

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL: This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd. Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees. Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow. The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd. Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

SCRIPTURE 101: Our study of Scripture continues **every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at St. Michael's Church in Douglas in the sacristy (enter by the side door). Each evening consists of a video presentation featuring Fr. Sebastian Carnazzo, a Melkite (Byzantine) priest, followed by a facilitated group discussion. In these lectures, Father Sebastian brings out the richness and the profound relevance of the story of our salvation history. Please join us, even if you have missed some of the classes already! The video lectures are available for free online if you want to catch up on missed weeks (<https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/courses/scripture-101>). Bring along a bible, a pencil, and a highlighter, and prepare for a new encounter with the Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK MAY 1 – 7, 2023

Monday	8:00 a.m.	Feast of St. Joseph The Worker Arnprior For the Dedicated Workers Everywhere
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	St. Philip and St. James, apostles Braeside John Mellor <i>by The Estate</i>
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Arnprior Elizabeth Sammon <i>by Lillian Richard</i>
First Friday	9:00 a.m.	Arnprior For Donors to the Memorial Fund & Those Named in Memoriam & The Starflowers Prayer Initiative
Saturday	4:30 p.m.	St. Francois De Laval, bishop Arnprior Scott Brown <i>by The D'Souza Family</i>
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Arnprior <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Braeside Deceased Members of the Farrell & Fitzmaurice Families <i>by Bernice & Pat Fitzmaurice</i>

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: 20 minutes before weekend Masses and also upon request.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: our faithful departed, Carol Kane bo St. John Chrysostom Parish, Marcel Joseph Ouellet, brother of Aline McCallum and Peter Ouellet of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Alma McNulty mother of Catherine McNulty of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

CHURCH EXTERIOR RESTORATION COLLECTION: The amount of \$8,794.55 for the months of February and March was recently sent to the Chancery Office in Pembroke. Thank you for your generosity.

SACRED MUSIC FUNDRAISER: SPERA IN DEO: Join us for an afternoon of sacred vocal and organ music on Saturday, May 13th at 2pm in St. Michael's Church, Douglas. Light refreshments to follow in the sacristy. *Spera in Deo* ("Hope in God") will feature Sean Desmond, Olivier Gaudreault, Catherine Helferty, and Christine Helferty in selections of rich harmonies and uplifting texts. This event is a fundraiser to support a local children's musical production of *Sleeping Beauty* to be presented in June. Free will donations at the door. Thank you for your support! Any questions, please contact Christine Helferty at christinethelferty@gmail.com.

PEMBROKE DIOCESE: Please "like" and "follow" our (new) official diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DiocesePembroke>