**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT JOSEPH**

**23 ST JOHN’S STREET, HERTFORD SG14 1RX**

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**Parish Priest: Monsignor Séamus O’Boyle**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – *‘Good Shepherd Sunday’***

**Prayers & Readings for this Sunday’s Mass can be found on p. 261 in the Parish Mass Book.**

**Please note that there is a Loop system in the Church**.

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**View from the Presbytery**

‘Today is Vocations Sunday, traditionally a day for asking young men and women if they are called to the priesthood and religious life. There is no doubt that the church needs priests to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments, and Religious to offer a living witness to the values of the Kingdom of God. Without them, we would be a very impoverished Church. But how do we work out whether God is calling us to a particular vocation? One simple test is whether following a particular path in life gives us joy. If we are happy and content, or at least think we will be, then it is worth giving it a try. I am not saying that we should be deliriously happy all the time but there should be an underlying knowledge that we have chosen the right path in response to God’s call. Following a vocation is not an obstacle course that has to be overcome. There will be difficulties, but an inner state of contentment is important. This develops as our friendship with Jesus grows, and our sense of purpose becomes clear. Following a vocation does involve making a leap of faith but it is not a leap into the unknown. Just as there are risks in getting married no matter how much we prepare for it, so there are risks in offering yourself for priesthood and religious life. In all cases we have examples of happy and fulfilled people living their vocation.’ (*extract from a Pastoral Message written especially for today by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon O.P. - Archbishop of Liverpool, and Chair of the National Office for Vocation*)

As I mentioned at Masses last weekend – we currently have fifteen men training for the Priesthood in our Diocese. Three more will be joining them in September to begin their formation. Please pray for them – and for those men and women living in the Diocese who may be discerning a call to service in the Church.

*Fr Séamus*

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY: today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Here in Westminster, the annual collection for the Priest Training Fund takes place. This fund pays for the formation of men for the priesthood in our Diocese, and also for the ongoing training of ordained priests. The collection will be taken up at the end of Mass.**

**For those more savvy with such things, the QR code contained in the posters on the church noticeboards can be used to make an online donation, or you can also do so via:** [**www.rcdow.org.uk/donations**](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** If you usually give your weekly offering to the Parish via the envelope scheme, new boxes of envelopes for the new Financial Year are now available for collection at the back of the Church. If you do not find a box with your name on it, and would like to make your offering in this way, please let me know via email [hertford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hertford@rcdow.org.uk) and I can sort out a box of envelopes for you.

Thank you. Fr Séamus

**PRAYERS ASKED PLEASE –**

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Elizabeth Barnes, Ursula Partner, Jan Kracinski, Stephen Carey, Paul Cox, Malcolm Gilbert, Enzo Andrean, Miriam Matthews, Ruth Featherstone, Stephen Judd, Mary Ward, John Sweeney, Pam Gates, Juliet Davis, Phyllis Read, Jo Black, Robbie Robinson, Fr Terry, Angela White, Manuel Lopez, Linda Abeysundera, Julia Rochford, Gerry Goss, James Monaghan, Jennifer Rademeyer, Teresa Morris, David Pearson.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** Mgr. George Hay, Maggie Maslinski, Maria Zielicka, Fr John Warnaby, Fr David Williamson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**POPE FRANCIS’ PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL**

***For the role of women***

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Saturday 20th April**

**6.00pm:** Matthew Coughlan RIP

**Sunday 21st April** *IV of Easter*

**8.30am:** People of the Parish

**10.30am:** Maggie Maslinski RIP

**Monday 22nd April**

**10.00am:** Private Intention

**Tuesday 23rd April** *St George*

**12.15pm:** Private Intention

**Wednesday 24th April**

**10.00am:** Private Intention

**Thursday 25th April**

**12noon** Funeral Service for

John Lamb RIP (not a Mass)

**Friday 26th April**

**12.15pm: Mgr. George Hay RIP**

**Saturday 27th April**

**6.00pm:** Peter & Becky Kiely (Int.)

**Sunday 28th April** *V of Easter*

**8.30am:** People of the Parish

**10.30am:** Private Intention

**Confessions: Saturday 5.15.- 5.45pm**