

**THE RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES OF
ST WILFRID, LONGRIDGE: ST MARY, CHIPPING:
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RIBCHESTER.**

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4th Sunday of Easter Year A

Good Shepherd Sunday

Sunday 26th April 2026



*I come that you may have life and
that you may have it in abundance.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 27th April	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 28th April			
Wednesday 29th April			
Thursday 30th April			
Friday 1st May			
Saturday 2nd May	Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 3rd May		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

Parish of St Peter and St Paul Ribchester

Sunday Missal Page 285

Parish Notices

T.H.O.M.A.S. Collection

Please note that there will be a collection for T.H.O.M.A.S. at Mass on Sunday 26th April. Thank you.

Mission Boxes

Could these please be brought into church during April – many thanks.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for the faithful departed and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. We remember especially:

Mary Surtees, Agnes Clayton, May Kay Linning and Brian Whalley.

May they be granted a share in the Lord's resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 19th April: £197.00

Thank you.

Lee House Mass

Kindly note that the usual First Friday Mass will be held at Lee House on Friday 1st May at 7.30pm. Fr David Chinnery will be the celebrant n Fr Tony's absence. All are most welcome to attend.

Offertory Envelopes

There are still several of the numbered offertory envelopes available for collection at the back of church, please collect yours if you haven't already done so. Many thanks to those who have used them over the past 12 months. If your details have changed or if you wish to change your gift aid status, then please speak with either Fr Tony or Paul. If you currently do not use the gift aid envelope scheme but would like to do so, this can also be arranged. Many thanks.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for the faithful departed and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again.

We remember especially:

Elsie Elizabeth Jean Swarbrick, Nellie Hayhurst, Joan Carefoot, Charles William Corless, Gladys Ward, John Harold Smith, Monica Wills and Andrew Farmer.
May they have the reward of their earthly goodness in heaven.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again and for those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time.

We remember especially: Michael Newell.

May he have the reward of his earthly goodness in heaven.

Red Mission Boxes

Kindly note that our promoters will be emptying the Red Mission Boxes in the next two weeks. Many thanks.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 19th April:

£431.90

Thank you.

Kindly note that the amount raised at our last coffee morning was £136.00 and not £36.00 as indicated in the newsletter.

Easter Holiday

I shall be taking a 10-day Easter break commencing after Mass this weekend. However, I may have to return next weekend to celebrate Mass if a supply priest cannot be found.

A thought on the Gospel

In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks about himself many times, often using the words “I am.” “I am the way, the truth and the life,” “I am the good shepherd,” and today he proclaims that “I am the gate of the sheepfold.”

On another occasion he speaks about the significance of this when he says: “*I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.*” These are words of great consolation and comfort and little wonder then that they are often proclaimed in funeral liturgies, assuring us that when our own earthly journey is ended, the good shepherd is there to welcome us home.

Ever since the days when the early Christians painted the picture of Christ as the Good Shepherd tending his sheep, on the walls of the catacombs in Rome, the image of the Good Shepherd has been a firm favourite throughout Christianity. Many parishes are named after the Good Shepherd, including one in our own deanery just on the other side of the river Ribble in Blackburn. Generations of Christ’s followers have been comforted and consoled by the picture of Christ the Good shepherd anxiously seeking out the lost sheep and carrying it back home on his shoulder. This image provides inspiration as it expresses the type of care, compassion, and guidance which Christ offers to all of us. It gives us a permanent assurance that each one of us is loved as if we were the only one. He is telling us that he knows us individually and thinks so much of us that he cannot let us out of his sight.

The fact that there is a special place for us in the very heart of God increases our confidence. Even when sin might cause us to wander and stray, the Good Shepherd is there to bring us back.

As we dwell on the closeness of love and the care that God offers us through his Son, treating us as his beloved children, we might ponder on what our response might be.

Today’s liturgy invites us to do two things: firstly to look at our own vocation, our unique calling, and to examine what kind of care do we show for those around us? Sometimes, caring for others might be shown in discreet acts of kindness, like sending a card, making a phone call, giving a gift, all of which say; “*I am with you.*”

Secondly: today being Good Shepherd Sunday, we are invited to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious way of life. Now more than ever when the number of priests is in rapid decline, the need to pray for and nurture new vocations is paramount.