

## **What sets 'good people' and Christians apart?**

When we are struggling with our faith we might be tempted to think that as long as we are 'good people' that will suffice. So what sets 'good people' and Christians apart?

The other disciples were really not so very different from Doubting Thomas. When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines three pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. He shows them the marks on his hands and feet, he invites them to touch and check that he is flesh and blood, and he shares a meal with them. But it is only when Jesus opens their minds to understanding the scriptures that they come to believe him. By interpreting what has happened, the risen Christ draws the disciples out of their confusion. Amongst some of his famous last words to them were words of encouragement to go and preach His message and a reminder of prophecies fulfilled and promises made.

Being a Christian today isn't easy, and simply accepting the Jesus we have grown up with sometimes isn't enough to sustain us.

Understanding the difference between living life simply as a good person, and living life as a Christian comes of believing in the risen Jesus.

Very often a good person is someone who simply avoids doing anything bad. As Christians we are continually striving to follow Christ's example. Today, through prayer, scripture debate, and putting faith into action, we continually work for the same enlightenment and understanding that Jesus gave his early disciples.



# **Parish Newsletter**

St Mary's & Ladychapel, Maynooth



**19 April, 2015**

Dear Reader,

Next weekend, the 26<sup>th</sup> April, we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It is also known as *Good Shepherd Sunday* - a day of prayer for vocations. In the Gospel we hear that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. The Gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant; for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much.

In Biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Flocks might consist of thousands of sheep and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending them and protecting them from wolves and robbers. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's Gospel. He is the good shepherd, a mixture of tenderness, strength and self sacrifice. Jesus loved us so much that he laid down his life for us. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't *quite* believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually? Can God really be looking out for every one of us? The answer is 'yes'. Jesus we are told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with.

So, the next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.

### **Contact Details:**

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**Mass times**  
**St Mary's Church**  
Saturday Evening:  
7.00 pm (The Folk  
Group every 2<sup>nd</sup> week)

Sunday  
08:45, 10:00(Family  
Mass Group), 11:30  
(Choir) 1.00, & 6:00  
(Maynooth Gospel Choir  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month)

**Ladychapel**  
Sunday 10:00  
(Adult Choir)

Live streaming  
available @  
[www.maynoothparish.org](http://www.maynoothparish.org)

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## SHARE FUND

### Letter from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Archbishop Martin has written a letter regarding the Share Fund, the second collection at Mass. He thanks us for our support. The total amount from all the Parishes of the Dublin Diocese amounted to €6,502,752. Maynooth contributed €70,612. Thank you.

**Copies of the SHARE Fund Statement are available in the Church Porch**

	
<b>Saturday 18 &amp; Sunday 19 April</b>	St Mary's Altar Society will hold a Church Grounds Collection this weekend.
<b>Monday 20 April</b>	Baptismal Team Meeting at 8.00 p.m. in the Parochial House.
<b>Wednesday 22 April</b>	<b>St Joseph's Young Priests' Society</b> will meet in the Parochial House at 8.00 p.m. All welcome.
<b>Thursday 23 April</b>	Training and Formation of <b>New Parish Pastoral Council</b> will take place in the Presentation Girls' School at 8.00 p.m.
<b>Saturday 25 April</b>	<b>First Communion Ceremony</b> for the girls from the Presentation Girls' School will take place in St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.
<b>Sunday 26 April</b>	<b>Day of Prayer for Vocations</b> - A special Collection to support our students for the Priesthood will replace the SHARE Collection. Your support is very much appreciated.
<b>Wednesday 29 April</b>	<b>Parish Pastoral Council Meeting</b> – Parochial House at 8.00 p.m.
<b>Thursday 30 April</b>	Training and Formation of <b>New Parish Pastoral Council</b> will take place in the Presentation Girls' School at 8.00 p.m.

### Trocaire Boxes



Trocaire thank all those who have sent back their **Trocaire Family Boxes**.

If you have a box at home you can return it to the Sacristy or the Parish Office.

### *Finance Committee – New Appointment*

I am delighted to share with you the appointment of Senan Griffin to the Parish Finance Committee. Senan brings a wealth of experience which will be invaluable to the parish in the coming years. Senan replaces Tom Ashe who is stepping down after 4 years on the committee. On behalf of the Finance Committee, and on my own behalf, I want to say a big thank you to Tom for his contribution over these past 4 years during which we all benefited from his wisdom and efforts.

*Fr. Liam*