

# Weekly Bulletin

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

Year 25, No. 05

SUNDAY, 3RD MAY, 2020

Christ The King Catholic Church | P.O.Box CT 2110 Cantonments-Accra, Ghana

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## CHRIST THE KING CHURCH THEME FOR THE YEAR

**LET US REJOICE, FOR NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD - cf Is 61.2**

### OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays

8:00am-4:00pm

Saturdays

8:00am-12:00pm

Sundays

Closed

## SUPPORT TO NEEDY PARISHIONERS

The Parish has made a special provision to support needy persons or families, in these difficult times. Parishioners who genuinely need some support should contact their societal head or call 024 428 4669 / 030 277 5645

### PRAYER FOR AN END TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Almighty and merciful Father, who shows your love to all creation, we come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant Governments and Health Authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus. Amen



CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH, CANTONMENTS

## THE MONTH OF MAY LIVE STREAMING

### PROGRAMME OUTLINE

#### ROSARY MONTH BEGINS

Fri. 1st May, 2020 | 12:00 noon

Regina Coeli  
Rosary Prayers  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Holy Mass

#### MONTHLY GROTTO DEVOTIONS

Sat. 2nd May, 2020 | 4:00 pm

Rosary Prayers  
Holy Mass

#### FEAST OF ASCENSION DAY

Thu. 21st May, 2020 | 12:00 noon

Regina Coeli  
Rosary Prayers  
Holy Mass

#### PENTECOST NOVENA BEGINS

Fri. 22nd May, 2020 | 12:00 noon

Regina Coeli  
Rosary Prayers  
Holy Mass  
Pentecost Novena Prayers & Talk

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sun. 31st May, 2020

Holy Mass 7:00 am

**NB:** - Rosary Prayers, each day of the Month during the Midday Mass  
- Pentecost Novena, talks each day of the Novena period after Midday Mass

All activities will be streamed via Facebook  
**JOIN US**

[www.facebook.com/christthekingparishaccra](https://www.facebook.com/christthekingparishaccra)

## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

### COMMENTARY ON READINGS

First Reading: Peter's hearers felt deeply sorry for unjustly supporting the crucifixion of Christ and having repented for their sins, many accepted baptism. (Acts 2:14, 36-41)

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 23)

**“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.”**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul. **Res.**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage. **Res**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. **Res**

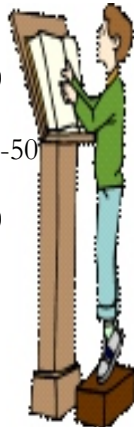
Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come. **Res**

**Second Reading:** Peter urged his new converts to bear their unmerited suffering with patience, just as Christ patiently bore His sufferings for the love of all mankind. (Peter 2:20-25)

**Gospel:** Our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guides us along the right paths to His house and pasture; there we receive life and have it more abundantly. (St. John 10:1-10)

### WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 4TH WEEK OF EASTER, YEAR A

Monday	<b>St. Florian</b> Acts 11:1-8 / Ps 42/Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday	<b>St. Angelo</b> Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday	<b>St. Dominic Savio</b> Acts 12:24 - 13:5/Ps 67/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday	<b>St. John of Beverley</b> Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89/Jn 13:16-20
Friday	<b>St. Magdalene of Canossa</b> Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday	<b>St. Peter Nolasco BVM</b> Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98/Jn 14:7-14



### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

## REFLECTION

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

### FAMILY CONNECTION

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger.

The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10.

Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today's psalm, Psalm 23.



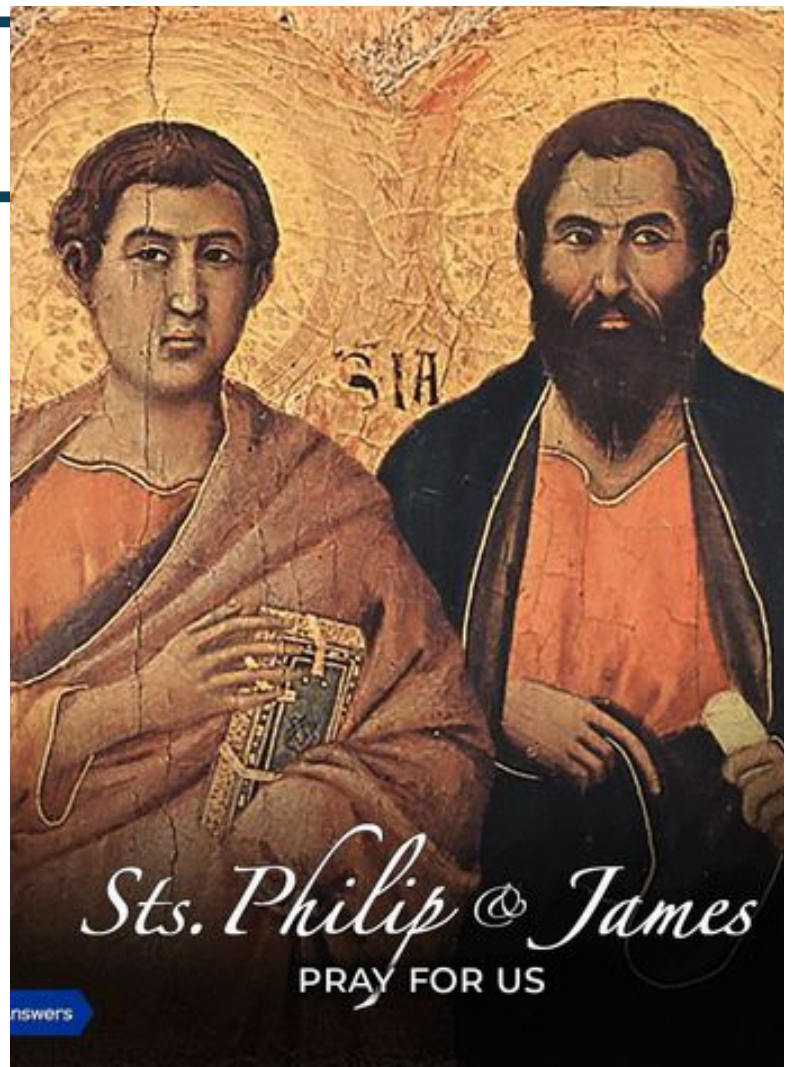
# SAINT OF THE WEEK

Both of these saints were part of the original group of Jesus' twelve apostles. Philip was one of the first apostles chosen. He was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee. When Jesus met him, he said, "Follow me." Philip was so happy to be with Jesus that he wanted to share his happiness with his friend, Nathaniel. "We have found the one Moses and the prophets wrote about," Philip explained. "He is Jesus of Nazareth."

Nathaniel wasn't at all excited. Nazareth was just a little village. It wasn't big and important like Jerusalem. So Nathaniel said, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" But Philip did not become angry at his friend's answer. He just said, "Come and see." So Nathaniel went to see Jesus. After he had spoken with him, he, too, became a zealous follower of the Lord.

St. James was also one of Jesus' twelve apostles. He was the son of Alphaeus and a cousin of Jesus. After Jesus ascended into heaven, James became the bishop of Jerusalem. People thought so much of him that they called him "James the Just," which means "James the Holy One." He is also called "James the Less," because he was younger than the other apostle named James, who was called "James the Greater."

St. James was very gentle and forgiving. He prayed very much. He kept begging God to forgive the people who persecuted the followers of Jesus. Even



when Jesus' enemies were putting James to death, he asked God to pardon them. St. James died as a martyr in the year 62.

We can all be apostles of Jesus in our own way. We can show our faith in Jesus by the way we live. That's how we can imitate St. Philip and St. James.

## CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

# Practice Social Distancing.

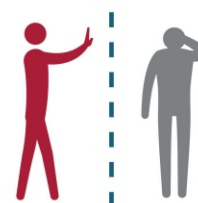
What does this mean?



Keep a safe distance on public transport



Avoid places where large groups of people gather



Limit any gatherings that include high-risk individuals.

# THE TUESDAY TEACHING

## THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY



### INTRODUCTION

Falling in love is an experience which comes to every youth. It often blinds their vision and thinking. Oh I'm in love. We fail to listen to our parents, our friends and even the church. Love they say is proverbially blind, only intelligence can give it eyes. Happy indeed is the youth who while listening to the soft whisperings of love, still keeps his foot on the ground and keeps at least one ear attuned to the voice of the church.

If you were to judge what marriage is and should be by reading the magazines or watching television or by talking to people on the street, you'd be led to believe that it's a relationship founded on sexual compatibility and romance. If the sex goes bad or the romance dies, then the couple can walk away from the marriage. How do you work out whether you are sexually compatible? Well, of course, you try before you buy! You make sure you have a sufficient number of sexual partners (the prevailing wisdom is that the appropriate number is about 12) to work out what you like and what you don't like so that when Mr or Ms Right comes along, you'll know he or she is the one for you as soon as you sleep with him or her. You live together before you're married, often before marriage is ever mentioned or contemplated, and often for several years before deciding to marry. You judge the strength of a marriage by how romantic it is: how often does he bring home flowers

unexpectedly, how often do you go away for romantic weekends at luxury hotels, how often do you get breakfast in bed, how often does he tell you he loves you?

But, then, that's what happens when you reduce marriage to just another human relationship, or worse still, an animal relationship. So, I'm not going to say another word about the relationship of marriage. Instead, I'm going to talk about Catholic Marriage, the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. How is that different from the mere "relationship of marriage"? There are three things about a Catholic marriage that make it far more than just a relationship: it is a Sacrament, it is a Vocation and it is a path to Sanctity. Three things that we so often forget.

### PATH TO SANCTITY

Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, repeats again for our modern ears the truth that each and every one of us is called to holiness, called to be a Saint. Saints are not meant to be isolated, rare individuals. You don't have to be a monk and shave your head, or a contemplative nun to be a Saint. Every single one of us, no matter who we are or what we do is called to be "perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect". That is what God expects from us! That is what we are called to strive for throughout our entire lives!

to be continued.....

