

**Thought for the week**  
Christ the King Year A  
**Sheep and Goats**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
our Divine Physician,  
we ask you to guard and protect us  
and all people from the  
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,  
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,  
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,  
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,  
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,  
grant them success;

For those afraid,  
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,  
may you turn the evil of disease  
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your  
infinite mercy.  
Amen.

It has always puzzled me why, in the Bible, sheep are portrayed as good and goats as bad. So, as many of us tend to do these days, I tried a few internet searches and came up with several answers, none totally definitive or exclusive. Some linked the evil of goats to the “scapegoat” that Aaron sent off into the wilderness taking away all of the Israelites’ wickedness Lev. 16:21-22. Others saw the characteristics of goats as capricious, wilful and always wanting to escape, not satisfied with what they have: in contrast to sheep who are good followers (even if one or two occasionally get lost!)

Anyway, in the context of today’s readings, I think that the bottom line is that we are supposed to be aiming to be on the side of the sheep and not the goats. But how do we do this?

Philip Egan, the Bishop of Portsmouth Diocese, set out four priorities at the start of his ministry as a Bishop:

- mission and evangelisation to enable more people to hear the Gospel afresh
- To assist all Catholics to be more intentional disciples.
- cultivating a more complete trust in God: through prayer and the Holy Spirit, shifting from maintenance to mission to realise new ministries and ways of Christian living.
- being more focused on outward-looking service to those around us

With the Covid 19 crisis we have had to change and adapt to continue to offer a service to our parishioners and those in the community in which we live. Through the streaming of Masses we are able to reach out to a wider congregation.

So a reinvigorated “more of the same” approach seems well worth adding, to a *New Church’s Year Resolution* for each one of us.

We have some real positive things on our side: the Holy Spirit, the humanity of Jesus and the love of God the Father. To make a difference here in Caversham Park, Emmer Green, Sonning Common and the other parts of the community we serve, we need to harness the strength and support of our whole Parish Family.

As Pope Francis once wrote:

***“We cannot change the world alone, but together we can spread the joy of the Gospel by staying close to those most in need.”***

A parishioner



## Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukaemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

James Martin, Doug Farquhar, Elizabeth Murphy, Raymond Graham, Joy Lowther, Edward Cotterell, Martino De Souza, Edith Jenkins, Sue Walker, Joe Walker, Nessa Weldon, Frank Adams, Ron Clark, George Coulehan,

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