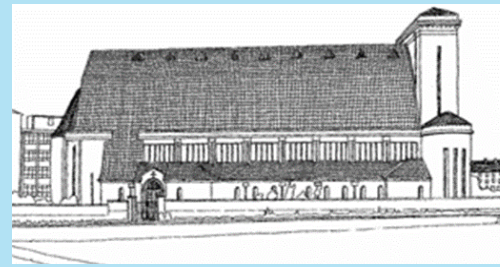


## PRAYER FOR ST COLUMBA'S PARISH

*Almighty Father, we wish to commit our parish of St Columba of Iona into Your merciful hands. We want to be a vibrant and flourishing parish formed after your heart, a family of missionary disciples of Jesus where love and service spread out from us to everybody. Touch the hearts of all of us and everybody within our parish to experience once again the power of the risen Christ so that our hearts can be filled with your love, joy, courage, strength and unity. We commit to you, in a special way, the sick, the housebound, the struggling, even the weary. May Mary our mother be always close to us her children in all our hour of need. We make all these prayers through the merits of Jesus Christ your son. Amen.*

### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

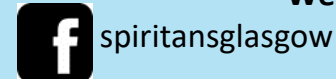
My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN



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Fr Thomas Wilberforce C.S.Sp.

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

### READINGS

1st reading—Acts 2:14,36-41 ; Psalm 22; 2nd Reading— 1 Peter 2:20-25

GOSPEL—John 10:1-10

Jesus said:

‘I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.’

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

‘I tell you most solemnly,  
I am the gate of the sheepfold.  
All others who have come  
are thieves and brigands;  
but the sheep took no notice of them.  
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:  
he will go freely in and out  
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes  
only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come  
so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD

### **I AM THE GATE OF THE SHEEPFOLD, I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD...**

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday when we think of Christ the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. If you have ever been a shepherd, you would understand from experience what Jesus means when he refers to himself as "Good Shepherd...The Gate of the sheepfold". I have spent a big chunk of my life being a shepherd. It is my favourite job. You get to know the animals by name, or rather you give them names, and over time they get to know their personal names in such a way that when you call a particular chicken by its name, another chicken doesn't turn up. The chickens know exactly who you want. Its terribly exciting to relate with these guys and you get to know their personalities—if I may call it that way. With such a relationship, you do everything to protect them—from unfriendly animals—when we can conveniently do so. However, our human survival instincts most times take over, and we can only protect them when we are not threatened ourselves. Unlike us Jesus gives his life for his sheep, for us. He has come so that we may have life and have it to the full. I think it's worthwhile asking what that last statement means. Did he come all the way from heaven to die on the cross so that I may have the latest car? So that I may have the best house? so that I may have great wealth in this world? What did Jesus' death really do for us? Many people are not really living. They only think they do. Many of us only exist instead of living. Having life to the full means living the life of God, being free to live a life of love, selfless life, an EVER-LASTING LIFE that continues in the next world. We need shepherds after the heart of Christ who are prepared to show us that way. That is why we pray for vocations today, for good vocations.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year A 3/5/20**

### **DAILY MASSES**

*OUR PARISH MASSES ARE CELEBRATED EVERY DAY AT 5PM VIA ZOOM. THE ADVANTAGE OF ZOOM IS THAT PARISHIONERS CAN PARTICIPATE, ALTHOUGH AT COMMUNION TIME WE ALL MAKE AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.*

*MASSES ARE CELEBRATED FOR ALL THE PARISHIONERS. YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO CONTACT THE PARISH HOUSE IF YOU HAVE PARTICULAR INTENTIONS. THE ZOOM LINK IS BELOW.*

## **HOW TO JOIN OUR SERVICES**

**STEP 1. DOWNLOAD ZOOM  
APP**



**STEP 2. CLICK 'JOIN' USING:  
ID**

**523-686-9263**  
Password: 538289

**STEP 3. YOU ARE CONNECTED**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE  
TO CALL THE PARISH  
AT ANY TIME IF YOU  
FEEL YOU NEED  
SOME SPIRITUAL  
SUPPORT.**

### **OFFERINGS**

**WE STILL HAVE A PARISH TO MAINTAIN AND BILLS TO PAY. THEY REFUSE TO STAY AT HOME. PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.**

**IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO PAY BY CHEQUE, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO ST COLUMBA'S PARISH. IF YOU PREFER TO DONATE THROUGH INTERNET BANKING, PLEASE CALL 07549260379 FOR THE DETAILS. IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO PAY THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE (SEE PAGE ONE FOR LINKS), WE HAVE THE LINKS THERE TOO. THANKS AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU.**