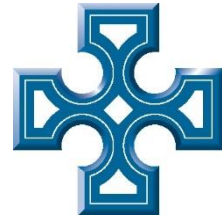




## SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Christ as the good shepherd Date:ca. 1540  
Artist: Cranach, Lucas, 1515-1586, Erfurt, Germany.

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

**Today: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Commissioning of the Select Vestry**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004**

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**Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
Raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### First Reading **Acts 9: 36-43**

36 In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 23**

### Second Reading **Revelation 7: 9-17**

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' <sup>14</sup>I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to John chapter ten beginning at verse thirty eleven. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

### **John 10: 22-30**

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again.  
Keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Services this week**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom Compline 7:30pm.**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side chapel.

*A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.*

**Next Sunday: Easter 5 18.05.25**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Confirmation with the Bishop of Connor.** Coffee/tea follows this service and all are welcome.

## **READINGS:**

*The celebration of life continues, this week with a story from the early church of Tabitha being raised from death, and with Jesus proclaiming himself as the Shepherd whose sheep know his voice and who find life in him. There is comfort here for all who are wrestling with the forces of death, however big or small, in their lives.*

*May you continue to know the life of Easter in your worship this week.*

**Acts 9:36-43**: Peter raises Tabitha of Joppa, which brings many people to faith.

**Psalms 23**: David's famous Psalm of thanksgiving, praise and confidence in God for the gift of life.

**Revelation 7:9-17**: The hosts of heaven praise God, and the martyrs rejoice in the God who is their Shepherd.

**John 10:22-30**: Jesus speaks of himself as the Shepherd of his followers who are the sheep he cares for, and who know his voice.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The season of resurrection continues, and this week is brought together with the 'Shepherd' metaphor, which appears in three of the four readings. The two underlying messages that emerge appear to be: 1) In Christ life is to be found even in the face of death – from Peter's raising of Tabitha, to the Psalmist's confidence of travelling through the valley of the shadow of death to finally dwell in God's house, to the heavenly gathering of those who have died as

martyrs in the persecution of the church, to Jesus' promise that his sheep receive eternal life from him, this message is clear. 2) The Shepherd is also a messianic, and a subversive, image. Where the leaders of Israel had failed to be faithful shepherds, and where the Roman Empire had slaughtered followers (sheep) of Christ, Jesus stands as the one who has died but has risen – defying the death-dealing powers that be, and winning life and security for his sheep. This week, then, we are called to embrace the life of Christ which defies death, and which subverts all the forces of evil and Empire that robs us of life, and we are called to be “good shepherds” in the way of Jesus who bring life to those under our care.



### **Notices: | Sign up for the regular email Update**

**Contactless Payments** The Select Vestry has made a new contactless payment device available in the parish from today and may be used for any donations you'd like to make at social time after the service in the hall.

**Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com). Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

### **Organising your wedding in St John's**

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.

## **Hospital Visiting**

The Rector would appreciate knowing if parishioners are going into or are in hospital or discharged and is pleased to offer pastoral support.

## **Safeguarding**

The Rector, select vestry and parish leaders are committed to uphold the good practice to the parish's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Should you have any concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the

### **Parish panel.**

Rev Canon Stephen Fielding 9066 6644

Mrs Patricia Armstrong 07854005699

Dr Anthony Stevens 07710647080



Urgently needed food items - in order of priority.

- Tinned Meat, Coffee, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Fish, Long Life Juice, Jams, Spreads & Honey, Tinned Potatoes, Biscuits, Detergent, Toilet Roll, Savoury Snacks.

Donations to the Foodbank can either be placed directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the Foodbank. Or please place items in the baskets in the church entrance vestibule/porch.

Open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on [info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)

[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)



@malonestjohns

<https://stjohnsmalone.org>

**Thank you for your generosity** | We depend on your gifts of time treasure and talent to keep ministry in St John's running. To make an offering in support of the parish please give at the welcome table near the church door or by scanning this QR code. Please use Gift Aid if you can. To set up regular giving, which helps our ministry planning, please contact Joanne Macartney at [treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com)

<https://givealittle.co/c/stjohnsdonate>



***Please take this booklet  
home with you for the  
readings, notices and  
reference during the week  
and recycle.***

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CCLI licence No. 1996325 Streaming License No. 524611 St John's Malone Charities Registration Number NIC101984 The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (028 90666644)

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