

St. Raphael's Catholic Church, Yeading

St Raphael's House, Morrison Road, Yeading, UB4 9JP

Church is open Friday-Wednesday. Closed on Thursdays.

Masses: Weekday masses at 9:30. No mass on Thursday.
 Sunday masses: Sat 7pm, Sun 9am, 10:30am and 12 noon.
<https://churchservices.tv/yeading>

Confessions: before the Saturday 7pm mass .

Rosary: At 9am before the weekday masses.

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. John Welsh

Parish Administrator: Maria Gonsalves - mariagonsalves@rcdow.org.uk

Tel: 020 8845 1919 **Email:** yeading@rcdow.org.uk



21st April 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Peter announces an act of healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his kindness

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

God revealed his love for us by calling us children of God.

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who keeps watch over our lives. May I be ever attentive to your voice and submit fully to your wise rule for my life. Draw me near to you that I may always find peace and joy in your presence."

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death. In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and

his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds. The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity. As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus

on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father. In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Saint George - Feast Day April 23

George is thought to have been a soldier in the fourth century who courageously defended his faith and encouraged his fellow Christians. For this, he suffered martyrdom by beheading under Diocletian. He was a popular saint in the East. By the sixth century St. George had become an ideal Christian knight, and the legend of his slaying the dragon had become a familiar story. George's fame spread to Europe, where stained glass windows from the seventh and eighth centuries depicted this legend. The story tells of a dragon that terrorized the land and poisoned with its breath all who approached it. The dragon was fed sheep and then human beings chosen by lot. The day the king's daughter was to be served to the dragon, George came along. He slew the dragon and was offered anything he wanted for killing it. George refused any reward, but he made the king promise to build churches, honour priests, and show compassion to the poor. This act made George so popular that he came to reflect all the ideals of Christian chivalry. When the English king Richard I led his soldiers in the Crusades, he placed his army under George's protection. In one famous battle, the Christians were losing until, as the army leaders later insisted, St. George rode forward and led the troops to victory. From then on, George became the patron of England. King Edward III founded an order of knights under his patronage, and his feast was kept as a national festival. Although the stories of St. George may be untrue, no one can deny his real act of heroism: dying for Christ.

Parish and Sacramental Programme News

Parish News

Sacramental Programmes

Confirmation

Confirmation sessions commence every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.00pm from Wednesday 24th April.

First Holy Communion

First Communion preparation continues and children will celebrate their first reconciliation (confession) on Saturday 27th April.

Planned giving /Gift Aid & 100 Club envelopes

For those already signed up to envelopes, they are ready for collection in the back room of the presbytery after mass this weekend including new sign up for envelopes.

If you swapped from envelopes to standing order (and thank you for doing so) there is no need to collect your envelopes for this year, unless you wish to do both.

Second Collection

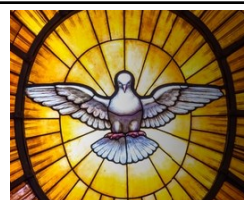
This weekend our second collection will be in support of the Priest Training Fund, which benefits the parishes and the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests. The formation of our priests is of top priority – it is our future.

The Priest Training Fund pays for the training and education of seminarian. Envelopes are at the back of church.

Cor et Lumen Christi - Be Filled with the Holy Spirit, 27th April 2024

DO YOU WANT TO...

- Have a personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit ?
- Have an experience of God's love, peace, forgiveness and saving grace in your life?
- Walk in Fellowship with the Holy Spirit, seeing healing and miracles?
- See the power of the Spirit manifest in your life?



Come to our BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT conference and experience the Lord in a more powerful and personal way! The Conference will also include praise and worship; Holy Mass and times of prayer, reflection and ministry. We look forward to seeing you all in person at this exciting event.

Watch promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRwMASbJHDY>

Registration required and costs £10 per person.

Saturday, 27 April 2024, 9:00am - 9:30pm - Salesian College Hall, Highfield Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT168BX

Lucky 100+
Draw
Winners

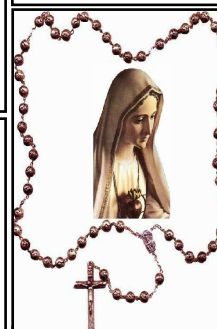


Mrs L Henry(100)



£884.13

May the Lord
reward your
generosity.



The Rosary is
recited every day
30mins
before daily Mass.

All are
welcome!

Repository

Now restocked with First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards & effects, please take time to browse. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the parish office, we may be able to order for you.



"The JOY of the Lord is our strength"
Nehemiah 8:10

Birmingham, 21-22 Sept. 2024

Celebrate UK

Celebrate' takes places 22-23 Sep in Birmingham. Some parishioners attend these events and have always enjoyed them. If you've never been – it's an event which is open to everyone in the family. It's a chance to be refreshed in the love and joy of the Lord. If you would like to join us as a group to attend this event – text Audrey on 07809 886962. Find out more at: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/joy>

Good Counsel Network

On **Saturday 27th April**, which is the 56th anniversary of abortion becoming legal in Britain, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Normally we would ask you to fast from all food except bread and water for the day, but as it is still the Easter Season, you might choose instead to fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

HACS FUNDRAISING PAMPER DAY - SATURDAY 4TH MAY 2024

The Pamper Day in aid of Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support on **Saturday 4th May** in the Parish Centre is almost fully booked but we have a few spaces left. Please call **Geraldine on 075 11 36 06 11**.

We will also have a qualified Nutritionist who is offering one-to-one consultations and also a group talk on 'Weight Loss'. Please use the Calendly links provided to book directly with the nutritionist, Laminn (see the online version of the newsletter for this or call Geraldine if you are unable to access online).

Weight Loss Group Workshop: <https://calendly.com/intrasymphony/hacs-pamper-nutrition-group?month=2024-5>

One-to-one consultations: <https://calendly.com/intrasymphony/hacs-pamper-nutrition-one2one>

If you are a qualified and insured therapist who can offer facials, or manicures/pedicures, please get in touch. Please call Geraldine on the above number.

Welcome to our parish, whether you are a visitor, a new member, or an established member of our faith community, we hope that you will experience a warm welcome and a true feeling of community. Thank you for joining us in today's liturgy.