

LITURGY, CONFESSION & MASS TIMES

- Sun 21st April + **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Psalm 32:5-6, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:14 (pg. 261)
Mass 11am - Harold Chinegwundoh RIP
- Mon 22nd April **Easter Feria, Monday in the fourth Week of Easter**
Mass 9.30am - Celebrants Intention
- Tues 23rd April **SAINT GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England**
Mass 9.30am - Divine protection for Margaret & family
- Wed 24th April **Saints Erkenwald and Mellitus**
Mass 9.30am - Kate & John Heneghan RIP (Anniv)
- Thur 25th April **SAINT MARK, Evangelist**
Mass 9.30am - Celebrants Intention
- Fri 26th April **Easter Feria, Friday in the fourth Week of Easter**
(Friday abstinence)
Mass 9.30am - Mervyn & Myra Stephenson RIP (Anniv)
- Sat 27th April **Easter Feria, Saturday in the fourth Week of Easter**
Mass 10am - Celebrants Intention
6pm Vigil Mass - Harold Chinegwundoh RIP
- Sun 28th April + **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8 (pg. 264)
Mass 11am - Pro-populo + Harold Chinegwundoh RIP

Church Opening Times: Mon-Wed & Fri 8.30am-10am

Sat 9.30am-11.30am, 5-7pm, Sun 10am-12pm

Confessions: Sat 10.30-11am Phone: (020) 7272 3415

Office Email: tollingtonpark@rcdow.org.uk,

Web: www.rcdow.org.uk/tollingtonpark

Office Opening Times: Tuesday -Thursday 10am-2pm

Parish Priest: Fr Moses Enehizena CSSp

Assistant Priests: Fr Remigius Ndubuisi CSSp and Fr Augustine I. Katuka CSSp:

Parish Secretary: Helen Lebab:

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Adetoun Carew & Lorraine McAteer

Safeguarding Email: tollingtonparksg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / Westminster Roman Catholic Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trust/Registered charity number 233699

Saint Mellitus

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster

Year B + **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

21st April

2024

Counting On The Shepherd



Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us.

In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage was legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self-sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick and the housebound: All of our sick and housebound parishioners, all in care homes, hospitals and hospices and to Fr Elsie Steele, Fr David John Williamson, John Michael Warnaby and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

SAINT MARK, Thursday 25th April, Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am. ALL are welcome

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: If you are planning to marry here or elsewhere, at least 6 months notice is required and you MUST contact a priest to register for a preparation course. Please speak to any of the priests after Mass.

BAPTISMS: A Baptism preparation meeting will take place Saturday 27th April, at 11am. To book a Baptism for your child please speak to any of the priests after Mass, for an application form, or contact the parish office. **Congratulations to David, Kachiside Oladimeji who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Thursday 18th April.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024: Classes resume today Sunday, 21st April, after the 11am Mass. Please continue to keep the children and families in your prayers.

FINANCE - Giving by Standing Order:

Would you consider gifting your offering by Standing Order? If so, the payment details are: **HSBC Bank plc A/C Name: WRCDT Tollington Park: Sort Code: 40-05-20 & A/C No: 21264869:**

Gift Aid / Donating to the Parish: If you are a UK Tax Payer and would like to support our Church with Gift Aid, details is on the website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/tollingtonpark/donate/> Thank you for your support.

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Clergy and other ministers of Holy Communion are able and willing to visit those who are housebound. Please speak to any of the fathers or contact the parish office if in need.

PARISH NEWS

Good Shepherd Sunday: Today, Sunday 21st April is Good Shepherd Sunday. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from the Diocese. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all the priests. A collection will be held after Mass to support the Priest Training Fund. There are donation envelopes at the front of the Church, or you can make your donation online: www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Saint George "For the Persecuted", 23rd April: When the pagan Emperor Diocletian started persecuting Christians. St George came to their defence. St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine on 23rd April, 303. There is much talk nowadays

about the apathy surrounding Saint George's day and about what we should do to celebrate it, but we could do no worse than make St George's commitment to stand up for the persecuted our own.

PARISH FORUM SUNDAY 5TH MAY. PLANNING MEETING TODAY Sunday 21st of April In the parish meeting room. Please do try and come so that we can plan the best event possible. We are very keen to hear your views about how we can improve everything that goes on in the parish at all levels. The Parish Forum is on Sunday 5th May, to be held 12:15 to 1:45 .

UK GENERAL ELECTION 2024: DON'T FORGET the election for the Mayor of London will take place on Thursday 2nd MAY The Catholic Church encourages all citizens to participate in public life and vote when they are able. This year's election will be the first time that voters will need to show photo ID at the polling station. There are many forms of ID that can be used such as a Freedom Pass, Oyster 60+ card or a biometric Residence Permit. Even expired passports or driving licences are allowed if the photograph still looks like you.

Ghana's Debt Crisis: Ghana is on the frontline of the global debt crisis. **They have paid \$7 billion in interest payments alone to greedy lenders since 2010** while struggling to pay for education and health care or respond to the climate crisis, and the high cost of living is destroying lives. The UK is in a unique position to end this crisis - because 90% of the debts owed by lower income countries to banks, hedge funds and oil traders are overseen by UK law! A new debt justice law would force financial giants

to play ball in negotiations, giving lower income countries a route out of the crisis. You can sign a petition calling on all party leaders to commit to this new law ahead of a general election here; debtjustice.org.uk/election2024. Look out for more information from our Justice and Peace Group!

Mary's Meals, Crisis in Ethiopia Appeal 2024: Mary's Meals' vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. To support Mary's Meals school feeding programme across Tigray, which is a lifeline to children living in poverty. You can make any donation www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/crisis-in-ethiopia Thank you for your support.

JUSTICE AND PEACE FOODBANK COLLECTION: You are still invited to bring any of the listed items below, for **May's food bank collection**. *Long life milk, tea-bags, instant coffee, sugar *Tinned foods - beans, soups, meat, fish, vegetables, fruit *Pasta, rice, noodles, lentils, instant mashed potatoes, pasta sauces, curry sauces, peanut butter, jam, biscuits, snack bars etc. Thank you ALL for your continued support & generosity.

PENTECOST SUNDAY, 19TH MAY: We are inviting all the parishioners to celebrate the Gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday 19th May, 10am Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to dress in their cultural attires to celebrate this special day. Candidates for First Holy Communion will be receiving their Sacrament on Pentecost Sunday also. Please don't forget to bring a dish to share after 11am Mass. We look forward to welcoming you all.