

20 april 1975

4th Sunday of Easter

Catholic Centre  
Broadcast

1 May 1977

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Good morning once again from the chapel at the Catholic Centre.

In a moment or two now, the Mass for today, the 4th Sunday of Eastertime, will be beginning. And we would like to invite you, listening to your radio, to join in spirit with the people here in their prayer and worship on this Easter day of the Lord.

Especially if you are in hospital, or ill at home, we hope this broadcast may help you, giving you a chance to share closely in

our prayer and celebration of the presence of the Risen Christ with us today. The scripture readings you'll be hearing are, of course, centred on the Easter events: the first preaching of Christ risen from death, by the apostles; and the new, full, life brought to us by the good shepherd, Christ Himself, in giving His

life for us. As the celebrant of this Mass, <sup>Janes Kelly</sup> Fr Anthony Farren, <sup>Alfred Deignan</sup> now comes to the altar with the assistants, an Entry Song is

sung: the choir today is members of the [Youth Choir from St Joseph's Church in Garden Road.] <sup>choir which usually sings at evening Mass here in the C.H. Cat.</sup>

CHOIR

Intro: Kyrie: Gloria: ORATIO

The formal prayer for the Assembly, for this Sunday. As everyone now sits down, the reader begins the first reading of the day, from the Acts of the Appstles; Ps <sup>100</sup> 22 follows.

**Credo:** After the readings of scripture and the homily given by today's celebrant, <sup>Kelly</sup> Fr Farren, <sup>Deignan</sup> all now stand to recite together a profession of faith in God, the Nicene Creed.

**Offert.:** The first part of the Mass ends with the Prayers of General Intercession. Now at the altar, the preparation for the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharists, begins. The priest takes the bread and wine brought to him in the name of all of us, to be used for the sacrifice and sacrament of the Eucharist. During this action, and while the priest says a prayer of blessing over the gifts, a hymn for the Offertory time.

CHOIR

**Preface:** To end the preparatory rite of the Offertory, the formal Prayer over the Gifts. The central Prayer and Action of the Eucharist comes now; there is a special Eastertime Preface, and you'll be hearing the 3rd(?) Eucharistic Prayer.

**PATER:** The Prayer and Action of the Eucharist ends, as always, with that blessing and praise; now comes the Our Father, which we join in in preparation for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

**Communion:** At the altar now, the priest receives in Holy Communion the Body and Blood of Christ. As he does so, people in the congregation here who wish also to share in this Holy Communion of the life and love of Christ begin to approach the altar-rail at the front of the chapel. In a moment or two, the priest will come to start giving Communion, and this will continue for some minutes, during which time there is a period of quiet, for personal prayer and reflection. You may wish yourself to join your own prayers at this time with the thanksgiving of the people here as they return to their places from the altar having shared in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Before the singing of a Communiontime hymn, however, perhaps you might like to join me in a short reflection on this Eastertime Communion and the

scripture we listened to earlier. Christ <sup>spoke of Himself as a shepherd, whose sheep recognize, obey & follow Him, to whom He gives safety</sup> ~~told a parable~~ <sup>about the sheep</sup> ~~about the sheep~~ <sup>and how a shepherd leads his sheep in safety; and He called Himself the gate of the sheepfold.</sup> In the Eucharist, Christ brings us into communion together, with Himself as the centre of our unity and <sup>the one who gives entry to</sup> ~~the gateway to~~ the company of God's family and life. Christ leads the way for us; in His human life, and death, and in His rising from death which we celebrate on each Sunday and especially these weeks of every year. Life and its fullness is not only the message of Easter but its gift as well. And the Eucharist we share is a sharing of Christ's risen life, and ~~an~~ <sup>a</sup> sign/promise of its fullness to come.

The Easter celebration of the Eucharist should be for us a celebration of life, of all life that we know and share, and that is destined for greater fullness in the transformation Christ's love has brought to it. The safety of the sheep is their salvation (the word is the same, really): that no life be lost. <sup>or stolen</sup> And the one who assures that is Christ himself, the <sup>shepherd</sup> ~~gateway~~. To be alive, and more fully alive, is what we're for, and is the glory of God. It is what the Eucharist we share in is telling us.... only we don't always see it that way, nor hear what the Good Shepherd is saying. So much of our world ~~is~~, and its people, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> still only existing, not yet brought to life by the presence of Christ we are supposed to carry; or its life diminished, stunted in so many ways, because <sup>people</sup> ~~men~~ do not see or understand the meaning of life or put other values above life and above God. There is so much artificiality around us these days, imitations of life, that it has become too easy to accept the imitation and care little for the real: perhaps even

we've lost the ability to distinguish the two.... and so there will be (more Vietnams) more repression and diminution of life, more slaughter of innocents.... unless we will let ourselves follow the shepherd who can lead us into the fullness of life, and gives us the beginnings of that fullness here.

At the altar the priest has now put away the sacred vessels used during the Mass; and after some moments of private prayer he will recite the final Thanksgiving Prayer of today's celebration, and give the Blessing.

END

The Blessing and Dismissal end this celebration for today, the 4th Sunday of Eastertime. And as the priest and his assistants leave the altar, the people here begin to disperse as the Recessional song is sung. And here too we end this broadcast of Mass for today, which you've been listening to direct from the chapel at the Catholic Centre in Connaught Rd. Central.