

Reflection

by Rev Laurence Powell

We know Christ as the good shepherd who goes after the sheep which is lost.

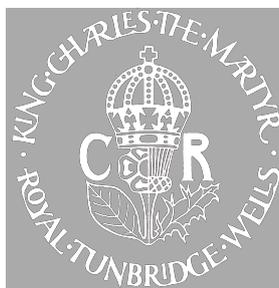
We know him as the one who cares for his flock. However in today's gospel reading Christ is not the shepherd but the gate which guards between thieves and bandits and he states that we can only enter the Kingdom of Heaven through him.

Recently I saw a black and white photo of two children at the gates of a playground. The gates were chained and padlocked with the children desperately reaching in. We might not be able to hear or see Covid-19, but universally we know it as a thief who steals health with no morals, boundaries, or respect for human life. The spread of the virus interrupts our daily routine, our patterns of normality and even our play.

Verse 10 says 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' Made in God's image and as followers of the risen Christ we are called to mimic him in the way we model our lives.

These dark days have revealed a genuine outpouring of love and fellowship, of community spirit and of neighbours and strangers pulling together to uphold and support one another. These actions stand at the very core of what it means to be follower of Christ.

Let us pray that such commitment to one another will soon see the thief banished but its lasting legacy of love and commitment to each other bear much fruit long into the future.



King Charles the Martyr
Tunbridge Wells

**Third Sunday of
Easter
3rd April 2020**

We regret to inform you that all Church Services in the Church are suspended and that the Church is closed until further notice.

Today's Services

All very welcome to join us on-line:

Holy Communion (BCP) - 8.30am

The Revd Laurence Powell

All Age Worship - 10am

The Revd Claire Allwood

To be confirmed - 8pm

The Revd Laurence Powell

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Next Sunday 10th May

Holy Communion (BCP) - 8.30am

Holy Communion (CW) - 10am

Zoom Prayer Meetings

All are welcome to join online prayer meetings for King Charles the Martyr and St Mark's:

Mondays **Zoom** Prayer Meeting at 7:30pm

Fridays All Age Group Session

on **Facebook** at 5pm

For more information please contact:

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The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things
which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading: Acts 2. 42-end

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.
⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common;
⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.
⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,
⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Gospel Reading: John 10. 1-10

¹⁰ 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'
⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.