

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS)

APRIL 21, 2024

‘I am the good Shepherd’, Jesus said. ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.’

These two phrases run through this Sunday’s readings. Both of these images depict balance, steadfastness of love and confidence in the person of Jesus. A cornerstone upholds the structure of a building and the Shepherd guides, protects and leads the flock. Both are applied to Jesus the Christ, risen from the dead, the revelation of the love of God for all humanity. Christ’s gift of Himself pours out within us, the gift of the Spirit. The community of the Disciples is drawn through the gathering and life-giving energy of the Spirit.

This 4th Sunday of Easter underscores the confidence of the Church, as she moved out of Jerusalem doing what Jesus had done. The Resurrection appearances transformed the Disciples into shining witnesses, open to the newness of Jesus’ teaching to new cultures and societies. Leaving Jerusalem the leaven of their lives created newness of life for the world. Each successive generation confronted new realities and responded generously.

Today as we celebrate Vocations, we are aware that personally each of us has a particular gift in the work of the Church. Out of the sacrament of Baptism we are called and sent to participate in the work of evangelisation, each in a very particular manner, using the gifts confidently and with audacity.

‘Love ought to show itself in deeds more than words’.

(St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Christ is Risen! Christ is truly Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Don