

## 30 APR – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

**First reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41**

*God has made him both Lord and Christ.*

**Second reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25**

*You have come back to the shepherd of your souls.*

**Gospel: John 10:1-10**

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*



Jesus often illustrated his teaching by referring to shepherds and sheep. He sees himself as the Good Shepherd foretold by the prophets. Today's gospel considers the relationship between the Good Shepherd and the sheep. It is relevant to us. By faith we accept Jesus, our relationship is a deeply personal one. The bond of love uniting us is based on the love that unites the Father and Jesus.

In order to enter eternal life, we must listen to Jesus and obey him. We have to tune our minds to the sound of his voice. Self-centredness can make us deaf to the voice of Jesus. Easy options can draw us into easier paths than the one he has traced. Pressure to abandon Christian principles is inevitable. But God is faithful and will not let us be tempted beyond our strength.

All the baptized, particularly those who are confirmed, are bound to spread the faith. Our faith urges us to take personal part in the work of evangelisation. How many evils persist in our society just because good people say nothing and do nothing?

“Good Shepherd Sunday” is a good occasion for us to think and pray about how the Catholic Church will fare for priests in the future.

## ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Clergy: Fr. Joseph Kaduthanam CMI, Fr Joseph Chacko CMI,

Fr. Tebin Francis CMI

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

**SUNDAY, 30-Apr** Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm  
2.00pm First Holy Communion  
4.00pm – *Filipino Mass*

**MONDAY, 1-May** **St Joseph the Worker:**  
Mass: 9.30am

**TUESDAY, 2-May** **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor:**  
Mass: 9.30am & 6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY, 3-May** **SS PHILIP and JAMES Apostles:**  
Mass: 9.30am

**THURSDAY, 4-May** **THE ENGLISH MARTYRS:**  
Mass: 9.30am & 6.30pm

**FRIDAY, 5-May** Mass: 12.00noon & 6.30pm

**SATURDAY, 6-May** **ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin & Doctor**  
Mass: 9.30am  
2.00pm First Holy Communion  
6.30pm – *Sunday Vigil Mass*

**SUNDAY, 7-May** **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm & 7.30pm  
4.00pm – *Konkani Mass*

### **POPE'S INTENTION - APRIL 2023**

**For a culture of peace and non-violence:** We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

### **WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK**

Louis Gabriel, Domingo Fernandes and Catherine Stock that the Lord may lay His healing hands on them and bring them His peace.

### **WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF**

Mateus Victor Braganca who died on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 11am followed by a burial at Carpenders Park Cemetery. May his soul rest in peace.

### **WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF**

Bridget Ruane who died on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Her Requiem Mass will be at St George's RC church, Sudbury, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 10.45am followed by a cremation at Breakspear Crematorium Ruislip. May her soul rest in peace.

### **THE CORONATION OF THE KING CHARLES III**

The Bishops of England and Wales have asked each Catholic to pray for His Majesty and the Queen Consort from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. We pray that Almighty God will guide the King in his appointed tasks. Prayer cards are available at the porch. You are also invited to a special Mass for the Intentions of King Charles III on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, at 6.30pm.

To assist with these celebrations, and for those who wish to avail themselves of it, the Cardinal Vincent Nichols gives a dispensation from Friday abstinence on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

### **PRIEST TRAINING FUND**

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 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year 8 men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The 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.

### **DISCERNING A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD:**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The regular evening Mass will be at 6.00pm, followed by a gathering downstairs in the Social Centre for a short presentation and informal conversations and refreshments. Do come and join us if you can. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.

**MAY DEVOTIONS:** The Rosary will be recited, in the church, before the 9.30am Morning mass. You are also encouraged to recite the Rosary at home.

### **THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

The Catholic School going children are having their First Holy Communion on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm.**

The non-Catholic school-going children will have their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 2pm.**

### **HOUSE BLESSINGS**

If any parishioner would like to have their home blessed during the Easter Season - please give your name, address and telephone number, in writing, and drop through the Presbytery letterbox.

### **REPOSITORY**

A good selection of First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards, Prayer Books, Rosaries and gifts are available in our repository.

**FOCUS MAGAZINE:** The Easter Focus Magazine is available. Please take a copy as you leave the church.