



## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



### **18.04.2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday - World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Christ, the Good Shepherd, went before us through suffering and death, so that we could follow in safety and be with him in his heavenly kingdom. Of all the images we have of Jesus, one of the loveliest is that of the Good Shepherd. It was Jesus himself who used it. How well do we trust and how closely do we follow the Good Shepherd?

#### **Masses & Intentions**

Saturday 24	<b>Vigil – Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
5.30pm	Jonathan Ravenscroft RIP
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter (Vocations Sunday)</b>
10.00am	People of the Parish
Monday 26	Easter Feria
9.15am	Timothy & Trever Clark RIP
Tuesday 27	Easter Feria
9.15am	Sr. Sharon Peters pcj & Family
Wednesday 28	Easter Feria
7.00pm	Douglas Bell
Thursday 29	<b>Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, v. D. Poffe</b>
9.15am	Anita Bassett
Friday 30	Easter Feria
15am	The Brash Family Intentions
Saturday 01	Easter Feria
5.30pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 02</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
10.00am	Maurice Griffin RIP (Anniversary)



In each year of the Liturgical Cycle on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Gospel is always taken from the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of John where Jesus speaks of himself as the "Good Shepherd". Hence it is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday.

In 1964, Pope St. Paul VI established a World Day of Prayer for Vocations to coincide with Good Shepherd Sunday. For this reason, in the Catholic Church it is also known as Vocations Sunday. Please pray for vocations to Priesthood, Religious and Married Life.

**Weekday Masses:** We have resumed our weekday Masses. If you are feeling safe and comfortable to come back to church for Mass, you are welcome. **Please remember to sanitise your hands as you enter and exit the church, wear face masks and observe social distancing. For practical need, please occupy the seats at the front. If you could help cleaning your places, it will be much appreciated.**

**First Holy Communion Classes:** Lessons for the children attending non-Catholic schools have commenced. This week the children will be making their First Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation). Please pray for them. They will make their First Holy Communion on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

Children from our Primary School, St. Mary's will make their First Holy Communion separately on Sunday July 11 in our church. This arrangement is made to keep in line with Covid restrictions. Please pray for the children and their families.

**RIP:** Please pray for Fr John Kearns CP and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

**Telephone support:** Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email ([shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com](mailto:shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com)) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

**Weekly Rosary:** On Thursdays at 7.30pm Shirley Rush is organising Rosary via zoom. All are welcome.

You can use the same link each week to join which is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9792463880?pwd=UUFGSWJCOHdnQ01sRDFVY1dMR01TZz09>

**The Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18):** Each year on this 4th Sunday of Easter there is a reading from John about the Good Shepherd. To think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky and often dangerous ground, amid boulders and cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed to be on the alert to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our stubbornness, our mistakes and our fears. Again, as in this Sunday's other two readings, there is the reassurance of a close relationship with the Father. Jesus knows us intimately, just as he knows the Father. It is questionable whether in real life a shepherd should lay down his life for his sheep. What would happen to the remainder of the flock? But it is an expression of Jesus' whole-hearted devotion to the flock that he shepherds.

**What is a shepherd's job with the sheep? How can Jesus act as your shepherd? Who do you think of as shepherds in your life? What do you value most in those who guide you?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

#### **Pope's Prayer Intention for April**

**Fundamental Rights:** We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

**Vocations Sunday:** This Sunday is Vocations Sunday. There is a retiring collection for the **Clergy Training Fund**.

**May Rosary Mission 2021:** The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham is about to launch their May 2021 Rosary Mission with the theme: **Rosary Stronghold with the Holy Family - Protecting our Families and the Family of Nations.** The peoples of the Dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland are welcomed and encouraged to pray the Rosary for the following intentions:

1. Protecting our families and the family of nations, especially in this Year of St Joseph
2. A deepening of faith, hope and love and the protection of life
3. Peace in the world
4. Deliverance from Coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.

Let us take part in this Rosary Mission in the light of the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary, which took place on March 29th 2020 amidst the terrifying beginnings of the Corona Virus pandemic. Let us renew the Dedication again each time we host a Mission in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary and extend the call for Our Lady's Protection and Queenship over the entire world.

Each night at 8pm there will be the foundational Rosary – to Jesus through Mary led from a different Parish/Shrine. This will lead into three important National Days of Prayer:

1. Monday May 24th – Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church the Shrine invites a Rosary Day of Prayer to pray for our young people – to pray and intercede for the Mission and Intentions of our Schools, Youth Associations/Groups/Projects, our Young People and for Families.
2. Sunday May 30th – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity the Shrine will host a National Rosary Relay Rally throughout the Dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland. **The designated Rosary Hour for the Archdiocese of Birmingham for the National Rosary Relay Rally on this day is from 10am to 11am.**
3. Monday May 31st – Feast of the Visitation – Bishop John Keenan will host a Crowning Rosary online at 8pm, in thanksgiving for the graces received from the Lord Jesus through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary during the May 2021 Rosary Mission.

**International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians:** Our Archdiocese will be celebrating the **International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians on 8th/9th May.** It offers Western Christians a moment to remember and give thanks for all we owe to the Eastern Churches, not least the first preaching of the Gospel, the monastic tradition, the different liturgical traditions and the witness of the Eastern Christians down the centuries, which has been, and still is, an inspiration to our Faith.

Now, already an oppressed minority group in the Middle East, Eastern Christians face the added crisis of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

There will be a voluntary second collection in our parish for the work of the Catholic charity, **Fellowship and Aid to Christians of the East (FACE)**, which devotes itself exclusively to supporting Eastern Christians in the Middle East by offering grant aid to projects in education, healthcare and pastoral care which are organised under the patronage of Eastern Catholic Churches.

Following Pope Francis' recent apostolic visit to Iraq, our Archdiocese, in partnership with FACE, has started an educational exchange project between schools in the Archdiocese and the Immaculate Conception School in Beirut, Lebanon.

You will also find news stories for example on the Immaculate Conception School, Beirut Project, on the Archdiocesan website: [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/face](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/face)

Further information is available at <https://facecharity.org>

**Pope Francis and the Culture of Encounter, 15 May 2021:**

On Saturday 15 May from 11am until 12.30pm 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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and follow the instructions found there.

**Regina Caeli:** Please be reminded that from Easter to Pentecost 'The Regina Caeli' is said in place of the Angelus.

**The Regina Caeli**

O Queen of heaven, rejoice! **Alleluia.**

For he whom you did merit to bear, **alleluia.**

Has risen as he said, **alleluia.**

Pray for us to God, **alleluia.**

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, **alleluia.**

**R. For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.**

Let us pray

**O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR RENEWAL IN OUR PARISH**

**Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come:  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayer for Vocations**

God our Father,  
you call each of us to follow Jesus, your Son,  
on the path he has marked out for us -  
the way of charity, service and fulfilment.

May the homes and parishes  
of the Archdiocese of Birmingham  
be blessed with ever-renewed dedication  
to the work of building up your kingdom here on earth.

May those whom you call  
to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life  
faithfully give themselves  
to the service of your Church.

Prompted and strengthened by your Holy Spirit,  
may I respond generously to the call  
to follow you each day and live out my vocation,  
to give you glory, for the good of those around me  
and for my own happiness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.