

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Channel 1: St Brigid's RC Dunleer Parish [Livestream]
 Channel 2: Dunleer Parish Media [Recordings]



One of Christ's greatest teaching gifts was his use of images from the environment in which people lived and worked. Herding was is one of the daily chores of many people in the Holy Land. Looking over the old death registers of our own parish, it is not uncommon to find someone described as having been 'a herd'. Shepherds, leading their flock through the dusty desert countryside, from pasture to water to shelter, were not and still are not a high profile group. In Christ's time, they were regarded as dubious characters, low life, and shifty. Their profession of herd or shepherd was given some dignity by being the first guests of the infant Jesus in the crib. It was their only claim to fame. To a great extent the Bible is a collection of books written by men of humble origin, who wrote their stories under the guidance of God's Spirit. Much of its terminology, teaching and symbolism is expressed in rural language, dealing with things from the environment in which they lived and worked. The people to whom these writings were originally addressed were for the most part themselves simple, nomadic people who were familiar with nature and the great outdoors. Jesus chose the image of shepherd to describe his own role and the role of those who would follow him in ministering to God's people. He draws a picture of the Good Shepherd as one with knowledge of his flock, with an interest in their welfare, and with a love for them which is shown in his willingness to literally pour out his life in service, to lay down his life for his sheep. The Good Shepherd is not just efficient; he is good. His flock know and listen, in response to this goodness. The present Holy Father who was probably familiar with herds of sheep in his native Argentinian, famously told priests that they ought to have, 'the smell of the sheep' about them. This Good Shepherd image is sharply contrasted with the interloper, the burglar, who is motivated by profit and selfishness. He might be efficient as an organiser or herder but he has no real love for the sheep. He looks after himself first, and rather than laying down his life for his sheep, seeks rather to save his own skin first. The result is a scattered sheep and an absent shepherd. There is an old Latin maxim that asks, 'Quis custodiet ipsos custodies?' It asks the pertinent question, 'Who guards the guards themselves'? Who oversees the overseers? Who checks on the shepherds? All of us need to cultivate constant vigilance and honesty, primarily with ourselves.

Sat April 29th 7 30 p.m. Av	David Flynn John and Kaye Durnin M Mind Peter Johnston Rob't and Mgt Kearney and Baby Elisha Kearney.
Sun April 30th 10 30 a.m. Av	Wm Lynch
Sun April 30th 11 30 a.m.	Anne Macken Josie Ward Bartle Woods and Michael and Kathleen Woods Maura and Paddy McGrory
Mon May 1st 10 a.m.	Frank Gallagher
Fri May 5th 10 a.m.	Eamon Duffy
Sat May 6th 10 a.m. M. Mind	Peter Callan
Sat May 6th 7 30 p.m.	Nano Mc Gahon Peggy Landy Bartle and Sarah Landy Paddy and Rosie Lane Anne Matthews Ben and Eliz Matthews Teresa and Paddy Ward
Sun May 7th 10 30	Paddy Corbally and Dec'd of family. Kathleen Taaffe
Sun May 7th 11 30	Peter Mc Mullan

Parish Collection April 23rd €1655