

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 2:14a, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 23(22):1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6. R. 1

R: The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Or *Alleluia.*

1. The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:20b-25

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 10:14

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep and my own know me.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures
the sheep you have redeemed
by the Precious Blood of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

April 26th, 2026

4th Sunday of Easter

THE PCC MEETS AFTER MASS TODAY.

The psalm, the second reading, and the gospel today all reflect in different ways on the images of sheep, shepherds and sheepfolds. It is perhaps a pity for us, living in western Europe in the 21st century, that these images have all but lost the immediate power



and relevance that they would have had in most of the many centuries since the domestication of sheep. Certainly, throughout both the old and new testaments of the bible, these images were constantly used to describe the relationship between us and God. God was attributed the role of shepherd, and the human race the role of the sheep. God looks after us as a shepherd looks after the sheep in their care, protecting them from danger from wild beasts, and helping them to find the best pastures. In this way, the sheepfold also represents safety – in the old testament the safety of the promised land, and in the new the safety of the church.

Entrance Hymn

165 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Offertory Hymn

455 Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem (*During this hymn the collection is taken. Please give as generously as you can.*)

Recessional

553 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him

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THIS WEEK (Year A[2]; Psalm week 4)

ALL MORNING PRAYER SERVICES EXCEPT ON THURSDAYS, AND ALL EVENING PRAYER SERVICES INCLUDING ON THURSDAYS, ARE NOW ONLINE. To attend these online services, visit www.stanselm.co.uk, select 'Services and events', then 'Online Morning Prayer' or 'Online Evening Prayer' as appropriate, and click on 'MORE INFO'.

27th: Monday of 4th week of Easter. Morning Prayer 0900 online.

28th: Tuesday of 4th week of Easter. Morning Prayer 0900 online. Evening Prayer online 1700.

29th: St Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church. Online Morning Prayer 0900. Online Evening Prayer 1700.

30th: Thursday of 4th week of Easter. Morning Prayer at 0945 IN CHURCH, Mass 1000. Evening Prayer online 1700.

1st May: Friday of 4th week of Easter. Morning Prayer 0900 online.

2nd: St Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association 1700

NEXT SUNDAY

3rd May: 5th Sunday of Easter. Mass 1000.

FUTURE DATE: Bring and Share lunch on 17th May.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton; Sylvia Fenton, Desiree Loderick, Mr & Mrs DeGale, Wioletta Dębska, Ingrid Graham, Fitzroy Sandiford, Peter Wickham, and Cora Freeman. (If you have a name for the list, please give the details to Fr Josiah or Fr Stephen.)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

26th: Joseph William Griffin

27th: Edith Jemmett, Elizabeth Burton

28th: Annie Elizabeth Rymill

29th: Elise Ernest

30th: Vera Holmes, Edith Buttrum

2nd May: Barbara Botley, John Boughton, Julian Charles

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH: Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work at the end of mass...

FINANCIAL POSITION: During March 2026 our income was £1,818.37, and our outgoings were £1,767.81. This is a much better result than in February, but we remain £1,000 short in our reserve account following last month's difficulties. We urgently need to replace this by improving our monthly income. There is very little opportunity to reduce our outgoings, so increasing income is our only option. Could you help us by making a small increase in your contribution to St Anselm? Please flash this QR code to get started!



STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Stephen: fr.stephen@stanselm.co.uk; 020 4603 7795

Fr Josiah: fr.josiah@stanselm.co.uk; 07597 701878
Susan can still be contacted at this email address: susan@stanselm.co.uk

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA, COFFEE, AND FELLOWSHIP!