



ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

21st April 2024 – 4th Sunday of Easter

April Monthly Devotion: Holy Spirit

THEME: The good shepherd lays down his life for us

We belong to Christ, so his care of us is responsible and whole-hearted, like a good shepherd who owns his sheep and is prepared to defend them with his life. Through the strength of Christ's life in us, we can bring healing and wholeness to the world; through him, one day, we shall be enabled to see the full glory of God.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sunday 21 st April	4th Sunday of Easter	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Thanksgiving to SS Jude & Rita of Cascia Parishioner's intention Shupi Odetta Chikwesere Thanks/G
Mon 22 nd Apr	Ferial	6:15pm St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 7:00pm	Father Oliver's intention
Tues 23 rd Apr	St George	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am	Parishioners' Intention
Weds 24 th Apr	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am	Parishioners' Intention
Thurs 25 th Apr	St Mark	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am	Parishioners' Intention
Friday 26 th Apr	Ferial	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am	Parishioners' Intention
Sat 27 th April	Ferial	9:45am Holy Rosary 10:00am Mass St Mary's	Sick and Housebound
Sunday 28 th April	5th Sunday of Easter	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	John Turner (RIP) Ann Rui Mascarenhas (RIP) Parishioners' Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am or by appointment. **Sacraments and other liturgies:** Speak to the Priest following the weekend masses.

Date	Event	Location
Wed 24 th April 6pm	FHC Teaching	St Mary's meeting room
Tues 30 th April 6:30pm	1 st Confirmation Meeting	St Mary's meeting room

JOHN 10:11-18: The image of the good shepherd is so full of thorough caring and security that it has been a source of comfort for centuries. In the beautiful 22nd/23rd Psalm David took the standpoint of the sheep being led by his Lord, the shepherd. His own experience of tending his father's sheep gave him particular insight and sympathy. It is quite possible that as a child Jesus also tended the village sheep, and he would certainly have known David's Psalm. So it is particularly apt that he should take the same beautiful image and refer to himself as the Good Shepherd. There is all the difference in the world between being a hired man and being the shepherd to whom the sheep belong. Working as usual from the practical situations that his hearers would understand, Jesus explains the kind of love he has for us; it is costly love – responsible and completely dedicated. His death proved his words could be trusted; and as we live in his risen life that same unlimited love will blossom and fruit in us.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY: As we keep the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we are asked to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood. Good Shepherd Sunday is always a world wide day of special prayer for vocations to the priesthood, and we pray especially for those new vocations we need

to serve our own Diocese of Shrewsbury. We need to pray even more insistently for more priests to serve the people of our Diocese, and we are asked to join in praying for this intention in our daily prayers, maybe offering the rosary or morning prayer for vocations to the priesthood. *'The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few. Let us ask the Lord of the harvest to send more labours to his vineyard.'* (Luke 10:2)

CONFIRMATION 2024: Booking for the confirmation programme for Year 8 students and above, has begun. Please pick up a consent form from the back of church to register your child.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE 2024: The annual Marriage Mass will take place on Sat June 8th at 12 noon at Saint Columba's church Chester, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Couples who are celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year: Silver, Pearl, Ruby, Golden, Diamond or Platinum and newly married couples are invited. Please let Fr Isidore know if you would like to attend.

BILINGUAL MASS FOR THE CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY: Bishop Mark will celebrate a bilingual Mass for all members of the Chinese Catholic community on Sunday 28th April at 2.30pm, at St Hugh's & St John's, Timperley. To attend, please speak to Fr Isidore. The form needs to be completed and forwarded to Fr Tomasz Mamelka at office@sthughandstjohntimperley.co.uk – using the title 'Bilingual Mass', by Fri 25th April.

GROWTH IN HOLINESS: PRAYER AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE WORKSHOP: Pope Francis has designated 2024 a Year of Prayer. He urges us to embrace prayer 'as the royal road to holiness.' As part of your journey to deepen your prayer life, we invite you to access a workshop entitled Growth in Holiness: Prayer and the Spiritual Life offered to you freely by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, in conjunction with the Franciscan Catechetical Institute. If you are interested in accessing the workshops, and want to know more or how to sign up to the platform, please contact Jane Deegan jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER: With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: *"Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."*

MISSIO RED BOX: In 2023, St Mary's and St Paul's raised £1318.04 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of missionary priests, like Fr Ignatius MHM working with a rural community in Uganda, enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and work together to improve the lives of the whole community. Visit Missio.org.uk to find out more.

THE DIOCESE is seeking to recruit a Director of Schools and applications are now open. Details of the role and the application process can be found at <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730>

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES: The Mass Intention Envelopes are available to pick up at the back of both churches to request a Mass to be said for your intention.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: £682.69 This is another increase on the recent trend, including the highest amount (£172) through the portal since it was installed. Thank you for your generosity, which is urgently needed.



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

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Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity no 234025