

Parish of Our Lady & St Vincent, Potters Bar

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 28th April 2024



Congratulations to Isabella Fitzgerald and Leo Beechey whose combined artwork has given us the logo for our Community Peace Garden. Congratulations also to Alexis Pagnier, Joseph Beechey and Edward Fitzgerald who received runners-up prizes.

Now that the weather is getting better we can plan to open the garden on a daily basis. It will be opened when the gates to the main car park are opened in the morning. We plan to keep the gate open with a combination lock so anybody with the combination can close it at dusk. Do you live nearby and would you join a team of people to close it? For safety we do not want it open unattended after dark. If you are willing to help please complete one of the slips available in the narthex.

The garden has been designed to be low-maintenance so any weeds will just be surface weeds amongst the bark chippings which will be easy to pick up. Some of the shrubs will need the occasional light trimming. Trees and larger shrubs will be pruned by contractors on an annual basis. Could you 'adopt' an area and drop by to weed and tidy it on a regular basis? Ann-Marie, who designed the garden, is producing a simple maintenance guide. Again, if you are able to help, please complete one of the slips. There are already members of the general gardening group who work to keep the rest of the property neat and tidy – we always need volunteers to help. Please complete a slip if you can help.

☎ 01707 654359 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/pottersbar/> Email - pottersbar@rcdow.org.uk

All services are live streamed – www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar

Parish Priest: Canon Shaun Lennard - shaunlennard@rcdow.org.uk

Presbytery: 243, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 2AT

Deacon: Rev Donal Hopkins - donhopkins@rcdow.org.uk

Youth & Children's Worker: Amandha Senanayake – pottersbaryouth@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Nicola Thrussell – pottersbar@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps: Sue McLellen – pottersbarsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Joe Molloy – pottersbarsg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am – 12.30pm (not Bank Holidays)

To contact a priest in case of emergency 07854 866860

COLLECTION

14th April: Envelopes; £370 Loose; £447

Thank you for your generosity.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Last Sunday was the World Day of Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As we had confirmations last weekend the retiring collection is this weekend. Envelopes were attached to last week's newsletter for your donation. Please complete the Gift Aid form if you pay tax.

Please pray for the vocations team, who journey with men who are thinking about a vocation to the priesthood in our diocese. Please also pray for encouragement for those who feel called to the ordained ministry in our diocese.

CONFIRMATIONS

Congratulations to the 31 young people who were confirmed last Saturday and thank you to all the volunteers who made it such a wonderful occasion. Teams were in from Friday doing flowers, cleaning, rehearsing servers and music, preparing the sacristy, reading and, of course, the great commitment from the team of dedicated catechists. Bishop John wrote expressing his thanks, *The 'feeling' at Our Lady & St Vincent is very good and clearly people are committed to their faith and the parish.* Thank you all very much.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER

The next ecumenical prayer and breakfast is on Saturday next, 4th May, at 8.30am in St John's Methodist Church, Baker Street. Come and join other Christians for prayer and breakfast.

THURSDAY 2nd MAY – POLLING DAY

We have been asked to make the church hall available as a Polling Station and so the church and office will be closed all day. Families coming to First Holy Communion rehearsals should enter by the double doors on Mutton Lane. The repository will be open during the rehearsals for those who wish to purchase rosaries and other Holy Communion gifts.

ECUMENICAL HOLIDAY CLUB - URGENT APPEAL

Further to our recent appeal, we urgently need volunteers to sign-up for this year's Churches Together Holiday Club which we hope to run from Wednesday 24th – Friday 26th July inclusive at Pope Paul Primary School. At present we only have half the number of required volunteers in order to plan and run the Holiday Club. We need volunteers for arts and crafts, games, music and drama, registering children, catering and supporting the Teen Team with their group. Registration for volunteers can be done at

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/volunteer>

If this is your first time volunteering and you are not sure what to do, please contact Nicola in the office and she can arrange a time to meet with you and complete the registration process with you. Please can volunteers register no later than Friday 3rd May. All volunteers will be required to complete a full DBS check and some safeguarding training

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you have a child for baptism you must attend the Baptism Preparation Course. Please register with the Parish Office as soon as possible and Nicola will contact you once the date has been set for the next course.

CONFIRMATION 2025

If you are currently in Year 9 or above and would like to join the course for preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation please collect a registration form from Fr Shaun after Mass. The young person themselves must collect the form and it must be returned by 2nd June so that we can start planning.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & COMMUNION 2025

If your child is in Year 2 or above and you would like them to be prepared for these sacraments next year please collect a form from Fr Shaun after Mass. The form must be returned by 2nd June so that we can start planning.

ALTAR SERVERS

Anyone who has received their First Holy Communion in the next few weeks and is interested in becoming an altar server; There will be an introduction and training session which consists of 2 parts. These will take place on Saturdays, 18th May 2024, and 25th May 2024. Each session will be from 4pm till 5pm at the church. Parents please give your child's name and details to the church office if they are interested.

ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

On Thursday 30th May there will be a pilgrimage by coach to Arundel Cathedral for the annual Corpus Christi Flower Festival. We will stop on the way at the spectacular Box Hill for a BYO picnic lunch. We travel on to Arundel where you will have plenty of time to see the flowers and the town. Mass will be at 5.30pm followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament into the castle grounds. At 7.30pm the coach will collect us from the Cathedral for the return journey. Tickets are £16 per person. Booking forms are available in the narthex. Book early to avoid disappointment!

SPONSOR A LOURDES WHEELCHAIR

The diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes needs new wheelchairs to transport the assisted pilgrims during the pilgrimage. Each wheelchair costs £139. If anyone would like to sponsor a wheelchair in memory of someone, please contact Elizabeth Uwalaka in the Pilgrimage Office on: elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7798 9173 for further details.

REV DALE CUTLAN

Dale, who spent a pastoral year with us in 2022-3, has been called for ordination as a priest on Saturday 6th July at 12noon in Cardiff Cathedral. If you would like to attend the ordination and reception afterwards, email Dale at dale.cutlan@rcadc.org as soon as possible. He needs to know by the end of May. There is a train from Paddington at 8.12am and advanced saver tickets are on sale now.

CAFOD PILGRIMAGE

CAFOD is organising a pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-40 from Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July, in this year of prayer and lead up to the year of Jubilee. Reconnecting with their faith through worship, prayer and journeying as a pilgrim together. The pilgrimage will include a two-night residential stay at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough, NN9 5UH. On the Saturday we will then be walking from Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence, Olney to The Church of the Holy Child in Bedford, approximately 13.5 miles. For more information visit <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/sponsored-challenge-events/pilgrimages/young-adults-residential-pilgrimage>

A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates. See cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information.

YOUTH 2000 EVENTS

Youth 2000 run a number of events for young adults (Aged 18-35).

One Day Retreat

London Retreat for young adults. Saturday 11th May 2024 from 10.00am to 10.00pm. Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon. To register or for more information please visit <https://www.youth2000.org/events/london2024>

Y2K Goes To Medjugorje Youth Festival

Wednesday 31 July 2024 to Wednesday 7 August 2024. Join young people from around the UK for the 2024 Medjugorje Youth Festival. For more information and to register for these and other events, either visit <https://www.youth2000.org/events> or contact info@youth2000.org

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Please remember in your prayers the sick, including: Damien Grafton, Marsaili MacAuley, Linda Brooks, Patricia Wallington, Grant Davis, Bridie Spelzini, Susan Lundrigan, Joan Bonner, Jamie Giles, Mary Lindsay, Paige White, Christakis Christofides, Philomena O'Sullivan, Bernard Keown, Ann O'Neill, Jason Mosely, Abbey Cummings, Anne Conlon, Kathy Lavelle, Monica Doheny, Vincent, Lee & Abigail Clark, Maria Halsey, Angela Loizou, Jean O'Sullivan, Teresa Gray, Bob Cox, Henry Rochford, Julie Anne Chambers, Emilia Roberts, Tom Quinn, Angela O'Keeffe, Sheila Corbett, Michael Connell, Jacqui Mylonas, Kerri-Anne O'Sullivan.

Recently dead: Michael Plumbridge, Fr John Warnaby, Fr David Williamson and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48;

1 John 4:7-10;

John 15:9-17

NEXT CLEANING TEAM

Monday 6th May at 10.30am

Please come and help

Sunday 28th April

TIMES OF MASS & OTHER LITURGIES

Fifth Sunday of Easter

6pm Vigil Mass *Frank & Sheila Tuohy RIP*

9am Mass *Felice & Elvira Lenza RIP*

11am Mass *Maria Nicola, Immacolata Parlapiano & Michele Capozzi RIP (Children's Liturgy)*

2pm Baptism of Sebastian & Theodore Sisk

Monday 29th April

10am Mass *People of the Parish*

Tuesday 30th April

9.30am Rosary

10am Mass *Colin Johnstone RIP*

12.20pm Mass with Year 10B EMN at Nicholas Breakspear

Wednesday 1st May

10am Mass *Eugene O'Sullivan RIP*

Thursday 2nd May

(Polling Day – Church and Office Closed)

Friday 3rd May

10am Mass *Teresa Quinlivan RIP*

Saturday 4th May

8.30am Ecumenical Prayers, St John's Methodist Church

11am First Holy Communion Mass

2pm First Holy Communion Mass

5.15pm – 5.45pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm Vigil Mass *Myriam, Leon & Nicholas Vollaire RIP*

Sunday 5th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9am Mass *People of the Parish (Inclusive Mass)*

11am Mass *Mary Taylor RIP (Inclusive Mass)*

12.30pm Baptism of Harley & Rio Hardwicke