

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

566 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4AY

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A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Priest: *Fr. Gerardo Fabrizio*

Parish Deacon: *Rev. Sean Loone*

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Charity No. 234216

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7th May 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is generally termed as the Good Shepherd Sunday in our new Catholic liturgical calendar. In recent times this day has also become known as Vocations Sunday, a day on which prayers should be said for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The image of God as the shepherd of his people has a long tradition in the history of God's people. The image of the shepherd is one which appears several times in the New Testament. It is one that would be immediately understood by the people of the time.

This image of the shepherd appeals to us because it shows the tenderness of Jesus and his compassion. A shepherd in those days walked ahead of the sheep seeking out a safe path taking them to the pastures, water and shelter. The sheep followed him, because they recognized his voice, and they trusted him. An image of Jesus as a Good Shepherd is reassuring us that he is always our support on our journey through life. We have a God who is ready to die for others and Jesus emphasizes that, in giving his life for his sheep, he is doing so of his own will. His death is to be the living proof that "the greatest love a person can show is to give one's life for one's friends". This is the proof that Jesus truly is a Good Shepherd.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray to the Lord that we may be His good sheep, listening attentively to His voice, and follow His example of self-giving love. Let us also pray for all our shepherds, especially our religious and political leaders. May they follow the example of Jesus who was willing to serve and lay down His life for His sheep. Jesus our Shepherd is the Way, Truth and Life. He is the one who goes after the lost sheep leaving the ninety-nine to bring it back to the fold.

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 7 th May	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Julia Gerndt People of the Parish. Paddy McGeaver R.I.P	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS
Monday 8 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 9 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Conor O'Hara R.I.P
Wednesday 10 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Madeleine Forkin R.I.P
Thursday 11 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	(with school) Tim Moriarty
Friday 12 th	7.30pm	Michael Corrigan R.I.P	
Saturday 13 th	9.00am	Bernie Whelan	CONFESSIONS: 11.00 -11.30am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 14 th May	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Billy Long and Maureen Brazier R.I.P Maria Carpintiero R.I.P John and Joan Flynn	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS
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IN MEMORIAM: Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Sutton Webster R.I.P and Mary Hutcheson R.I.P who died recently. May they rest in peace.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS: Please pray for Louise Connelly and James Clements who were married this weekend. We ask God to bless them in the years ahead.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES: Please pray for the children of our School and Parish who are due to receive their First Holy Communion over the next three Sundays at the 11.00am Mass.

SECOND COLLECTION: A Second Collection will be taken this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 25th September - 2nd October 2017: Arrangements are now complete with flights from Birmingham direct to Naples. There will be a meeting of all taking part in the Parish Hall on **Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 7.30pm** where final details will be given and outstanding balances taken. All intending pilgrims will receive full information in advance of the meeting. Unfortunately, one couple is having to withdraw from the pilgrimage, which means that two places are now available. If you are interested in joining the Pilgrimage, please contact Paddy Brennan (Tel: 0121 744 5346) or Fr. Gerardo.

MARIAN PROCESSION: A torchlight procession will be taking place around the grounds of St Mary's College, Oscott on Saturday 13th May 2017 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions in Fatima. Procession begins at 8.00pm in the main chapel.

OLW. PRE-SCHOOL – OPEN DAY: An open day for the pre-school will be held on Tuesday 9th May from 1.00pm -2.30pm in the Parish Hall. The Staff there will be on hand to answer any questions which you may have. Uniforms will be available to buy, new starter packs will be issued and there be toys and activities for your children to be involved in. For further details please contact Pre-School on (07474. 743744_ weekdays 9.00am -12.45pm or e mail: ourladyofthewaysidepreschool@gmail.com

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN (20s and 30s): Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life. Dates: 26th - 28th May 2017: Location: Broadstairs, Kent. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit the website www.fcjsisters.org

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Could you talk about the work of CAFOD in our school, other local Catholic primary and secondary schools and parish youth groups? CAFOD Birmingham are looking for volunteers in our area to give a short talk or presentation to children and young people to help them learn about the world and to inspire them to take action on poverty with CAFOD. Full training and resources supplied. For further information please contact CAFOD Birmingham on 01922 722944 or email birmingham@cafod.org.uk.

PIETY STALL: Cards and gifts are now available at the Piety Stall for First Holy Communion.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK – LIFEFE17: 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act. This year's March for Life takes place in Birmingham on Saturday, 20th May. Join Bishop Robert Byrne as we remember the 8.7 million lives lost through abortion in the UK. For more details and full itinerary go to marchforlife.co.uk.

COLLECTION: 29th April 2017. Gift Aid: £ Loose: £. Standing Order: £ **TOTAL: £**

Father O'Mahony Trust: £91.50

TODAY'S MASS:

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41 God has made him both Lord and Christ.

Responsorial Psalm 22: **R The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.'**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20 -25 You have come back to the shepherd of your souls.

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

The Gospel according to John 10:1-10 I am the gate of the sheepfold

Communion Antiphon: The good shepherd as risen, who laid down his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Dismissal of the Children

May your holy word take root in them. May your holy word bear fruit in them. Plant your word within them so that they may grow. May your holy word take root in us. May your holy word bear fruit in us. Plant your word within us so that we may grow. ©1995, Paul Inwood, OCP Publications