

23 March 2020

To all members of St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: The Lord is my Shepherd

This Sunday marks the midway point in Lent – the 4th Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday). Psalm 23 is the appointed Psalm for today: read it again *reflectively* (most of you will know it by heart).

Sheep are vulnerable – good pasture and water are hard to find. It's the shepherd's job to know where they are to be found, and that is a huge relief to the sheep. When I know the Shepherd and trust Him; when I follow Him closely I may have to go through some odd and dangerous ways, but I will always end up in the right place.

As we move towards Easter, we know that the Good Shepherd was moving towards the valley of the shadow of death. He goes ahead of us into that Darkness. His rod and staff take on a new meaning for us: a Cross, and in that we find comfort. Emerging from that dark shadow we discover that His Cross is the assurance that all blessings in life are ours (Romans 8:32) – that we are eternally loved and are His forever. That gives us courage and assurance in our darkest days.

Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for your love and mercy. Look after us each moment, we pray, and lead us where we need to go. Amen.

Remember:

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word (Matthew's gospel for Lent)
- keep in touch with others and know that I am only a phone call or email way, to talk, to listen, to visit, and to share in Holy Communion as health and circumstances permit.

With Christian love,

Robert