

Parish of the Good Shepherd
1671 Beacon Street
Waban, Massachusetts 02468

Dona Nobis Pacem

As of this writing we don't know who is responsible for the Boston Marathon bombings or what the political motive might have been. We can know, however, the psychological motivation----- anger, fear, powerlessness, rage, and the delusion that by such an act some sort of moral order is restored.

All violence, whether domestic or sexual or social or political or the violence between nations we call war, comes from the same dark place in the human heart. It is the selfish attempt to impose the will of the powerful on the powerless. And we know what it does to people. It destroys the lives of the victims and it destroys the souls of the perpetrators.

We who call ourselves followers of Jesus of Nazareth have a special responsibility to witness against violence. Our Lord died a violent death on a cross. He was threatened throughout his life by those who tried to destroy him by means of violence. And yet he told his disciples not to resist violence but to witness against it by the way they lived. Christians have struggled for two thousand years to understand how we can walk the non-violent way of the Cross and yet protect the innocent and defenseless. Some Christians have found their way to a radical form of non-violence called pacifism. Others have acknowledged that in a violent world, force must sometimes be used to protect against oppressors. But even in that case, violence is always the last resort and only to be used when all other methods have been tried and have failed.

What happened in Boston on Monday hit us hard because we live here. But that sort of violence, and worse, happens every day over and over and over. Fifty seven people were killed in one day in bombings in Iraq this week. Hundreds are dying in Syria every week. And every day, young people are killed in cities and towns all over our country. And it happens close to home.

Just last September, Jorge Fuentes, a 19 year old active member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the South End of Boston, was gunned down as he was walking his dog. Jorge had been active in the B-Safe program supported by Good Shepherd. He was looking forward to enlisting in the Marines. And then his life ended with a gunshot.

What do we do? How do we witness? Well, I'm joining others from this diocese who will march in Jorge's memory and memory of those killed on Monday, as we join the Mother's Day March for Peace in Boston on Sunday, May 12th. Some of our young people from Good Shepherd will join me.

I'm not so naive as to think that a march is going to end violence. Maybe nothing can. But not to do anything, not even to hope, not even to pray, is to give in to the ultimate sin, which is despair.

Above the bombed-out altar of Coventry Cathedral in England is inscribed these words of Jesus, "Father Forgive." Coventry was destroyed during the Second World War and its ruins have been preserved as a memorial, much as ruins in Berlin and Dresden have been preserved as memorials to the hundreds of thousands who perished in the bombings of those cities. And maybe that's all that can be said. Father forgive those who by violence destroy the lives of others. And forgive us, too, for the ways we fail to witness against violence. And give us your Peace. Dona nobis pacem.

~ GTW

PARISH NEWS – APRIL 17, 2013

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST -
WEDNESDAY 7:15 a.m.

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

He was both God *and* Man, equally and without division. Come explore Christ's humanity in the Gospel narratives at Forum in this Easter Season. On this journey we hope to better understand and relate to Jesus as a flesh and blood Man living in 1st Century Judea while still worshiping him as the Son of God. As we do so, we hope that in so doing we can be drawn ever closer to that perfect combination of Human and Divine. Plan to join us on April 21 and May 5. We meet in the Loring room following the 10:00 a.m. service. All are welcome.

EPIPHANY SCHOOL

Good Shepherd has been cooling, serving and cleaning up supper meals for 100+ students and teachers at Epiphany School for 15 years. This May 16 will be our last. We followed them from the very beginning, when classes were held in various churches and schools from Milton to Dorchester, prior to their permanent facilities. Volunteers from Good Shepherd also taught, tutored, and assisted in the office and library as it grew to its present 5th through 8th grade school. Now, under fresh meal direction, Epiphany seems well able to continue serving three meals a day for the students. Thank yous must go to all our parishioners who have given time most months: Louise Lazare, Bashie Young, Claudia Curchin, Terry Horrigan, Hannah Morehouse and other fill-ins when most needed. We'll miss the surprise menus and unfamiliar directions for preparation but remember the warm smiles and thank yous from the children we have served.

~ Joyce Sheperd

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

20 – Eucharist Instruction, kindly RSVP (details below)

21 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd Sunday

8:45 AM

Level I & Level II Atrium

9:45 AM

Nursery available

Children's Chapel, Grades K-5, Loring Room

Grades 6 & 7, Youth Room

28 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM

Level I & Level II Atrium

9:45 AM

Nursery available

Grades 3-5, Loring Room

Grades 6 & 7, Youth Room

MAY

5 - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:45 AM

Level I & Level II Atrium

9:45 AM

Nursery available

Grades K-5, Loring Room

Grades 6 & 7, Youth Room

Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

~ 1 John 4:7

The last teaching block is upon us! Many thanks to Julia Johnston-Ketterer and Patty Morgan for teaching the previous block. Patty will continue with the middle school group and Christin Gillooly steps in to teach the 3rd-5th grade group.

Christin's group will plan and organize a service project for the Newton food pantry. As busy as spring can get with rehearsals, practice, and end-of-year commitments and celebrations, we hope children are able to attend Church School on a regular basis for this effort, which has proved a rewarding experience, both for the children who plan it and for those in our community who use the pantry!

Save the date: There will be a Mother's Walk for Peace on Sunday, May 12, 2013 in Boston. Following the walk will be an outdoor Eucharist. More information will be forthcoming but please reserve this date on your calendar now. We hope high school youth and confirmands will participate, bearing witness against continuing violence in our inner cities in solidarity and peace.

Graduating high school seniors in the parish will be acknowledged at the 10:00 AM service on the Day of the Pentecost, Sunday, May 19, 2013. As has become our tradition, a blessing will be offered and each will receive a small gift from the parish. Please save this date and plan to attend.

Eucharistic instruction is an ongoing part of our education program - if you desire this instruction for your child, please let me know. A group instruction will take place at the church on Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 AM. RSVP to me: ce@goodshepherdnewton.org

*Easter blessings,
Mary Ann.*