

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter,  
Year B  
21<sup>st</sup> April, 2024

# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

## 59 Gresham Road, Staines, TW18 2BD

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### From the Diary

*Weekend Masses always live-streamed on YouTube (other times streamed occasionally)*

<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY</b>	<b>18.30</b>	<b>Mass</b> (Thomas Moore ANNIV)
<b>OF EASTER</b>	<b>09.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> (Jessica Farnsworth INTS)
21 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> (People of the Parish) with Baptism of Phoebe Matson-Bepey
<b>Monday</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	20.00	Rosary group – enter through hall door
<b>Tuesday</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>09.15</b>	<b>Mass</b> (Ted Scannell RIP)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>09.15</b>	<b>Mass</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> April	09.45 – 11.30	Baby and Toddler group – Hall
	14.00 – 16.00	'Gresham Junction' Café – Hall
	20.00	Catholic Starting Point - Hall
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09.15 – 09.50</b>	<b>Mass followed by Exposition</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00	Church cleaning
<b>Friday</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>09.00</b>	<b>Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary School</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	13.00 – 16.00	First Holy Communion Children's Workshop
27 <sup>th</sup> April	17.30 – 18.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
<b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY</b>	<b>18.30</b>	<b>Mass</b> (People of the Parish)
<b>OF EASTER</b>	<b>09.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> (O'Reagan family INTS)
28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> (Margaret Thomson & Šime Nekić ANNIV)

## Could you be a priest?

This weekend is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' when the Church encourages its members to consider whether you or someone you know might have a vocation to serve the Church as a priest. Now, this may or may not be an idea that appeals to you – but at the very least it is worth considering.

Everyone has a vocation – everyone is called by God to some definite service, and no one is exempt from this. I think every one of us should ask ourselves what that definite service might be – God has a purpose for us, a purpose that is not just about our own well-being and happiness, but about the good of others. So, when considering our path in life, our future career, our choices, our expectations, we need to look at the bigger picture of how we can contribute to those around us – to the common good.

For some, this God-given vocation could well be to serve as priest. Now, you might have all sorts of reasons for feeling this is not for you (or your child), but most of those reasons are just excuses. Basically, unless you are married or a woman (and yes, I agree it's not fair either) the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood is something you should give serious consideration to. Being a priest is way of seriously making a difference, it's most definitely not boring (unless you don't like people, and it requires people of all backgrounds, outlooks, and personality types. You don't need to 'holy', at least not in the common sense of the word. You also don't need to be some kind of saint!

So, please consider whether you or your friend or family member might have a calling to the priesthood. God tends not to give you some sort of vision or divine voice, but more often you experience the call through the suggestion of others "Have you thought about being a priest?" or through the workings of our own hearts and minds, 'maybe I could do this'. If the possibility intrigues or even scares you, have a chat with me, Fr. Philip – or contact the vocations promoter, Fr. Mike Maguire (some of you will remember him) on [vocations@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdow.org.uk)

## Priests' Training Fund – Exit collection today

We currently have 17 people training for the priesthood. It takes six or so years to become a priest and their formation is necessarily expensive – so please be as generous as you can be.

## Confirmation Cake Sale

Our 35 young people preparing for Confirmation will have been baking cakes and other tasty items and will be selling them next weekend to raise money for CAFOD (our overseas development partner). They will have worked really hard for this, so please again be as generous as possible.

## Please pray for

All our who are sick:

Nina Bailey, John Bailey, Carol Bartlett,  
Laurie Hatcher, Mark Cotter, Jessica Farnsworth

*Please advise of any changes to this list*

Those who have died:

Dorothy Paish & all anniversaries.

## Welcome!

If you are visiting or this is your first time, please introduce yourself to Fr. Philip, and perhaps stay for tea & coffee after Mass.

Whether you've recently moved into the area, or are just visiting, you are most welcome here – and so is your feedback on your first impressions of this parish, good or bad!

## Tea and Coffee

After **all** Masses, please stay on for a nice *Fairtrade* cup of tea, freshly brewed coffee, biscuits and toys.

## Little children

When you bring your children to Mass, you not only share with them a very special part of your life, but you bring new life and energy to the entire parish community. If their new life and energy is getting too much, it's ok to take them into the porch or outdoors for a bit until they (or you) have calmed down!

If you have a baby you are welcome to feed/breastfeed your child at any time – and in any place you feel most comfortable. You can go into the hall or simply remain in your place in church.

If you've got a toddler, you are welcome to bring toys to distract them. It's a good idea to bring things that can't be used to make a noise. Best of all, come and sit at the front where they can see!

We appreciate that every child is different and that bringing children to Mass is not always easy. If you are finding it particularly hard today, be assured that you are not alone.

## Baptism

If you have an unbaptised baby (or are half expecting one), please introduce yourself & your child, either after Mass or over the phone, and we can talk about next steps.

## Safety

Please don't let children close to the candle stands or the statues – they are heavy and topple very easily!

## Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesdays in term time 09.45 – 11.30 in the hall. £2 per family. Nice cakes. Outdoor area. All babies, toddlers, & accompanying adults very welcome!

## Gresham Junction

Everyone is welcome to our community café open Wednesday afternoons 14.00-16.00. Come and join us for a hot drink & slice of cake.

### A Prayer for Peace in the World

Almighty Father, you are the Lord of history. We place in your hands the distress of our times. The wars in Ukraine and the Holy Land fill us with anxiety and fear. We call out to you. Welcome those who have died. Comfort those left behind. Be with refugees and those driven from their homes. Heal the wounds of those injured in body and soul. Be close to every person taking up the cause of those who suffer. Give to our earth the peace which only you can give. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of Peace, pray for us and for the whole world. their sponsors, family members and catechists for their encouragement.

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to parishioners Emanuela and Giustino, who were married yesterday here at Our Lady of the Rosary – and welcome to their family member, Fr. Alfonso, who presided at their Nuptial Mass. Please keep this newly-married couple in your prayers as they begin their new life together.

### Rosary Group

Our parish rosary group meet at 20.00 every Monday in school term time, As the main door of the church is locked at this time, access is via the 'office' door round the side of the building. Wait until the Brownie group finishes at 20.00 then make your way inside. The Rosary is a lovely prayer-form and is especially recommended during May, a month traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

### Gresham Junction Community Café

This weekend we have a return visit by popular request of 'The Ukelaleham Musical Goup'. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 13 musicians will play ukeles and provide a fun concert for everyone. The café as always is from 14.00 – 16.00 and the musicians will play for an hour or so.

### First Holy Communion 2024 – and 2025!

#### Current group 2024

Our First Holy Communion preparation is now in its last couple of months. On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 13.00 –16.00 we have our final children's workshop, then rehearsals on 17<sup>th</sup> May, followed by First Holy Communion on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The final event is the thanksgiving Mass, procession and breakfast on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Next year's group 2025

Next year in 2025, First Holy Communion will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May – registration for this will take place in September this year, and is open to children who will be (in September) in school Year 3 or above. Preparation starts in the winter and is done in the parish, and is open to all parish children no matter what school they attend. If your child does not attend a Catholic school, they will also need to go to the 'Footsteps' pre-course, which takes place over six Wednesday after-school sessions in the autumn. Full details of everything will be available in due course. Meanwhile, please let your friends (who maybe don't go to Mass so often) know about the programme and explain that they might want to start showing their faces here now!

### Parish Seaside Trip

Our annual parish seaside trip to Littlehampton will take place on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July**. Further details will be available and bookings taken nearer the time, but right now simply put the dates in your diary.

### Scottish Evening – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Due to popular request, we are having our second parish 'Scottish evening' on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. As with last year, there will be a bring and share buffet and bar as well as a small ticket donation to pay for the entertainment, which will feature Scottish music and dancing. It promises to be a wild and enjoyable evening. This is a popular event, so please sign up on the church/hall partition door if you would like to come. We ask you to bring three things on the night – plate of finger food for the buffet, a bottle or cans for the bar, and a contribution of is £500 per person or £800 per family to cover the cost of the entertainment.

### Mass offerings

Do you want to have Mass offered for a particular person or intention? Write down the name of who the Mass should be offered for, and make it clear whether they are dead or alive. Also indicate what day/time is preferred, noting that weekend times need good advance notice. Give this to me (Fr. P) or drop into my letter box. Enclose your voluntary offering in a marked envelope either then or nearer the time of the booked Mass.

On **YouTube** search for: 'Our Lady of the Rosary Staines'

On **Facebook** search for: 'Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Staines'

### Church cleaning

We need more volunteers to clean the church! Church cleaning takes place every Thursday at 10.00 (with options for very reliable weekly volunteers to come at other times), so if a clean church is something you value, why not come and join the team?

### Fest of the Ascension – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May

This is a Holyday of Obligation so Mass will be at 07.00, 09.30, 19.00.

### Parish Patio

What with the lovely weather, we will be making more use of the parish patio. Note that children should be supervised (the car park gate is not locked), prevented from climbing on the Wendy house, and kept away from the drinks table. Ride-ons should stay at the far end. If you see a child acting in an unsafe way, please intervene, even if they are not yours!

### Supporting the parish

Our parish relies solely on the support of its members. It really helps if you donate by standing order or direct bank payment. Our parish bank details are as follows: **Sort code: 40-05-20 Account number: 41096168 Bank: HSBC Account name: WRCDT Staines-upon-Thames**

If you're a taxpayer, why not Gift Aid your donation? The government will top up your gift by 25%, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at no cost to you. To do this, send an email to [giftaid@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@rcdow.org.uk) with the following info:

1. Your parish name (Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines)
2. Your title, first name and surname
3. Your address and postcode
4. The date of your gift, or start date of Standing Order
5. The amount
6. Please add the line: 'Please Gift Aid my donations'

The Diocesan Gift Aid office will add your declaration immediately, on behalf of your parish, and email you a confirmation.

### Feeling unsafe?

Not everyone feels safe at home. The National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 if you are concerned about yourself or others. The church is a safe space to seek assistance should you need it – see parish contact details overleaf. *Istnieje też specjalna linia pomocy w języku polskim 0300 365 1700 oraz strona internetowa <http://opoka.org.uk>*

### Manna Food Bank

You are invited to drop items of non-perishable food **in the church when open** to support our local foodbank. The foodbank table is in the porch, between the hall and church doors. Food/drink should be non-perishable, so there should be nothing that requires refrigeration, nor fresh cakes or bread. Items should be unopened and unused. Items should not be donated after their 'best before' date. This might sound fussy, but any of us could end up relying on a food bank, so a certain level of quality control is important.

### Safeguarding

If you've any concerns or require advice regarding the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact our parish safeguarding rep, Sheila Davies on 07802 653196. You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 020 77989356 [safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk) You can also speak to me (Fr. P) if you have a concern or query.

### Lego Club

Our Lego Club now operates at selected Masses, where a 'Lego Chief' is present to supervise. This room is restricted to children of primary and secondary school age (not pre-school), and their parents/carers and we ask that the Lego is treated with care, not dropped on the floor, and not removed from the room. If the door is closed – the Lego Club is NOT open, but if the door is open and a Lego Chief (a specially trained teenager) is present, the Lego Club is open. Parents/carers must be present in the hall while the child is playing Lego and retain responsibility for the safety of their child at all times. The 'Lego Chief' is there to protect the Lego, not your child!

### Going to Hospital?

In light of data protection please indicate on entering hospital that your details are to be passed to the Catholic Chaplain **and** please ask the Catholic Chaplain to visit you.

### Fire safety

In case of fire, you will be invited to leave the building. Use the nearest exit and go home. Don't move your vehicle from the car park as this will slow things down. If you need to await family or others, wait at the assembly point in front of the garage. Do not re-enter the building until advised to do so.