

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
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4th Sunday of Easter (Year A) 30th April 2023

Fr John Warnaby Parish Priest Tel: 0208 428 0088
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Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 29th April	Vigil: 4th Sunday of Easter	6.00pm	Eugene Potter
Sunday 30th April	4th Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Helen Birch RIP
		10.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 2nd May	St Athanasius	7.00pm	Phil Carey
Wednesday 3rd May	Ss Philip and James	9.15am	Maggie Lunn RIP
Thursday 4th May	The English Martyrs	9.15am	Leo Deen
Friday 5th May	Easter feria	9.15am	His Majesty the King
Saturday 6th May	Vigil: 5th Sunday of Easter	6.00pm	People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Mass Intentions: Please leave plenty of time if you want a special date

Liturgy of the Word: 30th April 2023

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Acts 6:1-7, Psalm 32, I Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is known as Good Shepherd Sunday: a day on which we also pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. We ask God to guide women and men to serve as shepherds in the Church.

Today's reading in John's gospel falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories we heard recently in Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his teaching about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry. They show themselves to be "thieves and brigands" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Jesus tells his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their own shepherd.

We ask the Lord to open our hearts to accept Jesus as our Good Shepherd. We ask him to open our eyes, so we can see how he guides us. We ask for help for us to follow him to any place he wants to lead us, enabling us to be loving shepherds to others in this life and at the last, may we reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before, following him to share forever the joy of heaven.

Priest Training Fund

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood.

There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own Diocese, as well as two men studying in Rome and two in Valladolid, Spain. Last year five men were ordained to the priesthood.

The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.



Thank you for your generosity.

Fr Peter Maher RIP

Funeral details for the late Fr Peter who died on Holy Thursday 6th April.

Fr Peter's mortal remains will be brought to St Joseph's Church, Gardenia Avenue, Luton LU3 2NS on *Tuesday 9th May at 7pm*. Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Canon John McArdle and the homily will be given by Canon Tony Brennan.

Fr Peter's Funeral Mass will take place on *Wednesday 10th May at 1pm* at Our Lady and St Michael, Crown Rise, Garston WD25 0NE. The celebrant will be Mgr Kevin McGinnell and the homily will be given by Fr Simon Penhalagan, priests of the Diocese of Northampton, at Fr Peter's request. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be present to represent the Cardinal. Cremation will follow at the West Herts Crematorium, High Elms Lane, Watford WD25 0JS

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work.

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on *6 - 9 July 2023* or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on *13-15 October 2023*, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Job vacancies –Diocese of Westminster

There is a printed list of the current vacancies on the side wall near the Door of Mercy. Please take a look as there is a great range of jobs from a Cleaner to Door Manager. Plus a range of locations across the Diocese.

The list is updated weekly and available online via <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>



As we start the new Tax year, don't forget to let us know if your tax circumstances have changed & you need to amend your Gift Aid Status. If you don't already give by Gift Aid and you find that you could, please pick up a Gift Aid declaration today. It doesn't cost you anything and means we can claim an extra 25p from the government for every £1 that you donate. You just have to be a UK taxpayer who pays enough tax to cover the amount of gift aid that is claimed back.

The new planned giving envelopes have arrived and are ready for collection at the back of church. It's still not too late to swap the way you give to the parish! **The most helpful way of supporting the parish is donating by standing order**, which also reduces our volunteers' work in counting .

If you would like to switch from envelopes or cash, to standing order, please let us know asap. Alternatively, pick up a standing order form at the back of the church.



Offertory for Sunday 23rd April 2023

Envelopes	£ 370.40
Loose	£ 200.61
Total	£ 571.01

Many thanks

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers, especially Bebe Ryan, Dawn, Phil Carey and Alice Sheppard.