Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 18th May 2025





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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Spring can be a delight for our senses. We see trees starting to bud, flowers poking their heads out of the ground, and grass turning a lovely shade of green. We hear migrating birds and feel the warm sun on our faces. God's words in Revelation seem especially apt: "Behold, I make all things new." Much as we can behold spring making all things new, when God raised Jesus, freeing our lives from sin and death, we too were made brand new. Let us give thanks to God for continually renewing our world and our lives.

In the readings today Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment: love one another. As his disciples now, we are commanded to do the same. May listening to God's word – of Paul and Barnabas making disciples all over Asia Minor, of John's vision of God dwelling with the human race, and of Jesus word to his disciples – strengthen our spirts as we live out that command.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 17th May		6.30pm Gerard O'Malley
Sunday 18th May	**Fifth Sunday Of Easter**	8.30am Patrick Walsh RIP
		11.30am G Barber & S Conte RIP
		6.30pm People of the Parish
Monday 19th May	Laurence	10.00am Vincenza Infantino RIP
Tuesday 20th May	Bernardine of Siena	10.00am Rita O'Hara – Int.
Wednesday 21st May	Christopher	10.00am Michael Darling RIP
Thursday 22nd May	Rita of Cascia	10.00am Mary Ann Ekeoma
Friday 23rd May		10.00am Monique Ngo- Thanksgiving
Saturday 24th May		6.30pm People of the Parish



TODAY'S READINGS:	**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**
Acts 14:21b-27	Acts 15:1-2,22-29
Psalm 145	Psalm 67
Revelation 21:1-5a	Revelation 21:10-14
John 13:31,33a	John 14-23-29
CBC Missal: Page 768	CBC Missal: Page 778
CTS Missal: Page 482	CTS Missal: Page 486

LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

During Easter, we are asked to pray for: Europe; New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right use of the Media; The Church; Human Work

For those who are ill: Nicola Harker, Lily Barber, Mary Fitzgerald, Betty Bambury, Jean Pearce, Philomena Peckett, Jonathan Kamara, Agnes Curtis, Fatima Duarte, Shirley Willis, Rodney Imbert, Robin Holmes, Anthony Newman, Carol Brown, Salvatore Riccotta, Robert Newman, Gerard O'Malley,

For those who have died recently: Michael McGovern, Ada Lo Conte, Mary Augustine, Antony Lazar, Anthonia Ige,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Giuseppina Barber, Salvatore Conte, Patrick Walsh,

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturday from 10.30am – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offerings collection which came to £1,533.08; Priest Training Fund: £489.73; plus, the Regular Standing Orders

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The Funeral for the late Ada Lo Conte will be celebrated on Wednesday 21st May at 11.30am.

The Funeral Mass for the late Michael McGovern will be celebrated on Friday 23rd May at 11.30am.

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Sunday 25th May at 11.30am – Felix Hansie

PRIEST TRAINING FUND COLLECTION

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The response of prayer for vocations, love and concern for the clergy, and for the current seminarians, was heart-warming. If you still wish to make your donation, you will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can use the QR code on the envelope or poster to make your donation online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations through the Diocesan website. The formation of priests is of top priority, it is our future. May God Bless you for your generosity.

AFTERNOON TEA

On the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 2.00pm – 3.30pm, Afternoon Tea is available in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

READERS ROTA

The new Readers Rota is available from the Sacristy and also on our Website.

RECRUITING NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We need more people to be Eucharistic Ministers at all the Weekend Masses. If you are willing to help in this way, please speak to Fr John.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The final Confirmation Preparation Session will be on Thursday 22nd May at 8.00pm in the Church.
Bishop Paul will be here on Saturday 24th May, at 2.00pm to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our young people. Please pray for our young people and their families and their Catechists.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

We still have some sets of Planned Giving Envelopes that have not been collected. If you have not already done so, please collect your new sets of Offertory Envelopes after Mass at the weekend. If you no longer use your Offertory Envelopes or wish to move from Envelopes to a Standing Order, can you please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

200 CLUB WINNERS – APRIL 2025

1st No. 69 Francesca Miceli; 2nd No. 109 Stephen Blackman; 3rd No. 131 Claire McManamin

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering a free legal advice surgery. If you would like free, independent, impartial and confidential advice, (for example) debt, employment, housing, consumer rights, wills & probate, lasting powers of attorney (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. The next session is Wednesday, 28th May 2025.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE, WARE

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be leading a Diocesan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware on Saturday 12th July.

St Edmund's College, the oldest Catholic College in England, is a continuation on English soil of the famous college that was founded Cardinal William Allen at Douay in Flanders in 1568. It is important to us because it was probably the strongest single agency by which Catholicism was kept from perishing in England. Originally intended as a seminary to prepare priests to work in England to keep the faith alive, it soon also became a Catholic boys' school, debarred as they were by the laws of the land from having such institutions at home. Many of its students, both priests and laymen, returned to England to be put to death under the anti-Catholic laws of the time, and the College has among its alumni 20 canonised and 133 beatified martyrs. The seminary part of the College moved to Allen Hall in Chelsea in 1975, but the school, now co-educational, continues to this day. Buried in its grounds are the bodies of some of the Vicars Apostolic who looked after the Church in the south of this country before the restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

11am	Pilgrims are invited to arrive and gather. Confessions will be available. There is ample parking
12noon	Solemn Mass for the Jubilee Year celebrated by H.E. Cardinal Nichols in the school grounds – please bring suitable clothing etc in the event of rain.
1.30pm	Picnic lunch (bring your own); tours of the College. Adoration and Confessions in the Chapel during this break.
2.45pm	Procession of the Blessed Sacrament; please gather outside the College Chapel for the procession to the school grounds where Mass was celebrated and where Benediction will now be given.
4pm	Departures.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARISH CENTRE

As people will be aware, there has been a problem with the acoustics in the Main Hall in the Parish Centre since it was first built. Soon after it was opened we installed some acoustic panels on the ceiling to reduce the reverberation and the echo, but more are still needed. Last year we had a detailed acoustic assessment carried out, and a suggested solution was proposed.

The total projected cost will be £21,152.00. At the beginning of the year we applied to the National Lottery Grants for All Scheme for a grant of just over £19,000. (We were not able to apply for the cost (£1,890) of the Survey which we had to carry out in order to determine the number of panels needed to solve the problem completely.) We have now been informed that we have been successful, and that we have been awarded a grant of £19,262.00. We will need to close the Main Hall while the work is being carried out, so we are trying to arrange for it to be done during August when most of our regular groups stop their activities for the Summer.

POPE LEO XIV

Pope Leo was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, In September 1977, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) and in August 1981, he made his solemn vows. He received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. and then was sent to Rome to study Canon Law. He was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982. He was a missionary in Peru from 1988 to 1999, when he elected as Provincial Prior, and the in 2002 was elected as the Head of the Augustinian Order, and served two terms until 2013. In 2014 he returned to Peru being appointed as a Bishop where he remained until 2023, when he was called to Rome to be the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, and was made a Cardinal in September of that year.