ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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ASSISTANT PRIEST: FR. ALLAN MACDONALD

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HEADTEACHER: MRS. S. GOWER

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 30TH APRIL 2023

(Psalter Week 4)

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

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

There will be no Confessions available on Saturday the 6th May.

<u>First Holy Communion</u> - The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Saturday 6th May at 11am. 20 children will be receiving First Holy Communion.

<u>Confirmation</u> - Canon Victor Darlington will confirm 11 of our young people on Thursday the 11th May at the 7pm Mass.

We keep the children, young people and their families in our prayers. We sincerely thank all our Catechists for their time and efforts in preparing the children and the young people to receive the Sacraments.

Have a blessed week.

Fr. Paul.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND - SECOND COLLECTION TODAY - 30TH APRIL

The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese.

After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 3 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers.

Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF
Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church.



VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minute webinar on <u>Tuesday 9th May at 7pm</u> entitled *The Good Shepherd Calls* where different presenters will share their experiences about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please join us by <u>registering for this event in advance</u> by using following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdOuprDMtH9wKUQ777ddSSjLBucMtsONt.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS BOOK

Parishioners are invited to write any prayer intentions in our Parish Prayer Intentions book which has been placed at the back of the church. Please do take some time to read the intentions and include them in your prayers. The Parish Prayer group will pray for the intentions in the book when they meet on Mondays at 2:30pm.

STUDY COURSE ON 'THE MASS'

Fr. Allan is leading a study course by Bishop Robert Barron on 'The Mass' on Fridays, 3pm to 4pm in the upper room of the hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - COACH HIRE

If you have asked to put your name down to travel on the coach to and from Stansted Airport please can you hand in your payment to the Parish Office ASAP and by Friday 5th May. The coach will depart from the church at 9.30am on Wednesday 7th June. On the return trip on Monday 12th June, the coach is expected to leave Stansted Airport at around 6.00pm. The cost to cover the travel is £45 per person.

COFFEE MORNINGS AND REPOSITORY

Come and join fellow parishioners in the Church Hall after the 9:30am Mass on Wednesdays and after the 8:30am and 10am Masses on Sunday for tea/coffee, biscuits and cake. The Repository will also be open at these times. The Repository has small gifts and cards available for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

PARISH SUGGESTION BOX - A suggestion box has been placed at the back of the Church on the left hand side. Please post any comments or ideas regarding spiritual and social events. All suggestions will be brought up during parish council meetings.

100 CLUB - We have a few 100 Club numbers available at £5/month. The numbers available are on display at the back of the Church. Please cross the number you'd like and put your name and contact number on the sheet or email the parish office at sidcup@rcaos.org.uk. Payment can be made by standing order or direct debit.

INNER WHEEL OF SIDCUP QUIZ NITE

Inner Wheel of Sidcup are having a Quiz Nite on Friday 19th May 7.00 for 7.30pm at Sidcup Sports Club in Sydney Road. Bring your own nibbles, drinks from the bar only please. Tickets £7. Proceeds to Bexley Women's aid - our charity for this year. Contacts: Chris Head-Rapson 0208 3023708. Email: chrisheadrapson@gmail.com or Helen Bacon 07960 243 947. Email: helenbacon13@gmail.com.

BEXLEY PHOENIX CHOIR CONCERT - SATURDAY 27TH MAY, 8PM

The Bexley Phoenix Choir are back to entertain us. The Concert takes place at St Lawrence's Church on Saturday, 27th May 2023 at 8pm.Come and hear this vibrant choir singing a variety of music – something for everyone. Tickets £10, Students £5, 16 & under FREE. Available from Jill Martin 07831 201933.

ST. LAWRENCE CHARITABLE FUND

If you shop in Tesco please vote for St Lawrence Charitable Fund by adding a token to the Community Grant voting, during April. The charity with the most votes receives £1500. Stores taking part are Sidcup, Erith Welling, Bexley. Thank you. SLCF Team.

45TH ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS RALLY

Guild of St Stephen Archdiocese of Southwark Annual Altar Servers Rally at The Friars Aylesford Priory on Monday 1st May at 11:30am. All are welcome to worship, picnic and play football. Please see the notice board for details of the programme for the day.

UPCOMING COURSES AT THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE

- 1. Discernment and Decision Making on 2nd May.
- 2. Life in Abundance. Reflections on the Gospel of John on 4th May.
- 3. Rediscovering St. Paul. His life, faith and legacy on 15th June.

For further details please visit the website https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org.

RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE PROGRAMME

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. There is no group therapy or group work. For information or to register for the programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvaille.org.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 29th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

6.30pm Sister Patricia Bolton RIP

Sunday 30th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.30am In Thanksgiving - Knights of St. Columba

10.00am The People of the Parish

11.30am Intention of Baby Martha Marie White

Monday 1st May Saint Joseph, the Worker

9.30am Sister Margaret Mary Galligan RIP

Tuesday 2nd May St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9.45am Mary McKibben RIP

Wednesday 3rd May Saints Philip and James, Apostles

9.30am Margaret Flahive RIP

Thursday 4th May The English Martyrs

9.30am Violet Thompson RIP

Friday 5th May Feria

9.30am Karen Malcolm RIP

Saturday 6th May Feria

9.30am Winifred and John Mullany RIP

11:00am First Holy Communion Mass - Holy Souls

Collection	23rd April 2023	2nd Collection	St. George Cathedral
Cash	£475.35	Cash	£217.67
Gift Aid	£828.87	Gift Aid	£428.50
Total	£1304.22	Total	£646.17
Monthly Standing Order	£4755		

Please pray for all the sick of our parish who are at home and in hospitals. Please also pray for the souls of the faithful departed that God may grant them eternal rest.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides thee. Psalms 73:25