

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 30, 2017

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 33:1-9:	page 367
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 191
The Old Testament Reading:	Ezekiel 34.11-16a
Easter Anthems	page 182
The Epistle:	page 192
Gradual Psalm: 63:1-4:	page 405
The Holy Gospel:	page 192
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in thy mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Parish Hall

10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♫ Processional Hymn:	155 (Easter Hymn)
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 191

The Old Testament Reading:	Ezekiel 34.11-16a
Psalm 33:1-9:	page 367
The Epistle:	page 192
Gradual: Easter Anthems	page 182
The Holy Gospel:	page 192
♫ Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
♫ Offertory Hymn:	539 (St. Columba)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in thy mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
♫ Hymn during Communion:	248 (Ach Gott Und Herr)
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85
♫ Recessional Hymn:	165 (Ave Virgo Virginum)

*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 10:30 Celebration for
Coffee & Conversation.*



From the Rector _____

Images are powerful things; and, in some cases, they stay with us for the rest of our lives. One of the images forever associated with the Christian faith which, along with the image of the Cross, has found an enduring place within the life of the Church, it is the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

In this morning's Gospel Jesus echoes a long-established Old Testament tradition. To be called a shepherd in that context was to be associated with all the great figures from Israel's history: with Abraham, Moses, and King David: Abraham, the father of the nation, was the keeper of great flocks; Moses was tending the flocks of his father-in-law when God called him to be the saviour of his people; David was a shepherd boy called in from the fields to be the King of Israel. And when the prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming of the Messiah he used the very same image: *He shall feed his flock like a shepherd!* Later, the prophet Ezekiel made extensive use of the shepherding image: evil rulers were likened to wicked shepherds, while God promised to save the abused flocks of

Israel by personally being the careful, tender, concerned shepherd of all His people.

The image, of course, comes into clearer focus in the New Testament. Jesus once told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep, but one of them went astray. In our way of thinking risking 99% of our investment to look for just one lost sheep would be foolish; but not for Christ. And later, when Jesus was speaking to a great throng of people, Mark tells us that he had compassion upon them because they were "as sheep without a shepherd."

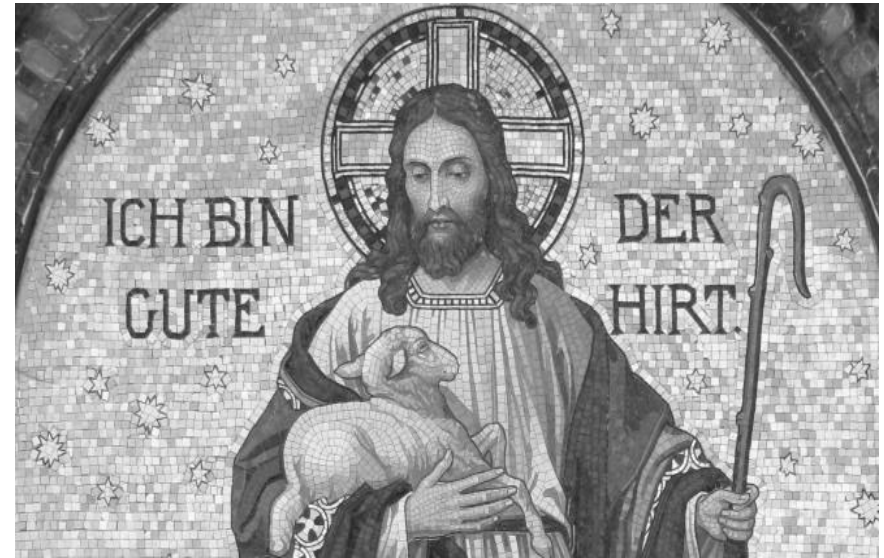
But in the passage which was read as this morning's Holy Gospel Jesus added a new motif; a new element. In Jesus' moving adaptation of this old theme, the good shepherd's commitment to the sheep is complete – more than just going to look for them when they're lost, he will actually lay down his life for them. In contrast, the "hired hand" does not "care" for them. With no investment in these animals, he has little incentive to stand by the helpless sheep when serious danger threatens. But the good shepherd has a face-to-face relationship with the sheep. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus speaks of his intimate, firsthand knowledge of the sheep, "I know my own and my own know me." And because Jesus "knows" his sheep He goes to His death in order to defend His sheep.

The image of the good shepherd is as well-loved as any in Christian thought. It is an image that has brought comfort and peace to the People of God for more than two millennia. It has served to remind them that nothing in life is beyond the power of Christ to bring healing and resurrection; that just as a good shepherd never ceases to defend his flock, so the Grace of God will always be present, to feed and nourish the People who are called by His Name.

But as comforting as the image of the Good Shepherd has been, it is incomplete until we remember the other side: for Jesus to be our Good Shepherd we must be willing to be the sheep. And imagining ourselves as vulnerable, dependent, even misguided, is not something that comes readily to us; nor does the idea of following Him wherever He might lead us. A shepherd can only guide if the sheep are willing to follow; and we are all too ready to assume that we know what is best: that we are the masters of our own destinies.

The secret to our happiness will never rely entirely on what we can have or acquire or do for ourselves. Each step in that path will prove to be just one more step towards an elusive goal, if we think that it all depends on us and on what we can do. Real happiness will come when we seek above all things to follow Christ, to trust the Good Shepherd, and to walk whenever He calls us to walk. For us, that may mean any number of things we may not wish to do; things we may not believe we have the time or the talent to do. For us it may mean modifying or even surrendering our goals. It may mean establishing an entirely new kind of goal. It may mean choosing the more difficult way rather than the easy way. It may mean the way of sacrifice over the way of compromise. But if Christ is to be the shepherd who will comfort us, He must also be the shepherd who leads us, wherever He chooses to go.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton
THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



If the Lord is indeed our shepherd, then everything goes topsy-turvy. Losing becomes finding and crying becomes laughing. The last become first and the weak become strong. Instead of life being done in by death in the end as we always supposed, death is done in finally by life in the end. If the Lord is our host at the great feast, then the sky is the limit.

Frederick Buechner, *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*

Priest and Rector

The Revd. Canon Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

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Organist
James O'Neill

Pastoral Assistant
Rick Bungay

Parish Notices and Updates

A huge word of thanks is extended to all those who offered their gifts and talents throughout Holy Week to allow us to enter as fully as possible into our annual commemoration of the saving work which Christ has accomplished on our behalf: our faithful Readers who opened the meaning of God's Word with their thoughtful transmission of the text; our dedicated Servers who gave of their time and attention in the many different and striking liturgies of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday; the hardworking members of our Altar Guild, who cleaned and prepared the Sanctuary so beautifully for our celebration on Easter Day; our very talented Organist, Choir Director and Choristers, who once again enriched our worship with music which is both lovely and inspiring; as well as the many volunteers who prepared food, handed out bulletins, tended fires and looked after the myriad others things that had to be done last week. And above all, we thank those who shared our liturgical life here at St. Mary's by their presence and participation. Holy Week is the most extraordinary time of year. Thanks for making it possible.

Please join us next Sunday, May 7th, following the 10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist for our monthly *Shared Meal*. Members of both congregations are warmly encouraged to gather with their sisters and brothers in Christ as we share the peace and joy which are have in Jesus Christ.

The Rector will be away on vacation until May 9th. If during that time you wish the ministry of a priest please contact the Parish Wardens: James McElman (472-2649 or jamesmcelman@nb.sympatico.ca) or Thomas Geburt (357-5894 or geburtster@gmail.com).

St. Mary's branch of Anglican Church Women will be meeting on, *Monday, May 8th*, beginning with lunch at 12:00 noon followed by a business meeting. The women of St. Mary's are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Joan Keswick at 472-2193 or the Rector.

St. Mary's weekly Bible Study is cancelled this week and will resume on Friday, May 12th.

The family of the late Anne Buckland has asked us to let you know that her internment will be taking place on Thursday, May 4th, at 2:00 p.m. in St. James Anglican Cemetery, Lower Jemseg. They welcome Anne's friends to join them for this service.

The Annual Country and Bluegrass Gospel Show, in support of the work of Canon Paul Jeffries at Bishop McAllister College in Uganda, will be held here at St. Mary's on Saturday, May 13th, at 7:30 p.m. The lineup of entertainers features John Jeffries, Copper Kettle Bluegrass Boyz, Eagles Rise, Duane Drost, Valerie Donovan, and Millen Anderson & Veronica Sparks. Admission is \$10.00 (at the door).

We're very pleased to announce that Hope Twinamatsiko, Lecturer at Kampala International University and active Mothers' Union member in Uganda, will be speaking to the Mothers' Union here at St. Mary's on Tuesday, May 16th, starting with a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. They invite anyone interested in hearing more about the Church's work in Uganda, with particular reference to the Mothers' Union, to join them that evening.

Ascension Day will fall on Thursday, May 25th and to celebrate the 40th Day of the Season of Easter, we will be scheduling a **Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at All Saints' in Marysville at 9:00 a.m.**, followed by a light breakfast, organised by the members of the Mothers' Union of All Saints'. We're very pleased that Canon Caleb Twinamatsiko will be the Preacher for the celebration. Please mark your calendars and plan to join with our sisters and brothers at All Saints as we celebrate Christ's triumphal return to heaven.

The Parish Corporation is replacing the rectangular tables in the Parish Hall. We're happy to make the old tables (which have served us very well for nearly 50 years!) available to anyone who might have a good use for them. If you'd like some of the tables once the replacements have come, please speak to the Rector or one of the Parish Wardens, Jim McElman or Thomas Geburt.

As we do each year, the Parish Corporation has applied for funding to hire a summer student to care for the cemetery and lawn. In the meantime, please let us know of any students who may be interested in the job. There are several criteria that have to be met including being a student in the terms prior to and following the employment period. If you have any questions or would like to forward a name, please speak to Jim McElman or the Rector.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MAY 3: ST. MONNICA, Mother of St. Augustine of Hippo
7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MAY 6: THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MAY 7: THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist