



# Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

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## Third Sunday of EASTER 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: Mondays 12 - 12:30pm (and on request)

HOLY HOUR: Thursdays 7 - 8pm (animated by HAKUNA)

### "To have life": what does it mean?

We all want to *have life*, but there are various ways of having it. For example, there are those who reduce existence to a frenetic race to enjoy and possess many things: to eat and drink, to enjoy themselves, to accumulate money and objects, to feel strong and new emotions, and so on. It is a road that at first sight seems pleasurable, but which does not satiate the heart. It is not in this way that one "has life", because by following the path of pleasure and power one does not find happiness. Indeed, many aspects of existence remain unanswered, such as love, the inevitable experiences of pain, of limitations and of death. And then the dream we all have in common remains unfulfilled: the hope of living forever, of being loved without limit. Today the Gospel says that this fullness of life, to which every one of us is called, is realized in Jesus: it is He who gives us this fullness of life. But how can one gain access to it, how to experience it? This is to "have life" every day: to fix one's eyes on the crucified and risen Jesus, encountering Him in the Sacraments and in prayer, recognizing that He is present, believing in Him, letting oneself be touched by His grace and guided by His example, experiencing the joy of loving like Him. Every encounter with Jesus, a living encounter with Jesus enables us to have more life.

*Pope Francis*

## Good Shepherd Sunday 21 April 2024

Next Sunday.

We will pray in particular for all the priests of our Diocese,  
and also for vocations to the priesthood.

Please, take home a **blue donation envelope** and return it next week.

All the money collected will be given to the **Priest Training Fund**.

If you are a taxpayer, do gift-aid your donation. Thank you.



SCAN to GIVE  
You can scan this QR  
code for your weekly  
Sunday donation.  
Thank you.



# Flesh & Bones



We know from the Gospels that at table with the Risen Christ we find a variety of food: grilled fish, bread and much more. Caravaggio, in his well-known Supper at Emmaus, has included wine, meat and even a basket full of fruits. Yet, the "flesh and bones" mentioned by the Risen Lord do not refer to the food on the table or the left overs!

Our body is made of "flesh and bones". Our life is 'fleshy' indeed; we go through a lot, ups and downs, intense and tough moments, events at times not so easy to digest and to accept. Our life is also full of 'bones', edgy and sharp sides, the root of many hurts and wounds, accidents along the way, fragilities and broken pieces.

The Resurrection is not to move away from the fragility and the intensity of our life. The Resurrection is not a sort of abstract appendix to the real book which is our life.

The Risen Lord has "flesh and bones", which means that his New Life is lived in the reality of who he is and within his own history.

This is the Good News of these 50 days of Easter. There is no part of our life - no small tiny 'bone' or piece of 'flesh' - which is not to live the Resurrection and experience a New Life. Everything, everything in our life, is called to be RISEN and be GLORIFIED.

During these 50 days of Easter do not throw away the "flesh & bones" in your life which you cannot digest or find too painful to carry. Do not run away from your reality and from your history, because it is there, exactly there, that you will experience Resurrection. What we have sung at the Easter Vigil remains still true: "things of heaven are wed to those of earth and divine to the human". Yes, your "flesh & bones" are called to be wedded with the Holy Spirit, and the life of heaven to be lived in your humanity.

Oh Blessed Eastertime, ALLELUIA!

*In manus.*

Father Ivano