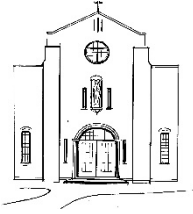
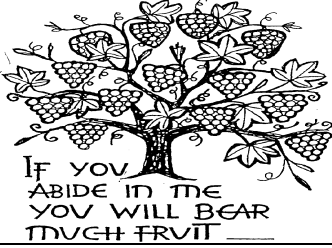


# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 28th April 2024



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## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the vine, you are the branches," we hear Jesus tell his disciples in today's Gospel. We are those branches now. Connected to the vine that is the Lord, we are expected to bear fruit. What fruit do we bear? Let us contemplate that question as we prepare to celebrate Mass today. May listening to God's word and sharing in the Eucharist nourish us as we strive to bear good fruit for the Lord.

In the first reading, we catch a glimpse of Saint Paul (still called Saul) at a unique time. Just recently converted, he is intent on speaking boldly in Jesus' name. John tells us that believing in Jesus' name and loving one another are the ways to remain in him. Finally, we hear Jesus ask his disciples to remain in him as branches remain on a vine. In doing so, he assures them, they will bear fruit abundantly. Let us hear how we can become such disciples ourselves.

*From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2023 World Library Publications*

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April		6.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 28th April	<b>The Fifth Sunday Of Easter</b>	8.30am Phil Maybury RIP 11.30am 6.30pm Agatha Miranda RIP
Monday 29th April	Catherine	10.00am Bridie Harrington RIP
Tuesday 30th April	Pius V	10.00am Seamus Feeney – Int.
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Joseph the Worker	10.00am Greta McGrath RIP
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Athanasius	10.00am Calogero Tona RIP 1.00pm Marueen Nwokeji RIP
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Philip & James	10.00am Cindy Pereira RIP
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May		6.30pm People of the Parish

### TODAY'S READINGS:

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

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 10:25-26  
Psalm 97  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17



### 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, Ann Spall,

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

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Agatha Miranda, Maureen Nwokeji,

### 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 £914.20; plus the Regular Standing Orders.**

### FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The Funeral for the late Tarcisio Speroni will be celebrated on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am.

The Funeral Mass for the late Paolino Tona will be celebrated on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 11.30am.

### PRIEST TRAINING COLLECTION

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The response of prayer for vocations, love and concern for the clergy, and for the current seminarians, was heart-warming. If you still wish to make your donation, you will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can use the QR code on the envelope or poster to make your donation online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) through the Diocesan website. The formation of priest is of top priority, it is our future. May God Bless you for your generosity.

### 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.

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

Confirmation Preparation will continue on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre for the Candidates, their parents and their Sponsors.

### **FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

The First Communion children and their parents will meet on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.00pm in the Church.

The First Communion Celebrations will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm & 3.00pm. Please keep the children, their families and Catechists in your prayers.

### **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.

### **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).

### **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.

### **ST ELIZABETH'S - MUCH HADHAM**

St Elizabeth's Centre in Much Hadham is a specialist school, FE college, and supported living facility. It exists to offer vulnerable people individually designed education, care and support services that maximise their opportunities to live life to the full. There is a short article giving more information on the Diocesan Website. To access the article, paste this link into your web browser: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/st-elizabeths-a-place-of-kindness-peace-and-support/>

### **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 (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](https://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including online session on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May to learn more.

### **EVANGELISATION AND FAITH – CAFOD PILGRIMAGE**

CAFOD is organising a pilgrimage for young adults aged between 18- 40 from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, in a special way 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, a distance of approximately 13.5 miles. For more information: [Young Adults Residential Pilgrimage \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://cafod.org.uk) Sign-up link: [Young Adults Pilgrimage July 24 - Formstack](https://cafod.org.uk)

### **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.**

***How connected are you to the vine? In other words, does your style of being a Christian involve you in constant contact with Christ the Vine, or do you have a separate life that you puncture from time to time with a nod in God's direction?***

***Jesus tells us that if we do not remain in him then our life will be fruitless.***

