the rear of church and in the Social Area. All payments for coffee today will go to Christian Aid.**

SPRING FAIR - To be held Saturday, 3rd June. Please note in your diaries now. We need Raffle and Tombola prizes, Books and Bric -a -Brac. Boxes are available at the rear of St. Paul's for your gifts.

SOLO LUNCH - Our next Solo lunch will be on June 11th at a venue still to be arranged. Please keep the date in your diary and I hope that you can join us. Sue

GARDEN BOON DAY - A morning of trimming and pruning the remaining bushes before further replanting, on **Saturday, 13th May, at 9.30 am.** Please come along with tools and take-away bags. Nothing too strenuous. Coffee and refreshments provided.