

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



21 APRIL 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOOD SHEPHERD

The image of Christ as our Good Shepherd has always appealed to human nature. One of the earliest paintings of Christ in the Roman catacombs represents him carrying an injured sheep on his shoulders. This is a manifestation of love that touches our innermost feelings. We do not mind being likened to sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep and, at the same time, a lot of foolishness. Does not this describe the vast majority of people, even many of those who openly oppose Christ? Is there not something very sheeplike about the person who, because God gave them a limited intellect, thinks they know all things and needs no further help from God? The sheep who thinks it knows as much, and even more, than the shepherd and sets out to fend for itself is no more foolish than the person who thinks they can do without God's revelation and God's Church.

Indeed, we all act like sheep on many occasions when it comes to the things that concern our spiritual welfare. We often ramble off from the flock to nibble at little bits of forbidden pasture. However, we have a shepherd who understands us, one whose patience and love are infinite. He is always ready to go after us when we stray too far; his voice is constantly reaching out to us in missions, retreats, sicknesses, crosses and other various ways. How many times have we already felt his loving grace calling and helping us back to the safety of his fold? Hundreds or thousands of times, I'm sure.



There are many who are not as fortunate as we are, who either, through no fault of their own or through their own fault, do not hear his voice and do not know or follow him. This is an opportunity he gives us to show how we appreciate all he has done for us. He died on the cross for all. He wills all his children to profit from his death, and his statement, "*Them also I must bring*", is a direct appeal to us to cooperate with him in this work. Every Christian is a missionary. The very fact of living the Christian life in its entirety, in the midst of our fellowmen, is of itself a powerful example to outsiders. It influences for good the lax Christian and the non-Christian. It makes them stop and think and look into their consciences. This is generally the first step on the road back to God.

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Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 21 April - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00am
11.00am

Tuesday 23 April - ST. GEORGE, MARTYR

10.00am

Wednesday 24 April - FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

10.00am

The Rosary will be said before Mass.

Thursday 25 April - ST. MARK EVANGELIST

10.00am

Friday 26 April - FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

10.00am

Mass is followed by Adoration.

Saturday 27 April - FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

10.00am

Sunday 28 April - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00am
11.00am

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Administrator: Peter Murdock-Saint

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers: Dee and Edward
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth

Our Lady Immaculate

Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 32: 5-6

*The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.*

Gospel Acclamation - Jn10:14

*Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd,
says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my
own know me. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon

*The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down
his life for his sheep and willingly died for his
flock, alleluia*

GOOD SHEPHERD (CONTINUED) The devout Christian will not stop at good example only. If they truly love God, they must truly love their neighbour and must want them to have a share in their own good fortune. They know there is welcome and room in heaven for all, and they know that the greater the number there, the greater will be God's eternal glory. They will strive then, by every available means, to help their neighbour into Christ's fold.

After a good example, prayer will be their most potent weapon. Day in, day out, the devout Christian must pray for the conversion of their neighbours who are wandering aimlessly in the barren desert of this life far from God. They must also learn all they can about the truths of faith in order to be able to help honest enquirers. They must also cooperate with any parochial or diocesan societies for the propagation of the faith, insofar as their family and financial state allow them.

The sermon preached by our saviour nearly two thousand years ago is still echoing and re-echoing around the world, calling on his faithful flock to do all in their power to help those other children of God who are still outside the fold. Do not shut your ears to this call of Christ today. Give him a helping hand by helping your neighbours to see the light.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY. This is for the Clergy Training Fund. Thank you for your support.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

EASTER COLLECTION. If you would like to give a gift to support Fr. Leslie in his mission and ministry this Easter, you can click on the button on our website. This will direct you to a secure online giving site. Please feel free to donate in your usual way if you wish. Thank you.

LENTEN FOOD APPEAL. Thank you very much to all of the parishioners who were able to contribute to the lenten food bank collection. There was a wonderful selection of cupboard items, together with some treats and toiletries. These will all be very gratefully received by local families in need.

TRAINING DAYS. For Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Saturday 4 May. For readers: Saturday 19 October. Both days will run from 9.30am to 2.30pm, at St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke. There will be light refreshments. Email: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

YOUR FUNERAL AND YOUR FAMILY. We understand this is not an easy topic to discuss with your family, but we would suggest you make your wishes very clear when planning your funeral. Let your family know that when you die you would like the Catholic Rites of a Requiem Mass to be offered for you.

Sadly, we are finding that the faith of Mass-going Catholics is not always being respected by their families, who do not see the need. The parish is here to help them so do let them know our contact details.

THE ROSARY is said every Wednesday at 9.30am before Mass at 10.00am. Please do feel free to join us if you can.

VOLUNTEERING. If you could spare a few hours a month to help us, please speak to Fr. Leslie.

GETTING MARRIED? Congratulations! Please note that you need to give 12 months' notice. Please speak to Fr. Leslie.

RED BOX 2023. In 2023, our parish raised £1,348.23 through Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here at Our Lady Immaculate is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of missionary priests, like Father Ignatius MHM, working with a rural community in Uganda enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to work together to improve the lives of the whole community. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more.

ORGANIST. If you or someone you know could help enhance our worship by playing the organ at Mass, please speak to Fr. Leslie.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL. *For the role of women.* We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound of our parish: *Mairead Holbrook, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Win Sheridan.*

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES. The Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from Monday 22 July until Friday 26 July departing from Gatwick Airport to Toulouse and then by coach transfer to Lourdes and staying at Hotel La Solitude. Find out more by emailing lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT. Sunday 28 April at 3.00pm in St. Saviour's Church, Colemore Road. Live music from the full ensemble of Hyde Brass Band. Tickets are £12.00. Visit the website <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peters-community-choir> or pay £15.00 on the door. Your ticket includes a cream tea.

THANK YOU for your continued generosity.

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

One who lays down his life for his sheep

Jesus said: *'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.'*

'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.'

'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

CONFESSIONS will take place after Mass or by appointment. Please speak to Fr. Leslie or email him at ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. His telephone number is 01202 764027.

MARRIAGE CARE VACANCY. Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation providing a marriage preparation and relationship counselling service. It is looking for trustees to strengthen its board and to help it continue to provide vital relationship support services to the Catholic community and beyond. Visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LITURGY. Free resources to help your child grow in faith can be found on the following websites:

- www.casportsmouth.org.uk/daily-worship
- www.cafod.org.uk/education/children-s-liturgy



REGINA CAELI. During the Easter season, the words of the hymn "Regina Caeli" ("Queen of Heaven") are substituted for the Angelus prayer before Mass:

Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

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

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

While the authorship of the Regina Caeli is unknown, the hymn has been traced back to the twelfth century. It was in Franciscan use, after Compline, in the first half of the following century. There is a legend that says St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) heard the first three lines chanted by angels on a certain Easter morning in Rome while he walked barefoot in a great religious procession and that the saint thereupon added the fourth line: "Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia."

Love your priests

According to recent studies, a great number of priests quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they no longer believe in the calling God has placed in their lives. They don't quit because of financial reasons.

Priests quit because they are overwhelmed by mental exhaustion.

Until you're a priest, you never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of the night praying for your family of faith, awakened in the night because of someone in need, or your heart being overwhelmed with a person's absence or distance.

A priest's mind is continuously occupied with the presentation of the Sunday message. How to preach it? What to teach? How do we apply it?

Priests are criticised on a continual basis. They are told to do better or that the church building needs to be better.

Priests invest their whole lives in people, and yet people will turn their backs on their priest at the first sign of a storm, usually without even a conversation first. Priests stand in the middle of disputes; they stand in the middle of gossip. They counsel broken marriages and comfort those who've suffered loss.

Priests navigate the waters of imperfect people, desperate to see each one thrive in their faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your priest craves the very best for you. They do all this while trying to battle their own faith and grow in their own faith with God.

Priests see the posts, hear the whispers and endure



the negativity.

Priests are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves. Priests pour out and pour out, rarely being poured into.

What keeps a priest going? YOU!

You - the person who is genuinely hungry.

You - the person who worships with passion and freedom.

You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus.

You - the single mum who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ.

You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you are searching for peace, hope and community.

Please pray for your priest.

Serve your priest.

Talk with your priest.

Encourage your priest.

Your priest is human.

They need you more than you think.