
 <b>4th Sunday of Easter (A)</b> <b>Mass Times and Intentions</b> <b>Divine Office – Psalter Week 3</b> 		
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Ken Fidler
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	James and Frank Ross
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>6.30pm</b>	John Roscoe
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10.15am 12.00pm	Requiem Mass – Ann Dance Requiem Mass - John and Elizabeth Hopkins
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	11.00am	Nell Taylor

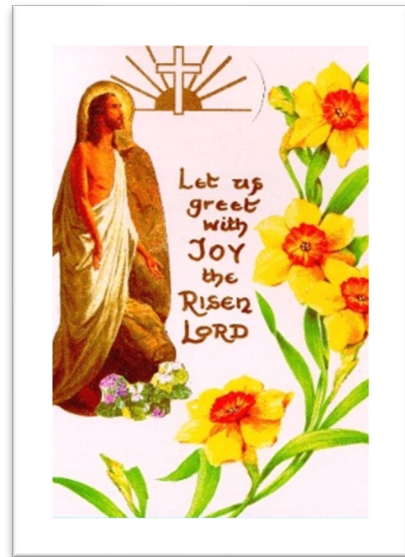


**The Roman Catholic Parish of**  
**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
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## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (A)

### 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026



The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. St. Peter, now emboldened by the Holy Spirit and renewed by the forgiveness of Christ, stands before a crowd and explains the meaning of what they have done in crucifying their Messiah and what must now be done to gain forgiveness. That basic truth has not changed – even in our modern “tech” age: Forgiveness is available “to all those whom-ever the Lord our God will call.” Are you being called?

The Responsorial Psalm is the familiar Psalm that we call The Lord is My Shepherd from its opening line. Jesus leads us rather than forces us, and He will lead us if we follow His voice as He tells us in the Gospel Reading.

The Second Reading is from the First Letter of St. Peter. This passage might be a confirmation of my explanation of the use of the 23rd Psalm above. Jesus was divinely patient when suffering for the love of all people to be the instrument of salvation.

This was His purpose and mission; and He fulfilled it in the manner He would like us to do when we are hit with suffering of any kind because, when we offer our sufferings to God in the form of patience, it is accepted as grace.

The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John. Here we have another strange reading within the Easter Time but it follows along with the theme of the 23rd Psalm. Jesus is telling us that He is the sheep-gate and if we are to enter heaven, we must enter through Him. Shepherds of that time period would corral their sheep at night for protection and they would station themselves in the gateway to prevent wolves or thieves from entering. Thus, the shepherd would put himself at risk to protect his sheep. This is an act of love of the highest kind. We are being asked to look upon Jesus as our Divine Shepherd and to follow Him is to be led to eternal life.

<b>Sunday Liturgy</b>		
<b>Proper of the Mass</b>		<b>p. 262</b>
Profession of Faith	Apostles'	p. 12
Preface	Easter III	p. 74
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 25

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for April



**For priests in crisis.** Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

**April** is the month of the Holy Spirit. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)



## Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

### Parish Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Parishioners at 7.00pm this Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Parish Hall. During this meeting we will give an update on recent developments and how these might affect the parish, and hopefully plan some future initiatives. Please do make every effort to attend and support this wonderful parish.

### Vocations Sunday

Next Sunday we are to reflect on the Christian vocation we have each received in baptism. In the Gospel reading at Mass, Christ presents himself as the Good Shepherd and the Gate of the Sheepfold. We are especially asked to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life, which are needed and valued in the Church today more than ever. Young people should be encouraged to consider these vocations along with other life choices.

The retiring collection at the end of Mass this weekend will be for the Priests Training Fund.

### Bereavement Group

The next meeting of the Bereavement Group is at 2.00pm this coming Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, in the Parish Hall.

### Annual Pentecost Celebrations

As the Feast of Pentecost approaches and we remember the moment when the early Christians were flooded with the Holy Spirit and carried the Gospel out into the crowds, Christians across the Archdiocese region are preparing to come together in celebration at this year's Two Cathedrals Pentecost Walk. Inspired by Pope John Paul II's journey down Hope Street in 1982, the Two Cathedrals Pentecost Walk is denominations to come together in celebration.

The Two Cathedrals Walk will take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. All are warmly welcome to join us in gathering at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King for a walk down Hope Street to Liverpool Cathedral in a time of celebration.

### Whiston Hospital

If you or a loved one are unfortunate enough to have to be admitted to Whiston Hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit from the Chaplaincy team, please phone the Chaplaincy Office on 0151 430 1979. Data protection rules mean that the Chaplaincy team are not allowed to ask if there are any Catholic patients who would like a visit.

### Liverpool Bach Collective

The next event takes place at The Church of At Agnes and St Pancras, Ullet Road, Liverpool, , L17 3BA, at 6.30pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. It Features Cantata No. 104, "O Shepherd of Israel Hear Us", reflecting the Gospel passage in which Christ reveals that he is the Good Shepherd.

## Feast Days This Week

### Monday

**St Maughold** – The patron saint of the Isle of Man. Little is known about him beyond a legend which makes him a prince who was a pirate in Ireland. He was converted to Christianity and baptised by St Patrick and as a penance for his misdeeds told to put to sea in a coracle without oars. He landed on the Isle of Man at the headland known today by his name. He entered into a cave in the mountains and lived a life of austerity and piety. After suitable reparation, he was chosen by the local people as their bishop. He died in the year 488..

### Tuesday

**St Peter Chanel** – He was born in the town of Cuët in the Ain department of France in the year 1803. He entered the ranks of the clergy and for a few years ministered as a priest. He then entered the Maris Society and went to Oceania to preach the Gospel. In spite of many difficulties he did manage to convert a number of people to the true faith. In hatred of the faith he was clubbed to death on the island of Futuna in the year 1841, becoming the protomartyr of Oceania.

**St Louis Marie de Montfort** – He was born to a poor family at Montfort, France, in 1673. He was ordained in 1700 after great hardships, and after Pope Clement XI appointed him missionary apostolic he began to preach in Brittany with great success. He had a particular devotion to Our Lady and of helping the poor. He founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Wisdom and wrote "The True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin". He died in 1716.

### Wednesday

**St Catherine of Siena** – She was born in Siena, Tuscany, in 1347, the 25<sup>th</sup> child of a wool dyer. Catherine Benincasa received the habit of the Third Order of St Dominic at the age of sixteen, continuing to live at home. Her sanctity attracted a number of followers – the *Caterinati* – of who she was a sort of leader. She became known for her work among the poor of Siena and the successful conversion of hardened sinners. At heart she had a special care for the unity and welfare of the Church. She was instrumental in persuading Pope Gregory IX to abandon Avignon and return to Rome. She tried to heal the great schism of the West, rallying all Italy around Pope Urban VI. She has left over four hundred letters and a *dialogue*, which is one of the most remarkable mystical works of all time. She was canonised in 1461 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. She is co-patroness of Europe.

### Thursday

**Pope St Pius V** – He was born near Alessandria in Italy in the year 1504. He entered the Dominican Order and taught theology. After being made a bishop and a cardinal, he became Pope in 1566, retaining the white habit that became standard papal dress. He vigorously carried out the reform of the Church which was begun by the Council of Trent, actively promoting the spread of the faith and restoring the sacred liturgy. He died on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1572.

### Friday

**St Joseph the Worker** - We know no words of his, but God gave him great responsibility as the foster father of the Child Jesus. He accepted with great faith, and in the Scriptures he is described as a just man. In this feast we also acknowledge the fruits of human labour – St Joseph earned his living through his work as a carpenter. He is Patron of the Universal Church and the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

### Saturday

**St Athanasius** – He was born in Alexandria in the year 295 of Christian parents. After spending some time in the desert with St Anthony, he accompanied his bishop, Alexander, to the Council of Nicaea and later he himself succeeded as bishop and Patriarch. He fought ceaselessly against the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ, and as a result he had to endure much tribulation and was exiled several times. He wrote outstandingly to illustrate and defend true doctrine, and was the greatest champion of the Catholic belief in the Incarnation