



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Office for Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches  
Co-ordinator: Monsignor Daniel McHugh

---

*“I am the Way, the Truth  
and the Life.”*

Reflection for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
3 May 2026

Mgr Daniel McHugh

**“You are a chosen race.” (1 Peter 2:9)**

When I prepare my weekly Reflection on the coming Sunday Scriptures and relate those to life I frequently look at what others have written. This week I have considered the Homilies of Ferlita, Pollard and McGuire. I was drawn especially to McGuire who, in turn, focussed on the Gospel saying of Jesus “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” He homed in on Jesus the Way and related it to his experience of walking in the mountains, particularly those over 14,000 feet in Colorado! He speaks of the cairns (clumps of stones) that guide walkers on the right way to the top. Of course I have my own



# THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Office for Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches  
Co-ordinator: Monsignor Daniel McHugh

---

experience of walking in the mountains, and my thoughts turned to Cader Idris, just outside Dolgellau, in mid-Wales. The cairns are important there especially when the route is a bit unclear in times of mist and buffeting from the winds large cairns are most welcome!

The role of Jesus and his teaching in life is very much that of the cairn that guides us along the right path. As it happens, in our ongoing reading from the first letter of St Peter Jesus is identified as the cornerstone of the house and we are spoken of as living stones called to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” We know so well that this is challenging and we are grateful for the guidance of the Church in proclaiming Christ by our lives. This Friday, 1 May, we have the memorial of St Joseph the Worker which was established some years ago to highlight the dignity of “the worker” and give recognition to the value of work in society. The reading in the Prayer of the Church on that day is taken from the Constitution of the Second Vatican Council on the Church in the Modern World (N 33 -34) and it has these words:

“When men and women provide for themselves and their families in such a way as to be of service to the communities as well, they can rightly look upon their work as a prolongation of the work of the Creator, a service to their fellow men, and their personal contribution to the fulfilment in history of the divine plan.”



# THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Office for Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches  
Co-ordinator: Monsignor Daniel McHugh

---

On that same date 1 May we have the First Friday devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and with it comes the publication of the Pope's Prayer Intention for May: its headline is "That everyone might have food" and the intention: "Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food." McGuire in his homily outline says: "When we gather around the table each Sunday, we come together to pray and worship as a community. But it is in the world of our daily lives that we live out this liturgy as individuals. It is in our homes, offices and schools that we show the world what we learn from being here at Church. It is outside of this Church building that we are 'Church – the people of God'. Yes, we are these 'living stones' that is the Church."

This Reflection will be incorporated in the video "Burning Bush", and preparing it involves sourcing music and pictures. Our pictures are sometimes sourced from Father Lou OP: this week, his picture of the Sculpture of the "Good Shepherd of our Souls" is used showing Jesus leading a sheep, which is to be found in the Good Shepherd Cathedral San Sebastian, Northern Spain. It depicts so well the choice of the Good Shepherd makes of each of us to be living stones "called out of darkness into his marvellous light." The second picture we chose for this weekend is of the English Martyrs stained glass window in English Martyrs Church, Cambridge. We



# THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Office for Ethnic Chaplaincies and Eastern Catholic Churches  
Co-ordinator: Monsignor Daniel McHugh

---

chose that because their Feast is on Monday of this coming week 4 May; they are an inspiration in being a light to others in our lives. The Ordo has this short bio “this feast celebrates the many men and women who suffered for their Faith in England between 1535 and 1680 and have subsequently been recognised by the Church. These included priests, both secular and religious, as well as Laity who were prepared to shelter them, to arrange secret Masses and to witness the Faith. They came from all ages and backgrounds, and their heroic witness helps us have a greater love for the Church, the Mass and the Priesthood.”

“May we point the way to Christ, for we are the living stones of the Church of Christ.” (Brendan McGuire “Seeds for the Soul”)