

# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 21st April 2024



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## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today we are reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, committed to caring for his sheep through every danger, difficulty, and trauma. He told his disciples that he would lay down his life for his sheep. Indeed, this is exactly what he did. By laying down his life for our sins, he conquered death and raises us to eternal life with him. Let us allow the risen Lord to guide us to the idyllic pasture of salvation.

On Good Shepherd Sunday, we begin by hearing Peter insist that whatever good he has done is actually the saving work of Jesus Christ. It is by his death and resurrection that we can be healed, that we can be saved. Once rejected, Jesus has become the cornerstone. John asserts that we are all God's children. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, who will even lay down his life for his sheep. Let us listen to God's word, grateful that the cornerstone of our faith is our Good Shepherd.

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### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

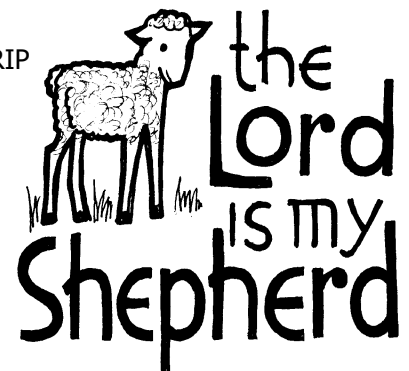
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
Sunday 21st April

#### The Fourth Sunday Of Easter

Monday 22nd April  
Tuesday 23rd April  
Wednesday 24th April  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

George  
Erkenwald  
Mark

6.30pm James & Cecilia Hourihane RIP  
8.30am Winnie McVeigh RIP  
11.30am The Tona & Taibi Families  
6.30pm People of the Parish  
10.00am The Simpson Family  
10.00am Brian Ward RIP  
10.00am Steve Tulk RIP  
10.00am Greta McGrath RIP  
10.00am Seamus Feeney – Int.  
6.30pm People of the Parish



### TODAY'S READINGS:

Acts 4:8-12  
Psalm 117  
1 John 3:1-2  
John 10:11-18

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 9:26-31  
Psalm 21  
1 John 3:18-24  
John 15:1-8

### 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, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood, Tina Figueria, Iris Waters, Vera Argue, Lesley Cartwright, Patsy Joseph, Val McGuinness, Mary Fitzgerald, Betty Bambury, Jean Pearce, Tom Barrett, Angelo Amorelli, Bertilla Cunningham, Terence Mbanga,

**For those who have died recently:** Paolino Tona, Giovanni Di Martino, Tarcisio Speroni,

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Brian Ward, Anna Cicero, James & Cecilia Hourihane, Steve Tulk,

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**Thank you for your last week's Offertory collection which came to £1,033.89; plus the Regular Standing Orders.**

### PRIEST TRAINING COLLECTION

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. 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 our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. 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 our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity. There will be a second collection after all the Masses this weekend.

### RCIA

The RCIA Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

### AFTERNOON TEA

The Monday Afternoon Tea will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at 2.00pm – 3.30pm.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

There will be a Finance Committee meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 8.15pm in the Presbytery.

#### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

#### **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

The next Baptism Preparation Course will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm in the Parish Centre. If you have an infant to be baptized in the near future please see Fr John.

#### **HAVE YOU SIGNED A GIFT AID FORM?**

We will soon be putting in a Gift Aid claim asking the Inland Revenue to give us the Tax that you have paid on your donations. If you have stopped paying tax please would you contact the Parish Office on 01992 623156 so that we don't ask for the tax if you haven't paid it.

#### **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**

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.

#### **APF RED BOX HOLDERS**

"In 2023 the people of the parish raised more than £2700 through their Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our community is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of Missionary Priests, like Fr Ignatius MHM who works with a rural community in Uganda, enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to work together to improve the lives of the whole community. Visit [Missio.org.uk](https://Missio.org.uk) to find out more."

#### **ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

#### **FREE LEGAL ADVICE**

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering free legal advice surgery. The surgery sessions are in the Parish Office, just ring the doorbell at the Presbytery. 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, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### **READERS ROTA**

The New Readers Rota is now available in the Sacristy and also on our Website.

#### **THE SANTA MARTA GROUP**

The Santa Marta Group was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, the Santa Marta Group will hold a meeting at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph 1, King Edward's Road, Ware, SG12 7EJ from 6.45pm – 9.30pm. Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All are welcome to come to learn more about the prevalence of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and the steps we can take to prevent it.

#### **THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

The Catholic Women's Association continues to meet every Wednesday evening at 7pm for prayers and doctrinal information, and every second Sunday of the month here in the Parish. A process which enables us to deepen our faith as lay evangelists. Our blessed lady being our leader and intercessor.

The members live by the motto: "To serve and not to be served and strive to be agents of transformation within the family, church and community". The CWA was founded in 1964 and has a membership of 7.5 thousand women all over the world. It is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women Organisation. (WUCWO).

Women aged 18 and over are welcome to join on their way through Mary to Jesus. They pray that the Lord, who calls and sends on mission bless their endeavours.

Please contact Mrs Adeline Mua on 07552312532 or Mrs Florence Ekiko, on 07542122713. for more information.

#### **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

All are invited to join the Diocese of Westminster's annual Lourdes Pilgrimage from 19<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve.

**All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April.**