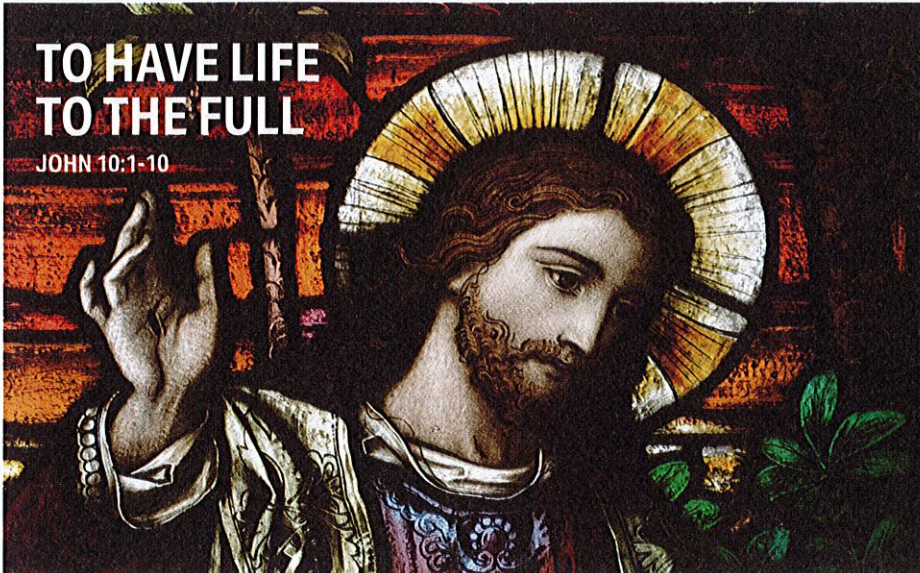


Sunday Message

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 26 April 2026 • Psalter Week 4



**TO HAVE LIFE
TO THE FULL**

JOHN 10:1-10

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" is Jesus' promise in today's Gospel. He comes to bring us the fullness of life.

The fullness of life is something that everyone who is truly human looks for. Many of us go to great lengths to try to enjoy life to the full. We want to have the latest and the best of everything. We attend self-help classes, seek the most rewarding careers, go travelling. Yet, despite all our efforts, we can still end up dissatisfied.

The Christian believes it is only in knowing Jesus that we will find real meaning and experience true life. But very often we are not good at really believing this or putting it into practice. Very often we look every place but in the right place. We forget what Jesus told us: he alone is the answer to all that we are looking for. He is our good shepherd. Follow him, listen to his voice, and we will have the fullness of life. We will experience the joy of living. ■

REFLECT

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes clear his wish for us: he wants everyone to have life and have it to the full. He wants everyone to enjoy the fullness of life, to experience life in all its beauty and potential, to treasure and support life in every aspect, in every respect.

It means opposing abortion and euthanasia. It means doing all we can to help young couples set up home and start a family. The Christian community, Pope Francis stated in his letter for the 2025 jubilee year, should be at the forefront in pointing out the need for a social covenant to support and foster hope, one that is inclusive and not ideological, working for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children, in order to fill the empty cradles in so many parts of our world.

Pro-life also means providing adequate health care and supports for those struggling economically or who are on the fringes of society. It means promoting a healthy work/life balance, so that we can spend quality time with loved ones and have

time for ourselves to unwind, to nurture our minds and passions, and to be able to enjoy life in its extraordinary beauty and richness. It means cultivating an attitude of gratitude for all we have been given and the blessings we can take too easily for granted. It means protecting our precious planet, which is God's gift to us to respect and cherish. It means being pro-life in everything we do, in our attitudes and in our actions, from womb to tomb.

Pope Francis put it like this: "Our defence of the innocent unborn needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned, the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and the elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection."

DO

Examine your life. Could you describe yourself as someone who is pro-life in everything you say and do?

PRAY

This is vocations Sunday. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and that all Christians will live out their vocation to preach the Good News. Pray also that people everywhere may experience the joy of living.

LEARN

It is through Jesus that we enter into the life of God.

Jesus is our good shepherd.

The final words of today's Gospel provide one of the shortest and most succinct statements of Jesus' mission: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." The chapter and verse are easy to remember: John 10:10.

SAY

"Lord, you are my good shepherd. Help me to follow you faithfully always. Amen."

He was pointing out that pro-life doesn't stop in the delivery room when a child is born. It covers the entirety of life, from beginning to end. It is to work for a world where everybody can experience the joy of living. Joy of living is the powerful phrase Pope Francis uses.

It means you cannot be pro-life and be indifferent to poverty and injustice. You cannot be pro-life and cut off money to aid organisations that help the poor. You cannot be pro-life and support the death penalty or genocide wherever it takes place or wars of conquest. You cannot be pro-life and at the same time be racist or bigoted or abusive. To be pro-life is to treasure all life as sacred.

The book of Genesis tells us that God saw all that he had made and found it very good. To have enthusiasm for life is to celebrate and delight in the gift of life God has given us. It is, in the words of Pope Francis, to recover the joy of living. ■

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.**



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TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

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TF2 7HG

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michal Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org

Parish Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423
Safeguarding Rep: Cheryl Breeze M: 07748870755 E: olspsafeguarding@hotmail.com

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – BISHOP MARK'S PASTORAL LETTER

Sat	25th	17:30	Jimmy & Margaret Shaw (RIP)	St Patrick's
Sun	26th	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
Fourth Sunday of Easter		09:00	Obetta Family (Intentions) / Intombizodwa Howe's 44 th Birthday	Our Lady's
		11:00	Ali Torabi's Intentions / Margaret Whyte (RIP)	St Patrick's
Mon	27th	Ferial		
Tues	28th	Ferial		
		13:00	Requiem Mass for Katie Gaughan	St Patrick's
Wed	29th	Ferial		
		12:00	Emily Sajin	Our Lady's
Thurs	30th	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Martyr		
		12:30	Blessing of Patricia Gould before Cremation at Telford	Our Lady's
		19:00	Stephanie Attwood & Family	St Patrick's
Fri	1st	Ferial		
		09:30	Harold Dean	St Patrick's
Sat	2nd	10:00	First Holy Communion Mass	Our Lady's
		11:00	Polish Holy Communion Mass	St Patrick's
		17:30	Finlay Douglas	St Patrick's
Sun	3rd	08:45	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
Fifth Sunday of Easter		09:00	Bishop Mark's visitation – For Parishioners	Our Lady's
		11:00	Alice Oliver	St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Anthony Ladd (Telford Crematorium, 6/5, 1.30pm),
Lillian Witts (22/5, 10:30am St Patrick's), & **Catherine Gilham**.

We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

BAPTISMS: Forms are available from the porch.

Please hand your form to Fr Ravi.

Baptism Preparation class will be held on the 25th April at 12pm.

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5.30: Mary & Martin, Sherrel, Maggie & Gail **Next week:** Geraldine & Stephen, Gay, Maggie & Gail

Sun 9: Kevin & Joel, Francis, Catharine, Catherine & Felicity **Next week:** Alex & Janet, Rita, CC&F

Sun 11: Jennifer & Paul, Jane, Diane & Collette **Next week:** Stephen & Shan, Ewa, Ann & Jane

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1677.13 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £284.50, Loose Plate £584.51, Dona - £45.

We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:

SRCDT 234025

St Patrick Wellington

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54546760

SRCDT -234025

Our Lady & St Luke Telford

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAM: Our Masses from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>

BISHOP MARK'S PASTORAL VISITATION:

The Pastoral visitation of a bishop is a time of grace for any parish community. Bishop Mark will be visiting Our Lady of the Rosary and St Luke's church on Sunday 3rd May. Please keep this intention in your prayers.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We welcome children **who have not received communion** to join in children's liturgy and we encourage all other children to be present in church for full mass.

FIRST COMMUNION IN OUR PARISH: Masses will be celebrated at Our Lady's on 2nd May at 10am and St Patrick's on 9th May at 10am & 2pm. Polish First Communions are on 2 May at St Patrick's. Please keep this intention in your prayers. No Friday Mass in Polish Mass on 1st or 29th May. (Confessions)

SHAPE OUR PARISH FUTURE: We're seeking volunteers to form Community Management Teams:

- Faith Formation
- Faith Action
- Faith Celebration
- Admin & Maintenance.

We are in the process of forming Parish teams for Our Lady's Church following their successful meeting last week.

We look towards accomplishing the same at St Patrick's Church at a meeting on 13th May at 7pm in the meeting room. **Please attend this important event.**

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026:



The Pilgrimage Team are very pleased to announce that bookings are now open for our 2026 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30 July to 7 August and by air 31 July to 6 August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website: www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk along with a link to the new online booking system.

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE MASS: The Diocesan Mass for Marriage for couples celebrating a significant anniversary, or those newly married.

Mass will be celebrated at Columba's Church, Chester on Saturday 13th June at 12 noon. This will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. If you are celebrating a special wedding anniversary, please contact Father Ravi to get a personal invitation from Bishop Mark to attend these celebrations.

PARISH LUNCH: Sunday 7th June 1 for 1.30 at Hadley Park Hotel. 2 course lunch – main & dessert £25 for adults, £15 for children. Places are still available: Menu available from 12th April – see **Pauline Hoyle to book. Full payment needed by the end of April.** Bank details – Our Lady & St Luke Telford Sort Code: 30-15-52 Account Number: 54582160. Please note in reference: Parish Lunch with your name. Thank you

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: Every Wednesday led by Father Joe Donlan at 10.30am at Our Lady's and every Thursday after 7pm mass at St Patrick's. All Welcome.

PARISH EVENTS MEETING: Tuesday 28th April, 7pm at Our Lady's meeting room, All welcome. If you can't attend but would like to receive the meeting notes by email please contact: paulineheffernan60@gmail.com

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOKMARK COMPETITION: Thank you to all who entered the competition. From the porch in both churches. Thank you again for sharing your talents and creativity.

CATHOLIC BISHOP'S CONFERENCE; NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE 5TH MAY 2026: The theme for this year's Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse looks at the scourge of domestic abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Immediately before the much-loved part of this verse from the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus's words: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." This is how abuse feels to those who experience it – their dignity and value as a unique child of God is stripped away and destroyed.

The physical danger domestic abuse presents to life is clear. A woman is murdered by a partner or ex-partner every five days in the UK. Between three and 10 women die by suicide each week due to domestic abuse. Abusers can also perpetrate spiritual and coercive abuse, disrupting their victims' relationships with God and the Church. This can lead victims – adults and children – to feel guilt and shame that push them away from the support that the Church has to offer. At its best, the Church can – and should – be a safe haven where support is available for victims and survivors so that they can live life without fear and begin to experience the life in abundance Jesus came to bring. This hope is what we pray for this year.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, You were not afraid to challenge attitudes and behaviours that damaged others. May victims and survivors find a way to the safety and support they deserve, access to safe places where they can speak the truth, and people able and willing to hear and act upon that truth, and find in you a way to life, life in all its fullness. Amen

MONTHLY ECUMENICAL SERVICE: Wednesday 13th May at 1.00pm at St Matthew's Church Donnington Wood: the theme is Eastertide.

PRESBYTERY VISITS: Visitors are always welcome at St Patrick's presbytery but, for privacy and security reasons, we need to know who is in the building. Please let Fr Ravi know if you are visiting at any time. There is a new lock on the presbytery door so if you have previously held a key please dispose of it. Those people needing access should speak to Fr Ravi.