

## DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS FROM THE HIGHLANDS



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### Following the Shepherd

Nine Days of prayer for our Shepherds

A Novena of Readings, Prayers and Reflections in Preparation for Good Shepherd Sunday 2016

### Day 1 - Our **Shepherds SERVE**

#### **Prayer Intention:**

Our Shepherds are called to Service. Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Aberdeen.

#### **Scripture**

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 28:20).

#### **Pope Francis**

The Priest must be a dutiful servant who listens to people's need and builds a church whose doors are wide open, offering refuge for sinners, a home for the homeless, comfort for the sick and God's word and joy for the young (Homily at Chrism Mass, 17th April 2014).

#### **Prayer:**

Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts. Help us to live each day with joy and humility. Give us Priests who will be totally dedicated to serving you in the Diocese of Aberdeen and throughout the whole of Scotland. Amen.

### Day 2 – Our **SH**epherds **HEAL**

#### **Prayer Intention:**

Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Dunkeld.

#### **Scripture**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

#### **Pope Francis**

The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm hearts; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. You have to heal people's wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds...

**Prayer:**

Father, we are your people. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn and to give hope to those who despair. Call forth from among us priests, sisters and deacons for the Diocese of Dunkeld and for the whole of Scotland. With our hearts continue to love your people. Amen.

**Day 3 – Our ShEpherds EVANGELISE****Prayer Intention:**

Our Shepherds are called to Evangelise – to share the Good News of the Gospel! Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

**Scripture**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Pope Francis**

Evangelization consists in drawing near to those who feel distant from God and the Church, those who are fearful or indifferent, and saying to them: "The Lord, with great respect and love, is also calling you to be a part of his people".

**Prayer:**

Lord God, you so loved the world that you sent your only son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in him. May your Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen generous men and women to continue his mission in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles and throughout Scotland. Amen.

**Day 4 – Our ShePherds PRAY****Prayer Intention:**

A Priest must be a man of prayer. Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Paisley.

**Scripture**

"...Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16).

**Pope Francis**

When we were called, we were not canonised. Each priest and religious continues to be a person in need of God's mercy and forgiveness, a person who must devote time to prayer (Address to Kenyan Seminarians, 27.11.15).

**Prayer:**

We pray that God may give to His Church today many more priests after His own heart. We pray that they may be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd. We pray that the Diocese of Paisley and the entire Church in Scotland may be blessed with Priests who devote themselves to prayer.

**Day 5 – Our ShepHerds bring HOPE****Prayer Intention:**

Our Shepherds are called to bring hope. Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Motherwell.

**Scripture**

"..the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead"(Mark 16:6).

**Pope Francis**

Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. ..With Jesus we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses... We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake

your lives on noble ideals" (Homily at the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, 2013).

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, there are times when we feel helpless and times when we feel weak. Through your priests, remind us once more of the hope offered by your Gospel. We pray that the Diocese of Motherwell and the Church throughout Scotland will be blessed with Shepherds who will bring the Lord's hope to the communities they serve. Amen.

**Day 6 – Our Shepherds EDUCATE**

**Prayer Intention:**

Our Shepherds are called to teach us the way of Jesus. Today we pray for Vocations in the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

**Scripture**

Jesus took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length (Mark 6:34).

**Pope Francis**

Priests have the sacred duty of teaching in the name of Christ the teacher. Impart to everyone the word of God which you have received with joy! (Homily at Ordinations 22nd April 2013).

**Prayer:**

Eternal God, bless our Shepherds in the Archdiocese of Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Grant that they always may be examples of your Truth and guide us always on the path to you. We ask these things of You our Eternal Priest. Amen.

**Day 7 – Our Shepherds RECONCILE**

**Prayer Intention:**

Our Shepherds are called to bring reconciliation. Today we pray for Vocations in the Diocese of Galloway.

**Scripture**

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2nd Corinthians 5:18---19).

**Pope Francis**

Someone who comes to the confessional is seeking comfort, pardon and peace. Let him find in you a father who embraces him and says, 'God loves you'. Don't get tired of forgiving. Be men of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. (Homily February 9th 2016).

**Prayer:**

God our Father, you have chosen men in the Diocese of Galloway and throughout Scotland to be faithful shepherds after your Son's Heart. Help them to serve your people with humility and charity. Help them to be instruments of your reconciling love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, the High Priest and Good Shepherd. Amen.

**Day 8 – Our Shepherds DEDICATED**

**Prayer Intention:**

Our shepherds are called to be dedicated! Today we pray for Vocations in the Archdiocese of Saint Andrew's and Edinburgh.

**Scripture**

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will

send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:16---18).

### **Pope Benedict XVI**

Dear priests of Scotland, you are called to holiness and to serve God's people by modelling your lives on the mystery of the Lord's cross...Dedicate yourselves to God alone and you will become shining examples to young men of a holy, simple and joyful life: they, in their turn, will surely wish to join you in your single-minded service of God's people. (Homily Bellahouston, Glasgow, 16th September 2010).

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father bless the Archdiocese of Edinburgh and the Church throughout Scotland with Priests who are dedicated to serving your people. May they be shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life.

## **Day 9 – Our ShepherdS SEARCH**

### **Prayer Intention:**

Our Shepherds are called to search for the lost. Today we pray for Vocations to the Priesthood throughout Scotland.

### **Scripture**

What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? (Matthew 18:12).

### **Pope Francis**

All of us need to go beyond the four walls of the Church and go out and find those on the outskirts of life. (Homily 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015).

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, Good Shepherd, raise up in all parish communities, priest and deacons, religious, consecrated lay people and missionaries according to the needs of the whole world, which you love and want to save. We entrust to you in a particular way our country. Direct your loving gaze to our many talented and gifted young people and invite them to follow you. Help them to understand that only in you they can achieve their fulfilment. Amen.

**"I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what he had said to thousands before me: 'Come, follow me!' There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own. Christ was calling me to serve him as a priest. And you can probably tell that I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the priesthood. Nothing means more to me or gives me greater joy than to celebrate Mass each day and to serve God's people in the Church. That has been true ever since the day of my ordination as a priest. Nothing has ever changed this, not even becoming Pope." Pope St John Paul II September 1987.**

**Be Not Afraid**