

CATHOLIC LOUTH AND MABLETHORPE

S. Mary's Church

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S. Joseph's Church

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Fourth Week of Eastertide

Year B, Psalter Week IV
(21st to 27th April 2024)

MASS TIMINGS AND INTENTIONS

Sun the 21st **IV SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9.00 *The work of CAFOD*

S. Mary's

11.30 *Priest's intention*

S. Joseph's

Mon the 22nd **Easter Feria**

Tue the 23rd **S. GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND**

10.00 *The People of England*

S. Joseph's

18.00 *Scripture Studies*

S. Mary's

Wed the 24th **S. Fidelis of Sigmaringen**

10.00 *Private Intentions (multiple)*

S. Mary's

Thu the 25th **S. Mark the Evangelist**

10.00 *Coptic Christians*

S. Joseph's

Fri the 26th **Easter Feria**

15.00 *Divine Mercy chaplet*

S. Mary's

Sat the 27th **Easter Feria**

10.00 *In honour of the Blessed Virgin*

S. Mary's

10.45 *Holy Hour of Adoration w/ the*

S. Mary's

Holy Rosary, Confessions

S. Mary's

18.15 *Peace in the Holy Land*

Sun the 28th **V SUNDAY OF EASTER -**

9.00 *Private Intentions (multiple)*

S. Mary's

11.30 *The People*

S. Joseph's

NOTICES

- Today is **Good Shepherd Sunday, or Vocations Sunday**. Please pray for all our priests and religious and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- The Second Collection:** Today, Sunday 21st April will go towards the Clergy Formation Fund.
- Learn how to have a meaningful and productive conversation on abortion at the **Rethink Abortion Interactive Training Day**, Saturday 11th May at Trinity School, Aspley (NG8 3EP), 10.00 to 16.30, £25 per person, inc. sandwich lunch and drinks.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Those who are ill

S. Mary's: Kerry Ashby, Patricia Kerr, Peter Endean, Lea Small, Elizabeth Melling, Shirley Kirkham, Paddy Shillington, Margaret & Robert Gwynne, Kevin Keeley, Mary Norburn, Judith Brook, Sally Shillington, Catherine Keeley, Pam Stephens, Diane Benton, Patricia & Spencer Harvey.

S. Joseph's: Larry Walsh, Joseph Wilson, Laura Guest, Odessa Louise-Therese, John Thompson, Shaun Hewson, Winnie Copp, Owen Jenkinson, Thecla Domici.

Those who have died recently (++)

Fr. Anthony Dolan, Fr. John Daley IC;
S. Mary's: Jim Ellison, Thomas Gallagher, Rev Dom Adrian Convery OSB, Stephen Curley, Richard Crean, Roger Norburn, Ann Selby, Anthony Stanford Taylor, Fredrick Weir, Michael Leary, Roger Dygas. **S. Joseph's:** John Gallagher, Margaret Mountain, Madeleine Ovens, William Smith, Irene Bray, Joan Gowling, Patrick Geoghegan.

Those with anniversaries this week (++)

Florence Emily Cummings, Leo Page, Anna Reges, John Ansbro, Mary Ridgley, Annie Scott, Phillip Swaby, Gertrude Cummings, Christopher Biggs, Nora Teresa Simpson, Irene Catherine Bridget Bruce, Thomas Welch, Martin Kavanagh, Frances Louise Sowter, Edward Carter, Audrey Shaw, Sylvia Mary Lasys, Jacob Rose, Bridget Foy, Charles Smith, John Doyle.

- The **Criminal Justice Bill** will continue to be debated in the House of Commons this week. The **Abortion Decriminalisation Proposal** aims to legalise abortion up to birth. Please read more about it and write to your MP, asking them to oppose this extreme proposal.
- Fr. Kevin will soon begin a **series of discussions on the Catholic Faith** for those interested in learning more about the Catechism and the magisterium of the Church. Expected start date: a Monday in July.
- Upcoming pilgrimages** (see noticeboard for more):
 - Pilgrimage to Melwood** in honour of S. Augustine Webster, Saturday 4th May. Meet before 12.00 at Low Melwood Farm between Epworth and Owston Ferry (DN9 1AD; parking available on site) for the Rosary Procession, and Mass. Bring a chair, optional picnic, and appropriate footwear for walking
 - Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham:** Sat, 15th June
 - Fatima w/ Fr. Kevin:** 20th to 25th June

S. Mary's, Louth

- PLEASE NOTE:** The next **parish council meeting** will take place on Wednesday, 3rd July after the 10.00 Mass.
- April's CAFOD collection raised £279.26.** The next collection will be on Sunday, 5th May. Many thanks for your constant generosity.
- SAVE THE DATE!** Join us on **12th May** in the parish hall after Sunday Mass, for a cream tea and coffee morning with yummy scones and cakes. All proceeds go towards the costs of an upcoming 5-day priest retreat in October 2024 hosted by the Diocese of Nottingham and the Unbound deliverance ministry. There will be a collection after Mass on the day for the same. Please see Ellie for more details.
- We are looking for one more **Ecumenical Representative** to work with other churches and ecclesial communities in Louth and the surrounding districts. See Fr. K for more information.
- Teas & coffees:** after Mass on Wednesdays and Sundays.

S. Joseph's, Mablethorpe

- Fr. Jim would like to express his gratitude** to all parishioners and visitors for the prayers, cards and gifts that he has received at Easter and throughout the year and for the constant care and attention given especially to the retired members of the clergy. He sends his prayers and blessings to all.
- SAVE THE DATE!** The feast of **S. Joseph the Worker, 1st May**. Mass at 18.00 followed by a celebratory supper. If you are able to help with the feast, please see Trudy.
- S. Joseph's repository:** Please visit us after the Sunday Mass and browse our collection of greeting cards and holy items.
- Teas and coffees:** Thursdays after the 10.00 Mass.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

God being *our* Father | God became our Brother | Thus He adopted us

Bad shepherds

“Some there are who love earthly possessions more than the sheep, and do not deserve the name of a shepherd. He who feeds the Lord's flock for the sake of temporal hire, and not for love, is an hireling, not a shepherd.” - Holy Father S. Gregory

Shepherd not only the Jews

“The sheep hitherto spoken of are those of the stock of Israel according to the flesh. But there were others of the stock of Israel, according to faith, Gentiles, who were as yet out of the fold; predestinated, but not yet gathered together. They are not of this fold, because they are not of the race of Israel, but they will be of this fold: Them also I must bring.” - S. Augustine

Good shepherds for the Church

“Jesus entrusted a specific authority to Peter: 'I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...' The 'power of the keys' designates authority to govern the house of God, which is the Church. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, confirmed this mandate after His Resurrection: 'Feed my sheep.'” - Catechism, §553



The Shepherd-King as Father

The theme of the readings this weekend is the love of God - always a paternal love. We do, after all, call Him Father in our most well-known prayer. What is the love of a father? If we are not human fathers, we may have the experience of a human father or have heard it described or witnessed it as a third party: the constant support and concern for the wellbeing of the child, the hand of discipline in youth and counsel later, the benevolence. Now, multiply this love infinitely, and you will find the Sacred Heart, who says to us today, I AM the Good Shepherd. Some 600 years before OLJC walked this earth in human form, God declared through the prophet Ezekiel that He would arrive Himself as Shepherd to the people, working together with a descendant of King David, the true king. This 'working together' took place marvellously in the fullness of time, when a strange being appeared as a child in Bethlehem of Judaea, the Holy One arrived to shepherd His people both as their divine Father, and in the form of the Davidic king as their human Brother. And He would rule their hearts, their wills voluntarily united to His. He would never abandon them, and would even give His life for them. Think of the love lavished upon us, S. John tells us in our second reading, that we can call the Creator of all things by the most familiar names given to earthly fathers. And this is possible because of the Sacred Heart, both human and divine, through which we are adopted by the Holy One. So S. Peter declares in the first reading that the most important stone in the edifice of the People of God is this God-man, both human and divine, Who brings communion between God and men, Who makes us beloved children of the Holy One.

“...dark be the valley about my path, hurt I fear none while He is with me; Thy rod, Thy crook are my comfort...”
Psalm 22(23)