

# Vocations Sunday

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

“Good Shepherd Sunday”

## A Virtual Assembly

Diocesan  
Vocations  
Office



ASK INVITE PRAY



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM

Registered Charity 234216





## Welcome to our assembly

As we can't gather together, we've prepared this virtual assembly, so that hopefully young people from all the schools of our Archdiocese can still reflect and pray together.

There are some clips as part of this assembly, so you will need the sound turned up.

Let us begin this assembly with the Sign of the Cross:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**





# We all have a vocation

In the life of Church, most people are called to **marriage** or **single** life, and have other important vocations - serving God and serving others in their life, whether through their job, or in other ways they bring Jesus' love to others.





**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
every year is  
Vocations Sunday  
or “Good Shepherd Sunday”**

- The readings are always about Jesus as our shepherd, who cares for us and guides us.
- We pray for **vocations** in the Church.
- We ask God to send us people who will be shepherds to care for us.





# We pray especially for people to answer the call to vocations in the Church

## Priests

These are men  
whom God calls to  
be shepherds for us  
in the Church today.



They bring Jesus to  
us by their **teaching**,  
by **leading** us and  
by **sanctifying**,  
especially through  
sacraments.





## Deacons

These are men who **serve** us by bringing Jesus to us in the sacraments, helping us understand God's Word and his love through charity.



## Religious Brothers and Sisters

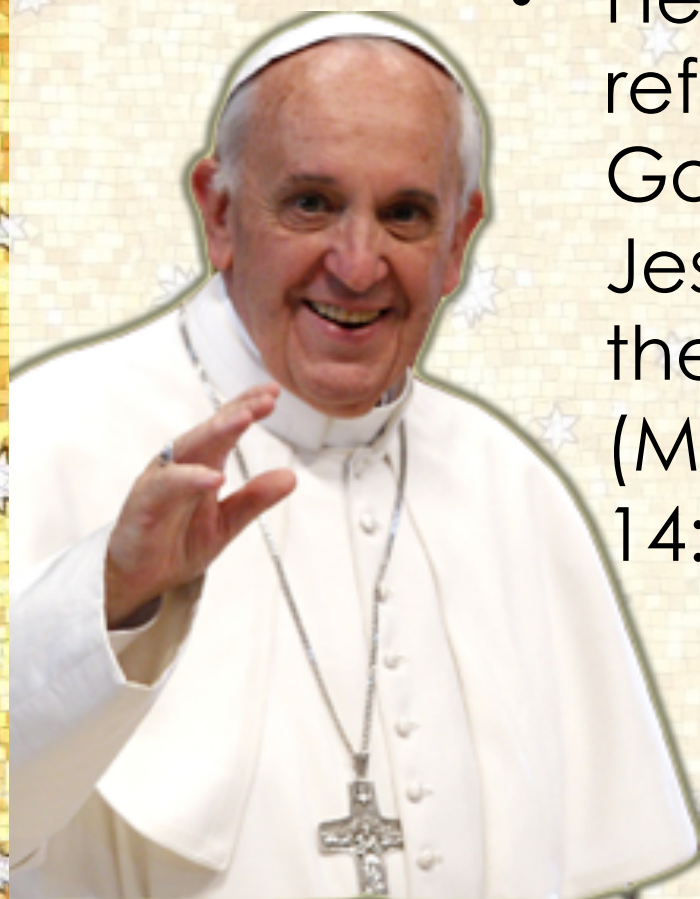
These are people who either help the Church in the community, or pray for us constantly.





# Pope Francis has written a letter for Vocations Sunday 2020

- He asks us to reflect on the Gospel of Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 14:22-33).





**Let us listen to this Gospel  
being proclaimed**



Click to listen





## **We reflect on how this passage speaks to us today**

- Jesus himself makes time to pray to his Father.
- Jesus tells the disciples to go to the other shore. Do I, in prayer, ask for help with the right way to go in life?
- Jesus calls Peter to come to him. He invites us all to a relationship with him.
- He holds out his hand to Peter. Jesus is with us to keep us safe.





**Pope Francis wants us to remember 5 words when thinking about vocation:**

- Gratitude
- Encouragement
- Courage
- Fatigue
- Praise





## Gratitude

- Our **vocation** comes from Jesus' love for us, which we perhaps realise in stormy times.
- We show **gratitude** – we thank Jesus for his call to us.

## Encouragement

- The disciples see Jesus on the water. They think he's a ghost and are filled with fear.
- Jesus gives **encouragement** that we can use on our vocational journey in life: "**Take heart, it is I; have no fear.**"





## Courage

- We can find it difficult to say “yes” to Jesus, but he knows the questions, doubts and fears in our heart.
- We can have **courage**, knowing Jesus is by our side, remembering “**Take heart, it is I; have no fear.**”

## Fatigue

- All vocations come with **responsibilities**, which can be difficult.
- When **fatigue** or tiredness makes us start to sink, Jesus helps us, like he helped Peter walk on water.





## Praise

- When Jesus boards the boat, the winds die down.
- Jesus is stretching his hand out to us always - take it!
- Even in stormy times we must **praise** God for the wonderful things he does for us.

In your prayers, ask that that you will **encourage** others in their vocation and that all of us will **gratefully** discover God's call - to find the **courage** to say "yes", to overcome all **fatigue** and to make our lives a song of **praise** to God.





## Prayer for Vocations Sunday 2020

Heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the witness and  
ministry  
of the bishops, priests and deacons  
and consecrated men and women  
in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

