

Prayers of Intercession for 4th Sunday of Easter 2021

On this 4th Sunday of Easter, we recall Jesus' words to his disciples 'I am the Good Shepherd' and I lay down my life for the sheep.' As we take to heart the truth that 'the Lord is our Shepherd' and acknowledge his care for us, let us pray.

The response to the bidding 'The Lord is our Good Shepherd' is **'there is nothing we shall lack.'**

Let us pray for all who shepherd others. For Bishops, priests and deacons and for all in their care. For those who shepherd members of their local community. We pray for all who feel threatened and under attack, and all whose ministry of shepherding feels especially demanding at this present time. Lord grant us greater affection and care, one for another, in our churches and communities, and in our society at large. *Silence*

*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

Let us pray for all in positions of leadership and influence in our world, that they may use that power for good; for an increase in our concern for one another's well-being, across all barriers, and for all who are working to build community. We pray especially for our forthcoming local elections, holding before the Lord both candidates and electors. *Silence*

*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

We pray for those who are struggling with life, those who are wandering, lost and aimless, and who have no idea of the reality of the Good Shepherd, for all who die unaware that they are known, precious and valued by the God who loved them into being. *Silence*

*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

We pray for those nations, especially India and Indonesia, who are experiencing a huge escalation in Coronavirus. We pray for wisdom for those in leadership there and that the populations might take on board the advice about staying safe. We pray too that other nations might be able to help with the supply of equipment and medicines. *Silence*

*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

We pray for those we know who are ill at this time. Heal and strengthen weak bodies, calm and bring peace to confused minds. We name those in our benefice we have been asked to pray for: Margaret Parkinson, Albin Wallace, Thelma Mallows, Margaret Pawlyn, Primrose Line and her sister Rosemary, Pamela Sykes, Ben aged 5, Catherine, Michael and Celia, and in the quiet we add those who are known individually to us. *Silence*

*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

We recall those who have died to this earthly life in recent weeks including Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Alan Knight whose funeral took place in Stoke Doyle earlier this month, and Canon Paul Rose. We pray that the Good Shepherd, who understands what it is to die, will bring them safely home. We pray too for the bereaved families of those we have named that they would know the love and care of the Good Shepherd in their sadness and grief.

*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

Lord Jesus, we pray in thankfulness for your shepherding of us through every moment of our lives. We thank you for being reminded today that you know us completely, that you love us just as we

are, and that you call us by name to be a part of your kingdom now on earth and one day in heaven.
May we embrace you afresh as our Good Shepherd in whom we are kept safe forever.
*The Lord is our Good Shepherd; **there is nothing we shall lack.***

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**
Amen.