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**CANON JEREMY WRITES:** In today’s passage Jesus speaks to us of the self-sacrificial nature of his own life: "The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." He contrasts the good shepherd who owns the sheep to someone who is simply hired to look after them. The hired man thinks primarily of his own welfare and, if he sees a wolf coming, he takes off, leaving the sheep to be attacked and scattered in fear and terror. Jesus, on the other hand, will not be like a hired person: "I lay down my life for my sheep." The good shepherd knows his sheep and they know him. There is a mutual bond of love and intimacy. That loving intimacy is compared to the union of Jesus and his Father. "My own know me just as the Father knows me." The hired man or the self-interested leader will not have such an intimate relationship with his charges. The Second Reading speaks in similar terms when the author says, "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children, and that is what we are." The good shepherd deeply desires that many other sheep should come to identify themselves with him. "There are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well." The ultimate goal is that "there will be only one flock, and one shepherd": that the whole world will be united together with the Lord God.

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY:** This weekend our second collection will be in support of the Priest Training Fund, which benefits the parishes and the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests. The Priest Training Fund pays for the training and education of seminarians at our seminary Allen Hall. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. It costs on average £25,000 per man, per year of formation – that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church. Please me as generous as you be.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**: next Sunday, 28 April, twelve children will make their First Holy Communion at the 10.30am Mass. Please pray for Mary, Niamh, Mary Kate, Freya, Bakita, Kimoni, Bilen, Afriyie, Asey, Samuel, Tommy and Charlie as they prepare for this great day in their Christian journey.

 **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**: If you are a member of Planned Giving your new envelopes are available to collect after Mass today. If you’re not currently a member but would like a set of envelopes, please ask.

**FCJ SPIRITUALITY CENTRE**: On Thursday 25 April at 7.15pm, there is the second evening on Scripture with Sister Ellen FCJ. The topic is ‘Rejoicing in the Resurrection Accounts’. The Drop-in afternoon (2.30-4.00pm) for older adults is on 24 April. You do not have to book to attend these events but it would be helpful if you can let us know by phoning 07710 969915 or by emailing: bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk  or you can put a note in the letter box at the Convent. Or just come along.

**Sunday 21 April 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

***Mass Times & Intentions***

**Sunday 21 April 2024**

**6.00pm (Sat)**

People of the Parish

**10.30am**

Julie Loftus int

**6.00pm**

Sr. Frances Ennis int

***Weekdays***

**Monday 22 April 9.30am**

Thanksgiving

**Tuesday 23 April 9.30am**

Pauline Hannon int

**Wednesday 24 April**

**NO MASS TODAY**

**Thursday 25 April 9.30am**

Joanne O’Grady int

**Friday 26 April 9.30am**

Sr. Julia Ann Cunnane RIP

**This week the Votive Lamp in the Lady Chapel is in prayer for:** Holy Souls

**This week the Sanctuary Lamp by the Blessed Sacrament is in prayer for:**

Holy Souls

**Confessions:**

Saturday 5.30pm (or by appointment)

**Collections Last Week**

Envelopes £ 242.10

Loose £ 326.44

Total £ 568.54

*Thank you*

**Please Pray for:**

Those who are sick. Martin Vasek, Gerry Aquino, Ewa Celejowska.

Those who have died recently: Spiro Grima, Nicholas Tagney.

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Jacqueline Ashton, Joshua Sanna, Joseph Berkoh, Winifred Murphy, James Nolan, Manuel Da Conceiao, Patrick Barry, Denis Reilly, Eileen Harris, Kathleen Moriarty, Margaret Liddell, Luisa Tavares, Patricia English, Denis Casey, Una Murphy.

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST ALOYSIUS, SOMERS TOWN**

**PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Jeremy Trood. In Residence: Fr David Reilly (Diocesan Youth Chaplain)**

**20 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA. 0207 387 1971 somerstown@rcdow.org.uk**

**PARISH PRIEST: Rev. Canon Jeremy Trood.**

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**The Parish of St Aloysius, Somers Town is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster. Registered Charity Number 233699**