

## Jesus, the gate of the Sheepfold

The King of love my Shepherd is  
whose goodness faileth never.

I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine for ever

Psalm 23

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is generally more familiar to us than the first image he gives in today's Gospel, that of himself as the gate of the sheepfold, really himself as the gateway to the Father. What he speaks of in these verses would be very familiar to his original audience though, of the sheepfold where various shepherds would take their sheep for the night's rest.

It was easier for the sheep to be kept safe from wild animals as well as thieves, when they were kept inside the stone walled corrals. In the morning the shepherds came back to the gatekeeper to claim their sheep. The sheep would recognise the voice of their own master, their own shepherd, and rejoin him for another day of grazing. Yet some seem to miss the point of the parable, so he explains his truth further, leading to the central verse, in the middle of the Gospel narrative, the tenth verse of the tenth chapter: *I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.*

What does *life to the full* mean? What does it mean in these present times? For the fourth evangelist, this life comes from being in union with the one who is both gate of the sheepfold and shepherd of the flock. But of course this Jesus is also the Lamb of God, the Lamb of the New Covenant, by whose wounds we are healed.

The Word of God presents us with fascinating reminder that God is the Shepherd of humanity. This means that God wants life for us, he wants to guide us to good pastures where we can be nourished and rest. He does not want us to be lost and to perish, but to reach the destination of our journey which is the fullness of life itself. This is what every father and mother desires for their children: their good, their happiness and their fulfilment".

In order to carry out this work of reconciliation, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, had to become a Lamb, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Only in this way could he keep the marvelous promise of the Psalm: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (Psalm 23:6).

## Elections: from the Bishops Conference of Scotland

**Bishop Andrew writes:** As we get closer to the Scottish Parliament elections, I thought it useful to ask you to be mindful of the recent BCOS statement on the Scottish elections. You may find it via this link: <https://www.dunkelddioocese.co.uk/bishops-conference-of-scotland-releases-election-briefing-pack-for-2026-scottish-parliament-election/>

## A message from SPUC as the election approaches:

As we approach the election on May 7th, Catholics are encouraged to engage thoughtfully and prayerfully in the democratic process. The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has identified the protection of human life as the first critical moral issue for voters. The next Parliament will likely face a decisive vote on abortion expansion and will continue to debate the legalisation of assisted suicide. We have a duty to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard in Holyrood. How to prepare your vote:

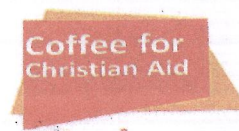
Form your conscience: Read the Bishops' Conference Election Briefing at <https://rcpolitics.org/scottish-parliament-election-2026/>  
Check the candidates: Use the online candidate tracker at <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/spe2026/> to see where your local candidates stand on abortion and assisted suicide.

The Power of Two Votes: Remember you have two votes. Consider how both your constituency vote and your regional (list) vote can best support candidates and parties committed to protecting life from conception to natural death. Party policy on life issues can be accessed here - <https://spuc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Where-do-they-stand-Scotland-2026.pdf>

**Thank you** for your generosity last Sunday of £875 in the Cathedral, £499 in St Mary's, £315 in St Patrick's and £864 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

**SCIAF boxes and donations** can be handed in anytime now. Please mark your envelope clearly. Thanks.

## Christian Aid Coffee Morning



takes place on Saturday 9 May at Broughty Ferry Queen Street East Hall from 10am until 12noon.

Tickets are £3 — children go free. Please support if you can.

**Priestly Vocations Evening with Bishop Andrew in the Cathedral Hall after the Sunday 6pm Mass this Sunday for over 18s.**

**Our prayers for the sick:** Patsy McMenemy, Mary McNulty, Claire Cullen, Kimberley Black, George Forbes, Baby Lyn de Guzman, Catherine Nolan, Jim McArtney, Pamela Griffiths, Sharmalie Nandadasa, Steve Hackney, Jenny Wilson, Russell Walker, Ray Ritchie, Dr Frank Zwolinski, Tommie Feeny, Anneke Anderson, Cole Farningham, John Charkow, Heather Moffit, Susan McKay, Ray Conchie, Marie Manunga, Karen Dammer, Jockey Forrest-Moore, Marian Jackson;

**for those who have died recently:** Catherine Gallacher, Rachel Beattie, Jimmy Downie;

**and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Tom Money, Margaret Cairns, John Lynch, Tom Branney, John McKay, Canon Michael Milton, Craig Davidson, Elizabeth Weir, Helen Duffy, Ernest Duffy, Mary Agnes Duffy, Maria Ferrario, Father George Greig; George Bruce, Lawrence Kemlo, Mrs Cyril Keenan, Anne Walker; Maisie McLaughlin, Mary McKenzie, Frank McKenna, William Mitchell James Sexton, John Boyle.

The **Prize Bingo night** at the Cathedral raised an amazing £400 for Cathedral funds, to help with future renovations. Many thanks to all who took part and to Cath and her team for organising.

**SPAM EMAILS:** Please beware that spammers are using names of clergy to send spam emails. These emails usually include a message with "Are you free just now?" or similar. Please do not respond to these emails.

**Cathedral Gift Aid collection envelopes are now available. The new envelopes start next Sunday 3 May.**