

The background of the entire image is a vibrant sunrise or sunset sky, with colors ranging from deep blue at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a hill is visible, upon which three crosses stand. The central cross is the tallest, flanked by two shorter crosses. The overall scene is peaceful and celebratory.

# *He is Risen*

**DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.**

Rejoice in the resurrection of

*Jesus Christ.*



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!



Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
Prayer Theme of the week:  
**Easter Week 4: Vocation**

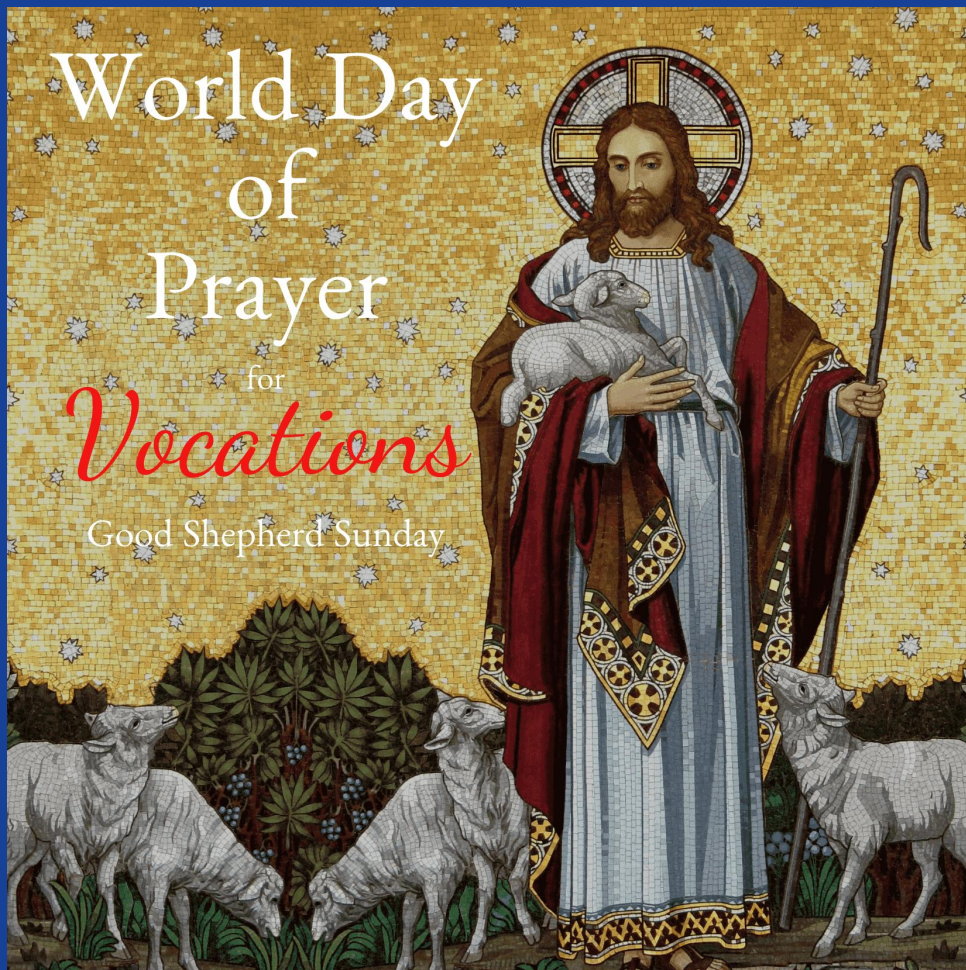
*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the father knows me and I know the father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10:14*



Day 1



# Prayer Theme of the week: Easter Week 4: Vocation



The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (this year, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April) is marked as a Sunday of prayer for **vocations**. It is also known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**.



## Day 1 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'

**Word:** *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the father knows me and I know the father. And I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:14*

## Worship: Prayer

God our Father,  
you call each of us to follow Jesus, your Son,  
on the path he has marked out for us -  
the way of charity, service and fulfilment.  
Prompted and strengthened by your Holy Spirit,  
may I respond generously to the call  
to follow you each day and live out my vocation,  
to give you glory, for the good of those around me  
and for my own happiness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

## Witness:

Everyone has a vocation - Reflect on how best to serve others and encourage them in their vocation. We also remember everyone who is preparing for exams

St Ninian, Pray for us! 'In the name of the Father...'

## Day 2



# Prayer Theme of the week: Easter Week 4: Vocation

LISTEN WITH  
THE EAR OF  
YOUR HEART

- ST. BENEDICT

**Vocation:** a strong impulse or inclination to follow a particular activity or career. a divine call to God's service or to the Christian life. a function or station in life to which one is called by God: the **religious vocation**; the **vocation** of marriage.



## Day 2 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'

**Word:** *'I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the father knows me and I know the father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.'* John 10:14

## **Worship: Prayer**

O God,  
Shepherd of all your people,  
deliver us from all troubles,  
worries and cares that assail us,  
that we may always do  
what is pleasing in your sight,  
and remain safe  
in the care of our Good Shepherd;  
Jesus Christ our Lord..  
Amen.

## **Witness:**

Jesus calls himself '**The Good Shepherd**'. What ways could you be a 'shepherd' to others?

**St Ninian, Pray for us!** 'In the name of the Father...'



Day 3

Prayer Theme of the week:  
**Easter Week 4: Vocation**



## Day 3 Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...'



**Word:** *'I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the father knows me and I know the father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.'* John 10:14

### **Worship: Prayer**

God our Father, You made each of us  
to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.  
Send workers into Your great harvest  
so that the Gospel is preached,  
the poor are served with love,  
the suffering are comforted,  
and Your people are strengthened  
by the sacraments  
We ask this through  
Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

### **Witness:**

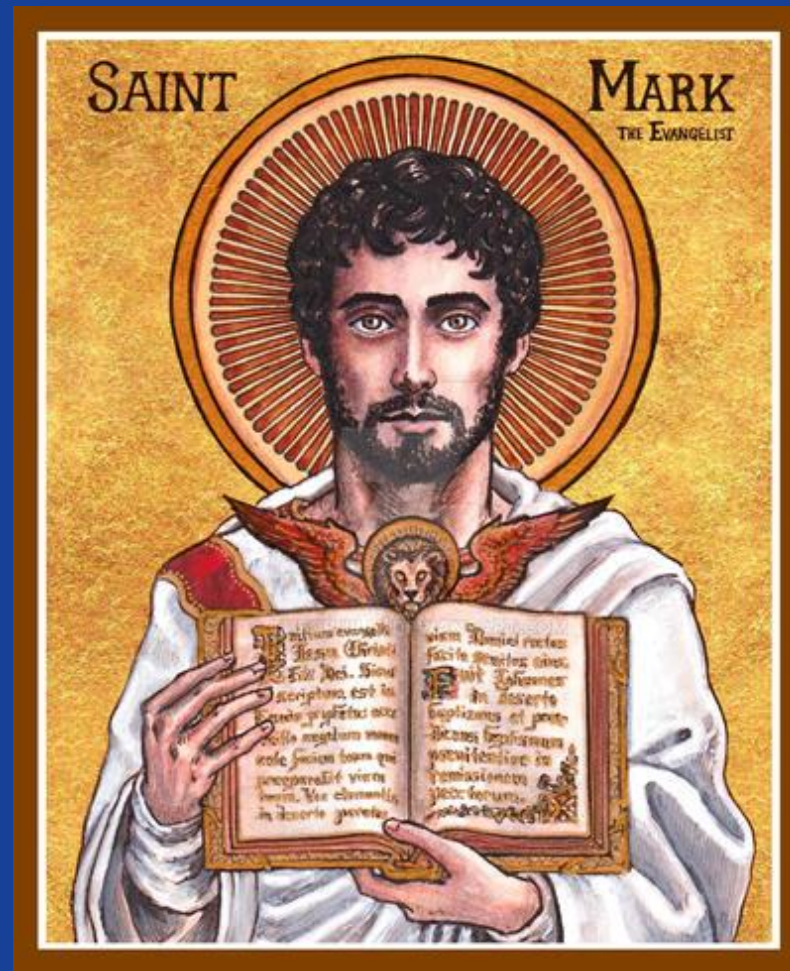
Take time to pray for others – that they may respond generously to God's calling for them.

**St Ninian, Pray for us!** 'In the name of the Father...'



Day 4

# Weekly Reflection: Saint of the week: 25<sup>th</sup> April St Mark



# Let us begin: 'In the name of the Father...



## St Mark (25<sup>th</sup> April)

- Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions.
- Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles, the history of the early Church found in the New Testament.
- He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10).
- Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D.
- St. Mark's symbol is a winged lion. This is believed to be derived from his description of St. John the Baptist, as "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3). The wings come from Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures as the evangelists.
- He is often depicted as writing or holding his Gospel. He is sometimes shown as a bishop on a throne or as a man helping Venetian sailors.
- St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice where his remains are believed to be kept. His feast day is celebrated on April 25.

# Worship: A prayer of St Mark



O Glorious St. Mark  
through the grace  
of God, our Father,  
you became a great Evangelist,  
preaching the  
Good News of Christ.  
May you help us to know Him  
well so that we may faithfully  
live our lives as followers of  
Christ.  
Amen.

**Witness:** The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels. The original simple Greek it was written in means it has a fast narrative pace and focuses on the actions and miracles of Jesus. Could you take time to read some of the Gospel today?

**St Mark the Evangelist, Pray for us!**

**St Ninian, Pray for us!**

'In the name of the Father...



Day 5: 23<sup>rd</sup> April is the feast day of  
**St George**  
The Patron Saint of England





# St George



Much of what we know about St George is based on legend. Nevertheless over time he became a figure associated with the virtues of Courage and Faith.

One tradition is that George (275/285-303) was born into a Greek Christian noble family in Cappadocia (Today's Turkey) and died in Lydda, then Palestine. At the age of 14, his father died and a few years later his mother.

George followed his father's footsteps, becoming a soldier to Roman Emperor Diocletian. By his late 20's, he had been promoted to the rank of Tribunus (Senior Officer). However, in 302, Diocletian issued orders instructing the removal of all Christian soldiers from his army and all other soldiers to worship and offer sacrifice to Roman Gods.

George loudly objected to the order and steadfastly refused every bribe from Diocletian, who previously held George and his father in very high esteem. Finally, Diocletian concluded that he had no choice but to execute George for his "insubordination".

St George's Feast Day is 23rd April, the day of his martyrdom. He is claimed as the Patron Saint of numerous countries, including England and Georgia, as well as of professions and sufferers of diseases.

# Worship: A prayer of St George



Heavenly Father,

St. George honoured your son Jesus by refusing to deny him.  
Please grant me the strength and courage you gave St. George.  
When my friends are gossiping, let me make my words true and kind.

When somebody is being bullied, let me be the one who stands up for them.

When my Catholic faith is being misrepresented, give me the words to defend it.

When I am tempted by evil, help me to stay on the good path.  
I ask this through the intercession of St. George  
and in the name of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

**Witness:** Like the example of St George, look to show courage and faith today!

**St George, Pray for us!**

**St Ninian, Pray for us!**

# Prayer for Peace



Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace.  
Amen.

