

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2,14. 36-41; 1 Pet 2,20-25; Jn 10,1-10

The trust of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and life in the fullness of the Holy Spirit be with you.

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, I visited a small rural sheep farm in the early morning. Mist lay low across the fields, and the sun was just beginning to rise. As I walked among the flocks, I noticed one young lamb straying too far and becoming caught in a low fence. Its mother bleated frantically, circling and calling. The farmer approached slowly, knelt, and gently opened a gate. The lamb ran free, and the mother's worry vanished.

That simple scene stayed with me. It reminded me of how we, too, can wander in life — caught in fences of fear, anxiety, or guilt. And yet, Christ, our Good Shepherd, calls us by name. He opens the gates that confine us and invites us into pastures of peace, safety, and abundance. As we gather today, we are invited to remember that the Church is both a refuge and a doorway. In this place, we hear the Shepherd's voice, find nourishment, and learn to

follow him in love. But the call does not end here: just as the lamb leaves the pen for the wide pasture, we are called to take what we receive in this Eucharist into the world — to bring care, hope, and life to those we meet.

This Sunday, as we celebrate the image of Christ the Good Shepherd and reflect on the abundant life he offers, let us open our hearts fully. Let us listen attentively to his voice, trust his guidance, and prepare to follow him faithfully, wherever he leads us.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord, our Good Shepherd, to guide us back to his pasture:

For the times we have ignored the call of the Shepherd and wandered into paths of fear or sin. Lord, have mercy.
For the times we have failed to care for the lost, the lonely, or the wounded. Christ, have mercy.

For the times we have closed the door of our hearts to those in need. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the Good Shepherd, who seeks and saves the lost, be merciful to you. May he forgive your sins, strengthen your hearts, and lead you into pastures of life and peace and to everlasting life. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

Let us praise God, our Shepherd, who calls us by name and guides us to life in abundance:

COLLECT

O God, Shepherd of your people, you call us by name and open for us the door to life in abundance. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, you lead us to green pastures of peace and guide us along paths of righteousness. Strengthen our hearts to hear his voice amid the noise of the world, and give us the courage to follow him faithfully, to care for the lost, the lonely, and those in need, and to share the abundance of your love with all we meet. May the gift of this Eucharist nourish us and transform us, so that, guided by your Spirit, we may become shepherds to one another, and witness your mercy and goodness in every place. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.... Amen.

HOMILY: "I AM THE DOOR – THE VOICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

A few years ago, I went into the church one hot late Saturday afternoon. Outside, the air was heavy and oppressive, but inside, the coolness was inviting. I had hoped to spend some time praying and reflecting on the Gospel. But just as I sat down, a bird flew in through an open window.

Have you ever experienced that? A bird circling around a church is a distraction like no other. It kept bumping into the bright windows, searching desperately for a way out. Some gaps were open, but it could not find them. I watched and thought: "Here is a creature caught between freedom and confinement." And then it struck me—how often do we, too, find ourselves trapped, not in a cage of feathers, but in the cages of guilt, fear, or even overcomplicated rules?

This image comes vividly to mind when we hear Jesus say in today's Gospel:

“I am the door; whoever enters and goes out through me will find wide space; he will find rich pasture; he will have life in abundance.”

The Door That Brings Freedom

At the time of Jesus, the Jewish people often felt trapped by rules. Six hundred and fourteen commandments, some very petty, weighed on their daily lives. Walking too far on the Sabbath, picking a grain here or there, healing someone in need—these were all treated as offenses. The very commandments meant to give freedom became cages.

And here comes Jesus, saying: “If you feel confined, come to me. I am the door. Through me, you will find freedom.” Think of the disciples on Easter evening, huddled behind locked doors, paralysed with fear and guilt after Jesus’ arrest. Jesus came to them and said, “Shalom! Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” The doors opened, and so did their lives. Jesus does not confine; He frees.

Even today, many young people in the Church feel burdened by “you must, you must not, you shall...” They may think: “If I truly live as a Christian, I have no freedom left.” But freedom in Christ is not a license to do whatever we want—it is the opening of our hearts to love, forgiveness, and fullness of life.

Many years ago, an old parish priest had a simple custom. Every Sunday, he would stand at the main door of the church before Mass. He greeted each person, sometimes holding the door open, sometimes gently closing it when the church was full. One day a child asked him, “Father, why do you always stand at the door?”

He smiled and said, “Because Jesus said, ‘I am the door.’ If I stand here long enough, maybe I will learn how He welcomes people.” Isn’t that beautiful? Every person who enters the church carries a story, a hope, a burden. The priest knew that the doorway is not just a passage—it is the place where Christ meets us, where love and welcome begin.

A Door Protects and Opens a Way

A door has two important purposes. First, a door protects. In winter we close our doors to keep the warmth inside. In old castles there were drawbridges and gates. Friends were welcomed; enemies were kept outside. A door can be a shield.

Second, a door opens a way. Where there is a wall, a door creates a passage. It leads from one room to another, from inside to outside, from narrowness into space.

When Jesus says, “I am the door,” He speaks of both meanings. Christ did not found a club of like-minded people who stay among themselves. He wants His Church to open its doors. Through Him we must go out into the world—with His way of looking at people.

Through Him means:

- with His compassion,
- with His truth,
- with His courage.

Jesus says of the sheep:

“They know his voice.”

How do we recognize His voice? It is the voice that gives life, not fear. It is the voice that builds up, not destroys. It is the voice that seeks the lost, not its own advantage.

“I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance.”

This is the “tweet” of Jesus. The shortest and most powerful message of His mission. Everything He says and does serves this one purpose: that we may have life in fullness.

If Jesus is the gate, then He is the way through whom God comes to us and we go to God. At the end of our prayers we often say, “through Christ our Lord.” That is not a mere formula. It is a way of life. We pray through Him, yes—but we also live through Him. We pass through Him in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in acts of love and forgiveness. Each time, He protects and sustains us. He delivers us from evil and draws us deeper into God’s own life—a life that is love. There is also a subtle calling here for us. In a certain sense, we too are asked to share in Christ’s role. At the very least, we must not stand in God’s way. More

beautifully still, we are invited to become small “gates” for others—openings through which God’s grace can enter their lives. Sometimes we are shepherds, guiding and encouraging. Sometimes we are simply the gate, quietly allowing space for God to work.

The Power of Love

Let me share a small story from someone I once knew. A woman in our parish had a garden that was completely overgrown. She had tried everything — strict schedules, reminders from her family, even hiring help — but the weeds kept taking over, and she felt frustrated and defeated. Then one day, her young granddaughter came to visit. The little girl didn’t scold, didn’t nag, didn’t offer rules or lists. She simply knelt in the soil, planted a few seeds with joy, and laughed as the earth stuck to her hands. Something in her grandmother’s heart shifted that day. Seeing the pure delight and love of the child inspired her to care for the garden herself. She worked patiently, tended carefully, and before long, the garden was flourishing.

Love — simple, patient, inviting love — accomplished what rules, threats, or schedules never could. That is what Jesus does with us. He does not coerce or threaten. He calls us, gently, lovingly, to abundant life. Where there is God’s love, what once seemed impossible becomes possible.

Jesus as the Shepherd

Jesus does not stop at being the Door. He is also the Good Shepherd. He knows His sheep by name. He calls, and they recognize His voice.

Many years ago, a young man faced a life-changing choice: a high-paying career or a simple path serving the poor. He sat quietly in a church, asking God to speak. No dramatic visions came, only a gentle clarity in his heart. He chose the simpler path, and years later said: “It was the quiet voice, not the loudest, that guided me.”

This is what Jesus promises: a guiding, loving presence, a voice to trust amid the noise of the world.

A tourist once visited a shepherd in Palestine. The shepherd called, “Men ah!” and the sheep followed. The tourist tried the same words—nothing. The sheep only recognized the shepherd’s voice. So it is with us. In a crowded world, many voices vie for our attention. Only the voice of Christ leads to life.

Life in Abundance

Jesus says, “I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance.” Not just the abundance of things that money buys, but the deeper, lasting abundance that comes from God.

I remember an elderly parishioner who reconciled with her estranged sister after years of avoidance. A Gospel reading would not leave her in peace until she acted. That quiet insistence brought profound peace. Life in abundance is found not in possessions, but in love, forgiveness, service, and communion with God.

The Church: A Place of Protection and Passage

We enter the Church through baptism. It is both safety and passage. A door shields us from harm, yes, but it also opens toward nourishment, mission, and life in the world. I once heard of a woman who sat in the same pew for forty years. She said, “From here I can see who is alone—and sit next to them next Sunday.” That is entering through the door of Christ: seeing others with the eyes of the Good Shepherd.

Yet we must remember: faith is not meant to remain inside these walls. Jesus says that the one who enters through Him will go in and out and find pasture. In and out. From contemplation to action. From prayer to mission. From the quiet of the church to the needs of the world.

Shepherds and Gates

A farmer once faced a violent storm. His sheep scattered. While others told him to wait until morning, he went out into the darkness. “They know my voice,” he said. Hours later,

he returned—soaked but triumphant. The sheep were safe because of trust and love.

This is the heart of Christ: not a hired hand, who works for wages, but a shepherd who lays down His life. He goes ahead of us, protecting, guiding, and calling us to pasture. And we are called to imitate Him—not as bosses, but as doors, as shepherds, as people through whom God’s love reaches others. Even small gestures—a listening ear, an open heart, a forgiving word—can become gates of life for someone else.

Listening to the Inner Voice

The world is loud, but God often speaks quietly. A little boy lost in a marketplace hears only his father’s voice amid the chaos and runs to safety. Similarly, we must cultivate the ability to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd in the midst of competing messages.

Prayer, silence, Scripture, spiritual guidance, and wise counsel help us discern His voice. Conscience, well-formed, is where God’s invitation becomes clear. And

sometimes, He speaks through gentle restlessness, nudging us to reconciliation, courage, or generosity.

The Treasure of Life

An elderly neighbour once told children about a treasure hidden in their town. Many searched the fields and gardens, but the treasure was found not in the ground, but in the heart that knew where to look.

So it is with the abundance Christ offers. It is a gift, not a commodity. It is a treasure that cannot be bought, only received. The Door stands open, the Shepherd calls, and the pasture awaits.

A young woman visited a great cathedral, troubled about her future. Above the door she saw a carving of Christ the Good Shepherd, with the words: “Enter through Me.” She realized she had been trying to climb over walls, seeking success and approval. Peace came only when she walked through Him.

Dear brothers and sisters, the treasure we seek is not outside of us. The path is not hidden on any map. The

Door stands before us. Christ Himself is that Door. Let us pass through Him with trust. Let us listen to His voice. Let us follow Him into the abundant life He promises—not just in the hereafter, but here and now.

And one day, when He calls us by name for the last time, we will follow His familiar voice into the eternal pasture, where life is abundant forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREED

Just as a shepherd calls each of his sheep by name and leads them to green pastures, so too Christ calls us to believe, to trust, and to follow him.

Let us now stand and profess together our faith in the Shepherd who guides us, opens the door to life, and leads us to abundant peace.

Alternative Profession of Faith for Personal Meditation only (adapted to the theme):

Lord God,

I believe in you, the Father who calls me by name, who watches over me and guides me with love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, your Son, my Shepherd, my Door. He is with you forever, and through him I find the path to life in abundance.

I believe that he became one of us, your Word made flesh, who walks among people, calls the lost, comforts the lonely, and opens wide the gates of mercy.

I believe in his Spirit, the breath of all my thoughts, actions, and desires, who inspires me to listen carefully, follow faithfully, and care for others with compassion.

I believe that this Spirit moves me toward those who need encouragement, those whose hearts are heavy, those who feel alone or unable to find their way.

May I open the doors of my own life, so others may enter and experience your love, hope, and justice.

I believe in the Church, the community of all who hear the Shepherd's voice, where I am nourished, forgiven, and called to serve.

I believe that, as Christ shepherds me, so I am called to be a shepherd for others, to protect, guide, and care for those entrusted to me.

I believe that death does not have the last word, that Christ has conquered fear and sin, and that one day I will follow his voice into eternal pastures of peace and joy.

Help me, Lord, in my unbelief;
break through my doubts, my excuses, and my hesitation.
Strengthen me to be a true witness of Jesus,
the Good Shepherd, your beloved Son, my guide and my brother. For him, with you and the Holy Spirit,
I offer my thanks and praise, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Just as the Shepherd cares for each sheep and opens the door to safety and nourishment, let us present our gifts with joy, that this sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and Door to life,
receive these gifts of bread and wine,
symbols of your care and guidance.

May this Eucharist strengthen us to follow your voice faithfully, to open our hearts to the lost and the lonely, and to share your abundant life with all we meet.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You call your people by name and gather us into one flock.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, the Door and the Good Shepherd, you guide us from fear to freedom, from loneliness to communion, from wandering into paths of life and abundance.

By his teaching, his care, and his sacrifice, we learn to trust his voice, to follow him without fear, and to imitate his loving guidance for others. Through him, your people are

nourished and strengthened, healed and restored, and are called to be shepherds to one another, bringing mercy, comfort, and peace to a troubled world.

Therefore, with angels and saints, with shepherds and the faithful of every generation, we lift our hearts in joy and praise, singing to your glory:

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trusting in the Shepherd who calls us, opens the door to abundant life, and leads us to green pastures of peace, let us now confidently pray together as he taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and grant us peace in our hearts, our families, and our communities.

May we recognize your voice amid the noise of the world, and may we always find the doors you open to freedom, love, and abundant life. Lead us through the pastures of your mercy, and give us courage to care for those who wander, are lost, or are burdened, as we await in joyful hope the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus, Shepherd of our souls, you promise life in abundance. Help us to hear your voice amid the noise of the world, and to bring your peace and care to our families, our communities, and to our Church. Strengthen us to follow your guidance in every challenge, to protect the lost and the lonely, and to be a living sign of your mercy, your patience, and your love. You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his table, where the Shepherd nourishes his flock.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Body and Blood of Christ, let us remember: He is the Door that opens for us, the Shepherd who calls us by name, and the source of abundant life. May we go forth to share his love, listen for his voice, and guide others with patience, compassion, and courage.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Shepherd and Door to life,
you have nourished us at your table with your Body and
Blood. Strengthen our hearts to hear your voice,
to leave behind the fences of fear and sin,
and to care for all who are lost, lonely, or in need.
May your Spirit guide us to be shepherds in our families,
our communities, and our Church, so that all may
experience the peace, joy, and abundant life you promise.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the Lord, the Good Shepherd, watch over you and
guide your steps.
May he grant you courage in difficulties, patience in trials,
and joy in serving others.
May he open the doors of your heart to love, forgiveness,
and care, so that, like him, you may shepherd those
entrusted to you with mercy and gentleness.
**May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, following Christ, the Door and Shepherd.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Jesus is not a door that closes behind you;
He is the Door that opens wide, the Shepherd who knows
your name.
Listen for His voice, follow Him faithfully,
and let His love guide your steps into abundant life.

Monday of the 4th week of Easter

Acts 11,1-18; Jn 10,11-18

INTRODUCTION

Some years ago, in a quiet village, there was a shepherd named Elias. Every morning, he checked on his flock, calling each sheep by name, knowing which ones liked sun or shade, and which were shy or mischievous. He cared deeply for each, not for their value, but because they belonged to him.

One day, a strong wind scattered a young lamb into the forest. While others searched elsewhere, Elias went straight into the woods. After some time, he found the lamb tangled in a thicket, lifted it onto his shoulders, and carried it home, rejoicing that it trusted him.

This story mirrors the love we see in today's readings. In Acts, Peter steps into Cornelius' home, someone he never expected to encounter. When he preached, the Spirit came upon Cornelius' household as at Pentecost. God's love reaches beyond boundaries, bringing all into His care.

In the Gospel, Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd. Unlike a hired man who abandons the flock when danger comes, Jesus commits Himself fully. He knows us intimately, guides us personally, and lays down His life for His sheep. Each of us is known, loved, and sought after by the Shepherd Himself.

Our response is faithfulness. Just as Elias cared for the lost lamb, we are called to reflect Christ's dedication: to care deeply, love selflessly, and help others find their way into the flock. Every act of compassion participates in the work of the Good Shepherd.

Even in the catacombs, early Christians depicted Jesus carrying the lost sheep, reminding us that we are personally loved. Saint Paul sums this up: "I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." Today, Jesus calls us to trust Him, follow Him, and allow His love to guide our actions.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows each of us personally and calls us by name. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, forgive us when we fail to trust your guidance or stray from your flock. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, help us to care for others and live faithfully as members of your flock. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, through the steadfast love of Christ, forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and guide us in His ways.

May we follow Him faithfully, care for one another with dedication, and reflect His love in our communities.

May He have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Lord God, you gather your people into one flock under Christ the Good Shepherd. Grant that we may follow Him faithfully, trust in His guidance, and care for one another with love and dedication. May we reflect the unity and

compassion of your Son in all that we do. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son.... Amen.

HOMILY

In a small town, there was a potter named Miriam who was known for her delicate clay vessels. Each pot she made was unique: some tall, some short, some round, some slender. She handled each one carefully, shaping it with attention and care, mindful of every crack and imperfection. One day, a customer accidentally dropped a fragile pot. It shattered on the floor. Instead of throwing it away, Miriam patiently gathered the pieces, cleaned them, and skillfully reassembled the pot with glue and gold, making it even more beautiful than before.

This story reminds us of God's love in today's readings. In Acts, Peter is called to step into Cornelius' home—a place he never expected. Yet, when he preaches, the Holy Spirit comes upon all present, showing that God's care extends beyond human boundaries. Just as Miriam restored the broken pot, God restores, heals, and gathers us, no matter how far we have wandered or how broken we may feel.

In the Gospel, Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd. Unlike a hired hand, He does not abandon the sheep when danger comes. His care is personal, intimate, and self-giving. He knows each one of us deeply, seeks us when we stray, and rejoices when we return. Every gesture of faithfulness, compassion, or service mirrors that love.

Our calling is to respond with faithfulness, just as Miriam restored the fragile pot. We are invited to care for one another with patience, to guide and support, and to participate in the work of the Good Shepherd. Every act of kindness and every effort to draw others closer to Christ builds His flock and reflects His love.

Even in the catacombs, early Christians depicted Jesus carrying the lost sheep, reminding us that each of us is personally known, personally loved, and personally gathered. Saint Paul expresses this beautifully: “I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Just as Miriam restored the broken vessel, Jesus restores and carries each of us. Let us follow Him faithfully, trust His guidance, and be instruments of His care and love in the world. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for us—let us live joyfully, knowing we are cherished, restored, and welcomed into His care. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we present the gifts of bread and wine, let us also offer our hearts and our willingness to follow Christ faithfully, to care for others, and to participate in the work of His Spirit in the world. Let us now pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts we bring in gratitude and love. May they strengthen us to follow Christ faithfully, care for your people, and reflect His dedication and compassion in our daily lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You are the Good Shepherd, who knows each of us by name and calls us into your care. You guide us with love, protect us, and lead us to green pastures and still waters.

Through Peter's obedience, you revealed that your love is not limited by borders or nations, bringing your message to Cornelius and his household, showing that all are called to share in your kingdom.

Through Christ, our Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for the sheep, we see your love made manifest.

Through Him, the Spirit works in our hearts and Church, enabling us to care for one another and bear fruit in your kingdom.

Therefore, with all the angels and saints, we acclaim your glory, joining in the unending hymn of praise:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

With confidence in God's care and trusting in the love of the Good Shepherd, let us now pray as Jesus taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, O Lord, we pray, from every evil, and, as a loving Shepherd, guide us along the paths of faithfulness.

May we listen to the voice of Christ, care for one another with dedication, and follow Him with hearts attentive to His guidance and hands ready to serve His flock, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Shepherd and our Guide. Grant peace to our hearts, our homes, and our communities. May your love heal divisions, bring hope to the discouraged, and courage to the fearful. Help us to follow your voice, support one another in faith, and reflect your compassion and care in all that we do.

May we experience the fullness of your peace and share it generously with those around us.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
our Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep
and guides us into the pastures of eternal life.

Blessed are we who are called to His table,
where we are nourished, known, and carried in His care.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Good Shepherd has nourished us with His Body and Blood. May His care continue to guide and strengthen us, inspiring acts of compassion, encouragement, and faithful service.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, by partaking of this Eucharist, help us to follow Christ faithfully, care for one another, and respond to His call with love and dedication. May the Spirit guide us in service and help us bear fruit for your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God, the Father, shepherd you;
may Christ, the Good Shepherd, guide you;
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen you in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, following Christ, our Good Shepherd,
and share His love, care, and guidance with all you meet.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Christ knows each of us personally and calls us to follow Him faithfully.

Listen to His voice, care for others, and reflect His love and guidance in all that you do.

Tuesday of the 4th Week of Easter (St. Peter Chanel)

Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a small community garden in a neighbourhood was in danger of being abandoned. The plot had become overgrown, and neighbours assumed nothing could be done with it. Then a quiet, observant woman noticed the potential in the neglected land. She didn't take over everything herself; instead, she encouraged others, brought in tools, and found experienced gardeners to help plant vegetables and flowers. Within months, what had seemed hopeless became a flourishing garden, feeding people, inspiring children, and bringing neighbours together in joy.

This morning's readings remind us of that garden. In Acts, we hear of Antioch, where the gospel was preached for the first time to non-Jews. The early Christians in Jerusalem were uncertain—was this God's work, or just human enthusiasm? Barnabas, the "Son of Encouragement," was

sent to discern the Spirit's presence. He recognized God's work in Antioch and brought Paul to join him. Together, they nurtured a community that became the first to be called "Christians." Barnabas saw potential, encouraged it, and enabled God's work to flourish.

His example challenges us today. How often do we notice the Spirit at work around us and support it? How often do we encourage others, nurture their gifts, and make space for God's work? Difficult times, rather than blocking God, can open doors for new life.

The Gospel reminds us of another truth: Jesus as the Good Shepherd. "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, and no one can steal them from my hand." The Shepherd's care is secure and attentive, yet requires our response: listening, following, and staying close to His voice. Like Barnabas, we are called to notice seeds of new life, support one another, and cooperate with Christ's plan. Ordinary actions, encouragement, and faithful listening can bear extraordinary fruit when guided by the Spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows each of us personally and calls us by name. Lord, have mercy. Christ Jesus, forgive us when we fail to listen to your voice or follow your guidance. Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, help us to encourage one another and cooperate with your Spirit in the growth of your Church. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, through your boundless mercy, forgive our sins, strengthen our hearts, and guide us in your ways. Lead us to follow Christ faithfully, to nurture one another in love, and to participate in your mission for the world, and bring us one day to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Lord God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you call us to follow Him as our Shepherd and to support one another in faith and love. Grant that we may listen attentively to His voice, encourage each other, and nurture the gifts of your

Spirit in our communities. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son.... Amen.

HOMILY

A few years ago, a local library in a small town faced closure. The building was old, the shelves dusty, and attendance had dwindled. Most people assumed nothing could be done, but a retired teacher named Samuel saw potential. He started by reading to children after school, inviting volunteers, and organizing small events. Slowly, the library began to thrive. Children discovered the joy of reading, neighbours shared stories, and a sense of community grew around the once-forgotten space. What seemed lost became a place of life and learning because someone noticed, encouraged, and acted.

This story helps us reflect on today's readings. In Acts, we hear about Antioch, where the gospel was preached for the first time to non-Jews. The early Christians in Jerusalem were uncertain—was this God's work or merely human enthusiasm? Barnabas, the "Son of Encouragement," was sent to discern the Spirit's presence. He recognized God's

work in Antioch and invited Paul to join him. Together, they nurtured a community that became the first to be called “Christians.” Barnabas saw the potential, encouraged it, and enabled God’s work to flourish, just as Samuel revived the library through careful attention and quiet leadership.

Barnabas’ example challenges us today. How often do we notice the Spirit at work in the lives of those around us? How often do we encourage others, make space for their gifts, and participate in God’s mission? Even when circumstances seem bleak or challenging, God can bring growth, healing, and renewal through our cooperation.

The Gospel reminds us of another truth: Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He says, “The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice... and no one will steal them from my hand.” The Shepherd’s care is steadfast, protective, and life-giving. Yet it calls for our response: to listen, to follow, and to act. God invites us to partner with Him in nurturing life, encouraging others, and fostering communities of faith and love.

Just as Samuel’s small efforts transformed the library into a vibrant center of learning and fellowship, our attention, encouragement, and cooperation with the Spirit can bear extraordinary fruit. When we listen to Jesus, support one another, and respond faithfully, we participate in God’s work of restoration and growth.

Let us pray for the grace of Barnabas: to see, to encourage, and to enable; and let us pray for the humility to listen, to follow, and to trust the Good Shepherd who holds us securely in His hand, now and always.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring forward the gifts of bread and wine, let us also offer our hearts and our commitment to follow Christ faithfully, cooperating with the Spirit’s work in our lives and in the world, and may our sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts we bring in gratitude, and make us instruments of your love and encouragement. May we grow in faithfulness, support one another in service, and nurture the seeds of your Spirit wherever we are, so that your kingdom may flourish in our midst. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You call your people by name, shepherding them with care and leading them to green pastures and safe waters. You place your Spirit among us to guide, encourage, and strengthen us, even when the work seems difficult.

In the early Church, you sent Barnabas to discern and nurture your gifts in Antioch, showing that your plan is greater than human expectation.

Through Christ, the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep and calls each of us by name, we see your love revealed. Through Him, the Spirit continues to guide your people, empowering them to witness, serve, and bear fruit for your kingdom.

Therefore, with all the angels and saints, we proclaim your glory, joining in the unending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered as one flock under the care of Christ, our Good Shepherd, and encouraged by His Spirit at work among us, let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words Jesus gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, guided by Christ our Good Shepherd, we may listen attentively to His voice and remain faithful to His call.

Help us, like Barnabas, to recognize the work of your

Spirit, to encourage one another, and to nurture the gifts you place within your people, so that your Church may grow in faith, unity, and loving service.

That, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are our Shepherd, our Guide, and our Protector.
Grant peace to our hearts, homes, and communities.
May your love overcome division, bring hope to the discouraged, and courage to the fearful.
Help us to be attentive to your voice, to support one another in faith, and to be instruments of reconciliation and encouragement.

Through your steadfast care, may we experience the fullness of peace, trust, and joy in your presence, and share that peace with all whom we meet.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
the Good Shepherd who calls His sheep by name
and holds them securely in His hand.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,
where we are nourished to listen to His voice and follow Him faithfully.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Good Shepherd has nourished us with His Body and Blood.

May His care continue to guide, strengthen, and inspire us to live lives of encouragement, compassion, and faithful service.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, by partaking of this Eucharist, help us follow Christ faithfully, listen to His voice, and encourage one another as members of His flock.

May our lives reflect His love, and may we be channels of the Spirit's work in our families, communities, and Church.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God, the Father, shepherd you; may Christ, the Good Shepherd, guide you; and may the Holy Spirit strengthen you in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, following Christ, our Good Shepherd, and share His love, care, and encouragement with all you meet.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Christ knows you by name, encourages you personally, and calls you to participate in His work.

Listen to His voice, support others, and be a faithful witness to the Spirit at work in the world.

Wednesday of the 4th week of Easter (St. Catherine of Siena) - Acts 12,24-13,5; Jn 12,44-50

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, I read about a small, remote village that had never had electricity. A team of engineers volunteered to bring power to the community, but doing so meant leaving their homes, families, and comforts behind. Some villagers hesitated, asking, “Why let them go? We need them here!” Yet the engineers went. When the lights finally turned on, the village came alive in ways no one had imagined. What had been a sacrifice for the engineers became a gift for an entire community.

Today’s readings reveal a similar dynamic. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of being sent by God, His Father, to bring salvation and truth to the world. God’s sending of the Son is a concrete act of love, revealing His heart to all. Jesus embraces this mission fully, despite the opposition He faces.

In the first reading, the early Church in Antioch, guided by the Holy Spirit, sends Paul and Barnabas beyond their familiar surroundings to proclaim the Good News. It must have been tempting to say, “We cannot spare them.” Yet they trusted that God would bless their generosity.

Today we also honour St. Catherine of Siena, who left the safety of home to serve God and the Church with courage and prayer. Her witness reminds us that when we offer our time, talents, and even our comfort for God’s work, His light reaches far beyond what we can imagine.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we cling to comfort and resist your call to serve. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, help us to trust your guidance and step courageously into your mission. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, renew our hearts to follow you faithfully, even when it demands sacrifice. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
through the steadfast love of Christ, forgive our sins,
strengthen our faith, and guide us in His ways,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Lord God, you sent your Son into the world to bring salvation and truth.

Grant that, inspired by His example and the witness of your saints, we may embrace our calling to serve others faithfully, follow your guidance courageously, and share the light of Christ with those in need. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son...Amen.

HOMILY: “SENT TO GIVE, SENT TO SERVE”

A few years ago, I heard about a teacher named Lina who volunteered in a remote village school. The classrooms were overcrowded, the supplies scarce, and many children had never held a textbook. Lina left her comfortable home and familiar routines to teach there. She didn’t do everything alone—she trained local assistants, shared

ideas with other volunteers, and encouraged the children to learn. Over time, the school became a vibrant place of education and hope. What began as personal sacrifice blossomed into a gift for an entire community.

Today's readings show a similar dynamic. In the Gospel, God sent His Son out of love for the world—a concrete act of giving that changed humanity forever. The sending of Jesus was not theoretical; it was a real self-emptying for our sake.

The first reading shows the Church in Antioch acting in the same spirit. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they sent Paul and Barnabas beyond their comfort zone to proclaim the Gospel to those who had never heard it. Surely it was tempting to hold on to their most gifted members, but the Spirit called them to give freely so that others might receive God's life-changing message.

St. Catherine of Siena exemplifies this same courage. She left the safety of her home to serve God, the Church, and the poor, showing that true discipleship often calls us to

give our time, energy, and even comfort for the sake of others.

The principle is clear: giving requires risk, trust, and letting go of what we value most. Yet in doing so, we participate in God's generosity, bringing life, hope, and light to places that might otherwise remain in darkness. Every act of service—small or large—channels God's love and expands His kingdom.

Just as Lina transformed the village school, so the Church in Antioch, and ultimately Jesus Himself, show us that God's work flourishes when we respond generously. We are sent not to hoard our gifts or stay within comfort, but to give, to serve, and to trust that God multiplies our self-offering.

Let us pray for courage to respond as Lina, Paul, Barnabas, and St. Catherine did: to give selflessly, serve faithfully, and trust in the Spirit who makes our small sacrifices bear extraordinary fruit.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we present our gifts of bread and wine, let us also offer our hearts, our time, and our willingness to be sent by God into the world, to serve, encourage, and proclaim the Good News. Let us now pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts and our offering of self. May they strengthen us to serve others, follow Christ faithfully, and participate in the mission of your Spirit in the Church and in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. You sent your Son into the world to reveal your love and to gather your people into one family. Through Him, we learn the power of self-giving, the joy of faithful service, and the call to participate in your saving work.

Through Christ, your Spirit inspires us to act courageously, to bring light into darkened places, and to serve with generosity of heart. Therefore, with angels and saints, we acclaim your glory and join in the unending hymn of praise: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus reveals the Father to us and invites us to live as God's children, trusting in His love and guidance. With that confidence, let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, O Lord, we pray, from every evil, and grant us peace in our days, that, strengthened by the grace of this Eucharist, we may have the courage to serve you faithfully, the strength to embrace the mission you entrust to us, and the generosity to share your love with others. As you nourished the early Church and guided your servants on their mission, so sustain us in faith and hope

through the Body and Blood of Christ, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have given us your life, your teaching, and your Spirit.
Grant peace to our hearts, families, and communities.
May your presence guide our actions, heal our divisions,
and inspire us to serve one another faithfully.
Help us to witness to your love and share your light
wherever we go.
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
As those sent to bring Christ's light to the world through our
faith and service, blessed indeed are we who are called to
the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Body and Blood of Christ nourish and strengthen us to
serve boldly, to love generously, and to proclaim the Good
News through our lives. Having received the Lord who was
sent by the Father as the light of the world, may we also go
forth as His witnesses. Strengthened by this Eucharist,
may our words and actions reflect His love, bringing hope,
faith, and light to those we meet.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, by partaking of this Eucharist, help us to follow
Christ courageously, serve faithfully, and allow your Spirit
to guide our mission in the world.
May we bear witness to your love through our words and
deeds. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God, the Father, shepherd you;
may Christ, the Good Shepherd, guide you;
and may the Holy Spirit empower you to serve
courageously and love generously. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, faithfully following Christ,
and share His light, love, and care with all you meet.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Christ calls each of us to serve boldly and generously.
By following Him faithfully, we become instruments of His
love, courage, and light in the world.

Thursday, Fourth Week of Easter

Acts 13,13-25; John 13,16-20

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a young man walked into a busy city café, balancing two large trays of drinks. In his hurry, he tripped and spilled the drinks all over a table of strangers. Everyone stared, irritated, ready to scold him—but one elderly woman quietly began helping him clean up. She didn't lecture him or call attention to his mistake. She simply served him with patience and kindness. That small, unexpected act of care lifted his spirits more than any words could.

In a way, that story reflects today's readings. Simple acts of service and encouragement—though small in themselves—carry extraordinary power when done in love and humility. Jesus' life was filled with such acts. In the Gospel, He models radical humility, washing the feet of His disciples, even the feet of Judas, who would betray Him. That gesture is more than symbolic; it reveals the heart of Christ, a love that is self-giving and unconditional.

In the first reading, Paul and his companions arrive in Antioch and speak words of encouragement to the community. These words, combined with deeds of support and presence, helped the early Church flourish.

Encouragement is central to the life of faith; it is a ministry accessible to all of us. We may not travel to far lands like Paul, but each kind word, each patient gesture, each act of humble service can lift others, strengthen faith, and reflect Christ's presence in the world.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we fail to serve others with humility and patience. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, help us to follow your example in our daily lives, offering service without seeking recognition.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, renew our hearts so that we may act with love and encouragement, reflecting your presence to all we meet. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
through the gift of Christ, forgive our sins, renew our spirits, and strengthen our will to serve others faithfully, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Lord God,
you sent your Son into the world to serve, to love, and to bring your message to all people.

Grant that, inspired by His example, we may humbly serve others, offer encouragement freely, and reflect your love in our daily lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOMILY

A few years ago, in a small town, a young teacher noticed that many children were skipping school because their families lacked shoes and uniforms. Instead of simply lamenting the situation, she quietly began collecting old shoes, uniforms, and supplies from neighbours and friends. She organized volunteers, distributed the items,

and spent time encouraging each child to keep attending school. Over time, the classroom became full again, not only with students but with hope and energy. What seemed like a small, simple act of care had a profound effect on an entire community.

Today's readings show us the same principle. In the first reading, Paul and his companions arrive in Antioch and offer "words of encouragement" to the believers. But encouragement in the early Church was never just talk—it was backed by concrete actions of support, presence, and care. Like the teacher, our words and deeds can lift others, help them grow, and bring God's love into their lives.

In the Gospel, Jesus models the highest form of humble service. By washing the feet of His disciples—even those who would betray Him—He shows that love is active, self-giving, and unconditional. True service does not seek recognition or reward; it simply seeks the good of the other. Every act of kindness, patience, or encouragement, however small, shares in His mission.

We are called to follow this pattern of humility and service in our own lives. Every gesture of care, every patient word, every act of encouragement can transform situations and hearts in ways we may never fully see. Just as the teacher restored hope to her students, we, too, can be instruments of Christ's love, bringing light, encouragement, and life wherever we go.

Let us pray for the grace to serve as Jesus did: humbly, patiently, and generously, trusting that our simple acts of love and encouragement have the power to reflect His heart to a world in need. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we present our gifts, let us offer our willingness to serve, our patience, and our love to God, trusting that even the smallest acts of humility can bear great fruit in His Kingdom. Let us now pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts of bread and wine, and the offering of our hearts.

May they strengthen us to serve others with humility, encourage one another in faith, and participate in your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You sent your Son into the world to serve and teach, to love and uplift, and to reveal the depth of your mercy.

Through Him, we see the power of humble service and unconditional love.

By His example, the early Church was inspired to encourage, support, and proclaim your truth to all nations.

Through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to continue this mission, serving with humility,

offering encouragement, and bearing witness to your love in all we do.

Therefore, with angels and saints, we acclaim your glory and join in the unending hymn of praise: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Christ shows us the humble love of a servant and teaches us to live as children of the same loving Father. With trust in that Father who calls us to serve one another, let us pray in the words Jesus gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, O Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our days. May the Body and Blood of Christ we receive nourish our hearts, strengthen our commitment to serve humbly, and inspire us to offer encouragement, support, and love to all we encounter.

Through this sacrament, guide us to reflect the mind and heart of Christ in every action, as we await in joyful hope the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have shown us the power of humble service and self-giving love. Grant peace to our hearts, our homes, and our communities. Help us to bear your love to others through patience, encouragement, and acts of kindness.
May your Spirit guide us to walk in your footsteps, faithfully serving and loving those around us.
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who humbly serves and gives His life for the world.
Blessed are those called to His table,
to be nourished and sent forth to serve with love, encouragement, and generosity.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Eucharist reminds us that true greatness is found in humble service, and that even the smallest acts of encouragement can reveal the love of Christ to the world. Strengthened by His Body and Blood, we are sent forth to bring hope, kindness, and compassion to those we meet, reflecting the heart of Jesus in our daily lives.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
by receiving this Eucharist, may we be strengthened to serve others with humility, to encourage and support those in need, and to live according to the example of Christ, who gave Himself freely for all.
May Your Spirit guide our words and actions, that through our service and love, others may encounter Your presence and mercy in the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God, the Father, guide you;
may Christ, our Servant Shepherd, strengthen you;
and may the Holy Spirit inspire you to love and serve
generously. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to serve and encourage others, reflecting the
love and humility of Christ in all that you do.

Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faithful service, humble love, and encouragement
transform ordinary lives into channels of Christ's presence.
Even the smallest acts, done in love, can bear
extraordinary fruit.

Friday of the 4th Week of Easter (St. Joseph the Worker) - Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

INTRODUCTION

There's a story of a young carpenter who had just finished his apprenticeship. One day, his master told him: "Go build a bridge across the river. The design is mine, but the way you build it is yours." Overwhelmed at first, he trusted his master and, day by day, built a bridge that carried countless people safely across for years.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reassures His disciples in a similar way. On the eve of His Passion, He says: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me... I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again to take you to myself." He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—guiding us to God, revealing God fully, and giving us life now and for eternity. Like the young carpenter, we are invited to rely on Him as our roadmap.

Yet Jesus does not leave us alone. Even as He prepares to depart physically, He promises the Holy Spirit, who remains with us. We already experience a foretaste of His

Father's house through the Church, in every act of love, Eucharist, and forgiveness—moments when Jesus makes His home in us.

Thomas' question, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" echoes our own fears. Jesus responds: He is the Way. Our journey, with all its challenges and losses, has direction—toward God. St. Joseph, the Worker, shows us how humble, faithful labour done in love is part of this path. Like him, we are called to make God's presence visible in our daily lives, trusting that every small act done in love leads us home.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, forgive us when fear and uncertainty keep us from trusting you fully. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, help us to follow you faithfully, even when the way ahead seems unclear. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, strengthen our hearts so that we may trust in your guidance, follow your Way, and dwell with you forever. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
through the love of Christ, forgive our sins, renew our hope, and strengthen our hearts to trust in Him, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Lord God,
you call us to trust in your Son, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Grant that we may follow Him faithfully, find comfort in His presence, and dwell in your house with confidence and hope. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son...Amen.

HOMILY

A few years ago, a gardener planted a small seed in a barren patch of soil. Each day, he watered it, cleared the weeds, and patiently tended it, even though at first nothing seemed to grow. Over time, the seed sprouted, grew strong, and eventually became a tree that offered shade, fruit, and beauty to all who passed by. What seemed like

humble, almost invisible effort brought life and blessing far beyond what he could have imagined.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reassures His disciples in a similar way. On the eve of His crucifixion, He says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me... I go to prepare a place for you." He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—guiding us to God, revealing God fully, and giving life now and for eternity. Like the gardener, we are called to trust Him and nurture our lives in faith, step by step, even when results are not immediately visible.

Jesus does not leave us alone. Even as He departs physically, He promises the Holy Spirit, who remains with us. Through the Church, the Eucharist, acts of love, and forgiveness, Jesus makes His home in us now.

Thomas' question, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" reminds us that fear and uncertainty are natural. Yet Jesus responds: He is the Way. Our journey, with all its challenges, has direction—

toward God. Even in grief or confusion, we are not abandoned; God is preparing a place for us.

St. Joseph, the Worker, models quiet faithfulness. His humble labour done in love shows how ordinary work can lead to holiness. Like him, we are called to make God's presence visible in daily life, trusting that every small act done in love is part of the way home.

Let us live with confidence, knowing Jesus is our Way and our destination. Step by step, let us follow His guidance, trusting that the life we nurture in faith will bear fruit for ourselves and others. As Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Let us trust, follow, and dwell in Him today, tomorrow, and forever.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we present our gifts of bread and wine, let us offer our hearts and our trust, asking God to strengthen us to follow Christ faithfully and to dwell in His love. Let us pray, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these offerings, and through them strengthen us to walk in the Way of your Son.

May the sacrifice of this Eucharist inspire our hearts to trust you, to act in love, and to remain faithful, so that we may dwell in your house and share eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You sent your Son into the world to guide, to redeem, and to bring eternal life. By His death and resurrection, He showed the way to the Father and opened for us the path of trust, obedience, and communion.

Through His teaching, His care, and His presence in the Church, we learn to walk faithfully in your love.

Today, as we celebrate the example of St. Joseph, the Worker, we are reminded that ordinary labour, offered in faith and humility, becomes a means of grace and holiness.

By Christ's life, death, and resurrection, He prepared a place for us, a dwelling in your house, and strengthened us to follow Him through the challenges of daily life.

Therefore, with angels and saints, we praise you and join in the unending hymn of glory: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Christ, who guides us as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, calls us to trust in His love and to live as children of the Father. With confidence in His care and presence, let us pray together in the words He taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, O Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our days. May the Body and Blood of Christ we receive strengthen our faith, guide our steps, and fill us with hope. Through this sacrament, inspire us to trust in Your plan, act in love, and embrace the path You have prepared for us. Let us experience the assurance of Your presence now and the promise of eternal dwelling in Your house, as we await in joyful hope the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
Grant peace to our hearts, homes, and communities.
Help us to trust in your guidance, remain faithful in daily
duties, and walk confidently in the path you have prepared
for us.
May your Spirit empower us to dwell in your love, serve
others with hope, and radiate your peace to all around us.
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who humbly serves and gives His life for the
world.
Blessed are those called to His table,
to be nourished and sent forth to bear fruit in love
encouragement, and faithful service.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Eucharist reminds us that true greatness is found in
humble service, and that even small acts of love and
encouragement can bring life and hope to those around us.
Strengthened by Christ's Body and Blood, we are invited to
trust in His guidance, nurture faith in others, and follow His
path step by step, knowing that every act of care
contributes to the bridge He is building in the world. In
receiving Him, we experience the presence of God
dwelling within us and the promise of eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, by receiving this Eucharist, may we be
strengthened to walk the path You have prepared for us, to
serve others with humility, and to encourage and support
those in need. Help us to trust in Your plan, act with love in
every moment, and make Your presence visible in our daily
lives, following the example of Christ and St. Joseph.
Through this sacrament, let us grow in faith, hope, and joy,
and bear fruit for Your kingdom, until we come to dwell with
You forever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God, our Father, guide you;
may Christ, the Way, strengthen you;
and may the Holy Spirit inspire you to trust, serve, and live
in hope every day. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in Christ as your Way, Truth, and Life,
and serve others with hope and love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Even ordinary work, when offered in faith and love,
participates in God's plan.

Trust in Christ, follow His Way, and dwell in His presence—
your labour becomes holy, your life becomes meaningful,
and your heart finds eternal rest.

Saturday of the 4th week of Easter (St. Athanasius)

Acts 13,44-52; Jn 14,7-14

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a small community decided to renovate an old, neglected playground. At first, it seemed impossible—limited resources, little expertise, and much work to do. Yet neighbours came together, shared skills, volunteered countless hours, and encouraged one another. By the end, the playground was transformed into a vibrant space that touched hundreds of children and inspired other communities. No single person could have done this alone, yet together they achieved far more than imagined.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do, and even greater works, because I am going to the Father" (Jn 14:12). How could His disciples—or we—do greater works than Jesus Himself? He speaks of the power of the Spirit at work in believers, extending His mission beyond time and place through us.

Philip asks, “Lord, let us see the Father, and then we shall be satisfied” (Jn 14:8). Like Philip, we long for a tangible vision of God. Jesus responds, “To have seen me is to have seen the Father” (Jn 14:9). To encounter Him with faith—in the Word, in the Sacraments, and in each other—is to glimpse God here and now.

We also remember St. Athanasius, who defended the truth of Christ’s divinity amid fierce opposition. His courage reminds us that God’s work continues through faithful disciples, even in challenging times.

Jesus’ promise of greater works is not about personal glory but participation in God’s mission. Ordinary actions, united with Christ and empowered by the Spirit, can produce extraordinary results. Like a student who planted a small seed that grew into a magnificent tree, we are invited to plant our seeds of faith, trusting that through Him, even greater works are possible.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we doubt your presence and power in our lives. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, help us to trust in your Spirit and participate in your work through acts of faith and service.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, strengthen our hearts to embrace your call, serve others faithfully, and witness your love in all we do. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
through Christ, forgive our sins, renew our hearts, and strengthen our faith,
so that, empowered by the Spirit, we may participate in your works of love and bear witness to your truth, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Lord God,
you sent your Son to reveal your love and invite us to share in your works.

Grant that, guided by the Spirit, we may trust in Christ, witness His truth, and perform good works that glorify your name and bring life to the world.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOMILY: SEEING THE FATHER AND DOING GREATER WORKS

A few years ago, a young teacher noticed many children in her neighbourhood struggled with reading. She started a small after-school program in her living room. At first, progress was slow, but she persisted, teaching patiently and celebrating every small success. Over time, her students not only learned to read but inspired confidence and curiosity in their families and community. What began as a humble effort blossomed into something far greater than she could have imagined.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, and even greater works, because I am going to the Father" (Jn 14:12). How could this be? He speaks of the Spirit at work in believers. Through the Spirit, the risen Lord continues His mission beyond time and place—and chooses to work through us.

Philip asks, "Lord, let us see the Father, and then we shall be satisfied" (Jn 14:8). Like Philip, we long for a tangible sense of God. Jesus responds, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). Encountering Him in faith—in the Word, the Sacraments, and in one another—is to glimpse God here and now.

We also remember St. Athanasius, who, amid fierce opposition in the fourth century, defended the truth of Christ's divinity. His steadfast witness reminds us that God's work continues through faithful disciples, even in challenging times.

Jesus' promise of greater works is not about personal glory but participation in God's mission. While His earthly ministry was limited to Judea and Galilee, through the Spirit, His mission now extends worldwide through every believer who opens their heart. Our ordinary actions, united with Christ and empowered by the Spirit, can produce extraordinary results.

As we go forth, let us remember that seeing Christ in faith is already encountering the Father. Trusting the Spirit, we can do works beyond imagination, continuing the risen Lord's mission. Like a student who plants a small seed that grows into a magnificent tree, Jesus invites each of us to plant our seeds, trusting that, in Him, even greater works are possible.

INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we present our gifts, let us offer not only bread and wine but also our faith, our willingness to serve, and our commitment to participate in Christ's mission. Pray now so that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts, and through them strengthen our resolve to live by Christ's example.

May the Spirit guide us so that our actions bear witness to your love, and may we bear fruit that endures for your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You sent your Son into the world to show us the way, to reveal your truth, and to call us to participate in your works. Through Him, we see your love in action and are invited to share in the mission of spreading your goodness and mercy.

In every act of faith, courage, and service, we cooperate with your Spirit to transform the world and bring hope to those in need.

Today, as we recall the life of St. Athanasius, we celebrate faithfulness that perseveres against all odds, and the fruits

that come when we trust and act according to your will. Therefore, with angels and saints, we join in the eternal hymn of praise: Holy, Holy, Holy...

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, O Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our days. May the Body and Blood of Christ we receive today strengthen our hearts, inspire our actions, and fill us with faith and courage.

Empower us to participate in Your works, witness Your truth, and bear fruit in Your kingdom, guided always by Your Spirit, as we await in joyful hope the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be co-workers with you in the Spirit. Grant peace to our hearts, our families, and our communities. Teach us to trust in your guidance, to work with courage and love, and to bear witness to your truth in all circumstances.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who humbly serves and gives His life for the world. Blessed are those called to His table,
to be nourished by His Body and Blood and sent forth to bear fruit in faith, love, and faithful service, continuing the works of Christ in the world.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Eucharist strengthens us to be instruments of God's work. Each act of faith, kindness, and service—no matter how small—can bear fruit beyond imagination when offered in union with Christ. In receiving Him, we are reminded that seeing Christ in faith is already encountering the Father, and that the Spirit empowers us to participate in God's mission, extending His love and truth to all we meet.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, by receiving Your Son in this Eucharist, may we be strengthened to trust in the Spirit, to participate in Your works of love, and to bear witness to Christ's truth in our daily lives.

Help us to act with humility, courage, and generosity, planting seeds of faith, encouragement, and service, confident that through You even the smallest efforts can produce extraordinary results.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God, our Father, guide you;
may Christ, the Son, strengthen you;
and may the Holy Spirit inspire you to witness, serve, and bear fruit in every action. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, strengthened by Christ and empowered by the Spirit to bear witness to God's love through your words and actions.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Even a single act of faith, offered in love and trust, can become a seed that bears fruit far beyond what we can see. Through Christ, empowered by the Spirit, we are called to do greater works and share His light with the world.