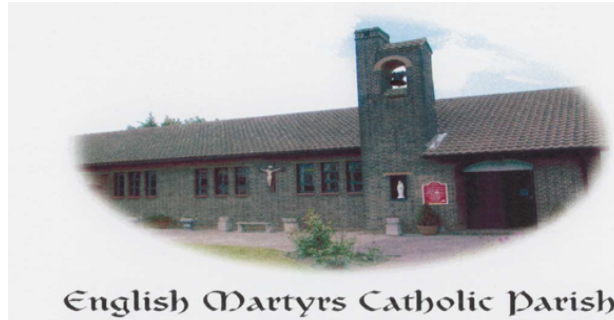


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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2021

Jesus our Good Shepherd

Today's readings crackle with the Apostles' excitement over the new understandings they were experiencing after the Resurrection and with their work of creating a new way of life, a community of the resurrected Christ – living and life-giving. In the light of Resurrection, Jesus' words in the gospel, spoken before the Passion, take on new meaning.

The First Reading is part of a lengthy story that began with Peter healing a crippled man near the Jerusalem Temple and then addressing the people who stood around him. Amazed at what he had done. As the crowds continued to grow, Peter and John were arrested and his accusers demanded to know by whose authority they did such a thing. Peter is answering that question in today's first Reading. His sense of urgency and conviction ring out as he testifies that "there is no salvation through anyone else". He is, after all, filled with the Holy Spirit".

Likewise, in the Second Readings we can hear a deep sense of community identity. Thanks to the loving gift of the father, which is his Son, we have become "children of God" both now and in the future, when God (or Christ) is fully revealed and we become like him.

In today's Gospel, John uses the image of the Good Shepherd to explain what it means to be a faith community. It is about our shared trust in Christ who put his life on the line to take care of his flock and keep them secure. It is about a flock that can be open and welcoming to others without fear for its safety, because the one who laid down his life for them has taken it up again as the Father commanded.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 25th April 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 25 th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter (B) (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)
Thursday 29 th April	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor – European Feast
Saturday 1 st May	(Day of Prayer for Human Work)
Sunday 2 nd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

Sunday Masses In Church

Sunday 18 th April	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 25 th April	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)

Second Collection – Promotion of Vocations

Today's 2nd collection is for the promoting of vocations to the priesthood.

Parish Notice Board

English Martyrs Donations/Financial Support for your Parish

We wish to thank those who have been most generous in your contributions to the parish finance. Those who have not yet thought about giving, you have the option of either donating on line, information below or simply pop your envelope through the Presbytery letterbox.

For those who wish to pay direct from your bank account to the Parish funds, you can now use the following details in future:

HSBC UK

Account No. 11019198
Sorting Code 40 13 22

Many thanks

Parish Finance

Sunday 11th April 2019 Gift Aid £67.00 Loose Plate £65.00 Total - £132.00
Mission Appeal - £52

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish: David Calder, Kathleen Clifford, Evelyn Golding, Anna Heneghan, Paul Hogan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Don Muscat, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright. Rose Yates in Emerson Court.

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 25 th April	10.00 am	The Driver Family – <i>RIP</i> (donor – Jim & Liz Manning)
Monday 26 th April	10.00 am	Ann O'Sullivan – <i>RIP</i> (donor – Jim & Liz Manning)
Tuesday 27 th April	10.00 am	Patrick Fowley – <i>RIP/Bday</i> (donor – Bridget Fowley)
Wednesday 28 th April	10.00 am	Patricia Boyd – <i>RIP</i> (donor – Greta Street)
Thursday 29 th April	10.00 am	Fiona Wallwood – Good Health

Friday 30 th April	10.00 am	(donor – Greta Street) Christine Norley – RIP (Bridget Fowley)
Saturday 1 st May	10.00 am	Margaret O’Leary – RIP (donor – May Shanahan)
Sunday 2 nd May	10.00 am	Margaret Lombard and the deceased Members of the family (donor – Greta Street)

Communication Desk

Good Shepherd Sunday

This Sunday is the Good Shepherd Sunday, or the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The second collection supports the education and formation of our seminarians. We have nine seminarians in formation for our diocese at this time. At the Beda in Rome we have the Rev. Deacon Tony Grant who is to be ordained a priest in the summer. At Oscott College in Birmingham we have the Rev. Deacon Michael Barwick who is to be ordained in the summer also. Also at Oscott is Alexander Johnson, Jonathan Burden, Frank Westcott and Alex Wyndham. At Allen Hall in Westminster we have Damien Wade who is to be ordained deacon this year and also at Allen Hall are Matúš Meleg and Moses Itene, please pray for them all today and in the future.

Today you will be given a prayer card to help you pray for vocations and there will be an opportunity to have a mass said for vocations if you would like to. If you would like to have a mass said for vocations then please take an envelope and indicate how many masses you would like to be said, write your name as the donor and specify any special date you would prefer and give it to your parish priest.

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church focuses our attention on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the most beloved images of Our Lord in the New Testament. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he lays down his life for his sheep; Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he knows each of his sheep by name. And those who belong to his flock hear his voice and follow him.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday the Church summons us to pray that the Good Shepherd will send others to pastor and watch over his flock. And so today is a day of prayer for vocations: vocations to the priesthood and vocations to religious life. On this day, the Church invites us to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will call young men and women to dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel as priests and religious.

Do you know a young man who might be a good priest? If so, invite him to consider exploring the possibility of becoming a priest? It is not that young people are uninterested in dedicating their lives to God. I have met many who are. But they have never been invited to consider the possibility of doing so. But what if you reached out to them and suggested the possibility? What if you planted the seed that might lead to a vocation to priesthood or religious life?

If you are a young person reading this, ask yourself what you want to do with the precious gift of life that God has given you. How do you want to live the rest of your life? What is really and truly important to you? Do you have a deep love for Christ and the Church? Do you have a passion to proclaim the good news of the gospel to others? Are you interested in a life of serving others for the sake of the gospel? If so, being a priest or a religious sister may be a way in which you can fulfil your deepest desires. For when all is said and done, our deepest desire is for God, and it is only when we satisfy this desire that we will be truly fulfilled.

On the Good Shepherd Sunday, pray for the priest and religious who have served you throughout your life. Encourage your children and grandchildren and other young people to consider if God is calling them to a life of priestly or religious service. Pray that God will

give the Church faithful priests and religious who will give of themselves generously and tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel.

Pope Francis And The Culture Of Encounter:

On Saturday 15th May from 11 am until 12.30 pm Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live stream study day on the theme 'The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis' vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?' Dr Ivereigh will explore the importance of the Abu Dhabi declaration, the Amazon Synod, the recent encyclical on fraternity *Fratelli Tutti*, and the March 2021 visit of Pope Francis to Iraq. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions found there.

Liturgy Of The Word

Apps to access readings for Mass: Daily Readings for Catholics, and Laudate. You can also access the readings by going to the website www.universalis.com

Annual Migrants Mass

In the Year of St Joseph, and in honour of St Joseph the Worker, the London dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood will celebrate the 16th Annual Mass for Migrants on Saturday 1st May 2021 at 11.20am. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan and live-streamed from St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Forest Hill. Although we cannot welcome the faithful in person this year, this lively online service will still celebrate of the significant contribution made by migrants to life of our dioceses. Livestream the Mass at: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/migrants-mass>

Reading The Acts Of The Apostles

One of the features of the Easter season is our daily reading of the Acts of the Apostles. Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared two audio talks on this interesting book. They can be accessed at any time free of charge by simply going to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org It is hoped they will be a useful accompaniment to our daily reading from Acts.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

BCCS have several charity places for the Virtual London Marathon taking place over 24 hours on 3rd October 2021. This can be run anywhere and on completion, runners will receive the official London Marathon Finisher's medal and New Balance T shirt. They will also have access to the London Marathon App allowing them to plot their run on the official London Marathon course. If you would like one of our places and think you could raise a fundraising total of £300, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk for registration details.

Calais Light

Hear the first hand story of a refugee who became a Harvard graduate: Calais Light's first online Zoom event features Celebrity Refugee author, Dina Nayeri, reading live from her award-winning book: *The Ungrateful Refugee - What Immigrants Never Tell You*. Dina escaped to the US from Iran at 8yrs old with her Mum, & won a Masters from Harvard. Register now for 22 April at 6.30 for exclusive reading & Q&A at: <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/calais-light> and find more info on the website: <https://www.calaislight.com/>

USEFUL WEBSITES

For those who have access to a computer, you may find the following websites of help in keeping up to date with developments:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net>

<http://walsingham.org.uk> (For Live stream masses)

Vacancy at Sir William Petre Almshouses, Ingatestone

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property. Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. Applicants please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388.

Parish Priest : Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator : Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (11am-2pm) (07956 473389)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative : Katie Nash (07825293308)
Finance & Maintenance : Mr Graham Daniels (01708 452406)
Parish Gift Aid Organiser : Dr Steve Pinder (01708 445443)
Hall & Lounge Bookings : English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)

The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)

Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ

Parish tel no: 01708 507020

Parish email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish website: <http://englishmartyrshx.weebly.com/>

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409