

FROM THE DIARY

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL	6pm Sat	<i>Maria do Carmo Rodrigues (Ann)</i>
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	7.45am	<i>Patricia O'Looney (RIP)</i>
	9am	<i>John O'Brien (RIP)</i>
<i>*Young Adults (18-35 after 10.30am Mass (Small Hall))</i>	10.30am*	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	12noon	<i>Mary Campbell (Ann)</i>
Monday 27th April	9.30am	<i>Rosa Volpe (Ann)</i>
Easter Feria	8.00pm	<i>Filomena Barile (Ann)</i> KSC Meeting (Small Hall)
Tuesday 28th April	9.30am	<i>Ambrose Ganda (RIP)</i>
Easter Feria	7.30pm	'Come and See' Meeting (Newman Room)
Wednesday 29th April	9.30am	<i>Dennis Duke Encisa (Ann)</i>
Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	7.30 – 8.30pm	FHC Parents Session (Large Hall)
Thursday 30th April	9.30am	<i>Joyce, Peter & Mathew Burrows (RIP)</i>
Easter Feria	10.00am	Mass Bookings for June (Parish Office)
	3.10pm	Legion of Mary (Newman Room)
Friday 1st May	9.30am	<i>Luigi Fraulo (Ann)</i>
Easter Feria		
Saturday 2nd May	9.30am	<i>Itala Azzali (Ann)</i>
Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	10-11am	FHC Session 6 @ St Monica's School
	11.30am	Baptism of Gabriella, Finbarr & Caolan
SUNDAY 3RD MAY	6pm Sat	<i>Anne Fallon (Ann)</i>
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	7.45am	<i>June Goldie (RIP)</i>
	9am	<i>Valerie D'Souza (Int)</i>
	10.30am	<i>Philomena Soares (Ann)</i>
	12noon	<i>John McPhillips (Ann)</i>
		<i>Michael & Kathleen Boyle (Ann)</i>

MASS TIMES

Sunday (Sat 6pm), 7.45am, 9am, 10.30am, 12noon. Mon-Sat : 9.30am
Morning Prayer: Weekdays 9.10 am **Rosary:** Weekdays after Mass & Sat 9.10am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mon-Fri 2-3pm (except Bank Hol)
Exposition and Benediction: Saturdays after 9.30am Mass until 11am
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 10.15-10.45am 5.15pm– 5.45pm

St Monica's Church, Palmers Green

A parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

Readings	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	26th April,
<i>Parish Mass Bk</i>		2026
<i>Pg. 262</i>	'I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP'	

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd. Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

Loyola Press

1, Stonard Road, London N13 4DJ ☎ (020) 8886 9568

email: palmersgreen@rcdow.org.uk **Website:** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/palmersgreen/>

Live Streaming of all services: www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen

Parish Priest: Canon Mehall Lowry **Assistant Priest:** Father Sean Power

Parish Sister: Sr Joyce Dionne joycedionne@rcdow.org.uk 07752 050653

Youth Co-ordinator: Anna McMullan annamcmullan@rcdow.org.uk 07532 374291

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Farrell palmersgreensg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator & Secretary: Noreen Campbell

Parish Office hours: 9.30am-2pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri (closed Wed & Bk Hols)

PARISH NOTICES

We pray for all those who have died recently: David Kirby, Gillian Kilkenny, Mary Lowry, Samuel Falegan, and **those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mary Barrett, Hubert Casey, Mary Campbell, Kathleen Wells, Shaun King, Audrey Cozens, Mary Fetteroll, Mary King, Maureen O'Connor, Irene Barrett, Carole Owen, Denis Kelleher, Rina Husain, Luigi Fraulo, Marlene Abberstein, Mary Fernandes, Lina Beschizza, Phyllis McDonnell, George Azzali, Angela Ramlakhan, Francis Peduzzi, Margaret Griffin and Kenneth Martin. **We also pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners especially:** Angela Murphy, Chris Parsons, Judy Linnane, Lydia Meniano, Doreen Matthew, Marie Herry, Ronnie Lynch, Ronald Walner, Jim Ball, Sandy Philbin, Maureen Dundon and **those in our care homes:** Anastasia Lodge, The Beaumont, Brookwater House, The Conifers, The Hollies, Queen Ann Care Home, Amberley House and The Woodlands and **hospitals:** North Middlesex and Chase Farm.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

**Acts 2: 14a, 36-41, 1 Peter 2: 20b-25,
John 10: 1-10**

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Acts: 6: 1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12

TODAY

Today is **Good Shepherd Sunday**, the day when we pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood. Archbishop Richard has written a Pastoral Letter which will be read out at all Masses today. He will be asking us to begin a month long cycle of prayer for vocations **from Good Shepherd Sunday to Pentecost Sunday 24th May**. Each Friday at Hourly Hour between 2-3pm there will be a Weekly Prayer Intention.

There will be a second collection for the **Priest Training Fund**. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting men who are discerning and preparing for the priesthood. Their formation includes academic study, spiritual development, and pastoral training; all of which are essential for their future ministry. As we reflect on Christ as the Good Shepherd, we are reminded that He continues to call shepherds for His Church today. Please keep our seminarians and those considering this calling in your prayers. Donation envelopes are available today, you can use the envelope to make a one-off donation or to set up a regular donation. If you can Gift Aid, please don't forget to tick it

off. There is also a QR code on the envelope/poster for online donations or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your continued prayers for vocations to diocesan priesthood and for your generosity.

Congratulations to our Confirmation Candidates who celebrated their Confirmation by Fr Mehall yesterday; please keep them in your prayers.

Refreshments in the Newman Room after 9am & 10.30 masses will be provided by the Knights of St Columba.

Holy Communion under both kinds. At most weekday and Sunday Masses, Holy Communion will once again be offered under both kinds—that is, the Sacred Host and the Precious Blood. This fuller sign more clearly expresses the richness of the Eucharistic mystery, though it is important to remember that Christ is fully present under either form alone. Those who wish may receive from the chalice; those who prefer not to do so are encouraged to receive as usual. A gentle reminder: intinction (dipping the Host into the chalice) is not permitted in England and Wales; ministers may refuse anyone who attempts this, and we ask for your understanding and cooperation.

Young Adults (18-35) meeting up after the Sunday 10.30am Mass (Small Hall). If you are aged 18-35 then please come and join us.

THANK YOU

Thank you from the Catenians to all the parishioners who supported the refreshments last weekend. £82.32 was raised for the Food Bank.

SACRAMENTS

First Holy Communion children are looking forward to celebrating their First Holy Communion on the 9th and 16th May. Please keep them in your prayers. *(Please note, there will be no morning confession or exposition on the 9th or 16th May).*

Baptism Preparation Course: Next course is in May. Please speak to one of the priests if you are seeking baptism for your child.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Come and See. There will be meeting on **Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm** (Newman Room) for any adults who are considering seeking baptism, confirmation or full communion with the Catholic Church. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) runs from September through to Easter, and this meeting is an introduction for anyone who might be interested in participating in that course in the autumn. Please speak to Fr Mehall, Fr Sean, or contact the office if you would like to come.

St Monica's Walking Group: Isabella Plantation Richmond Walk. Wednesday 29th April. Wood Green tube station on platform at 10am. Please bring your own food and drink as there is no cafe.

Weekly Prayer for Priestly Vocations. Week One will be on Friday 1st May at Holy Hour between 2-3pm. **The Prayer Intention:** Pray for men to be open to God's call to priesthood. Please do come and join us in Church.

MONTH OF MAY, MONTH OF MARY. Do not touch the TREE OF PRAYER which will be in front of the statue of Our Lady from Friday 1st May. If you would like to add the name of a sick person to be prayed for, please give the

name to Sister Joyce and she will put it on the tree for you. During the month of May, we will add the sick to the intentions of our daily Rosary.

NEXT WEEKEND

We welcome Fr Isah Katuka who will be making a Mission Appeal on behalf of The Spiritans. Founded in 1703, **The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers)** are a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation dedicated to sharing hope and love worldwide. Thank you supporting this appeal.

OTHER

Mass Bookings for June – change of booking date. Masses can be booked from **10am on Thursday 30th April (not Friday 1st May)** either in person, at the parish office, or by email/telephone.

SCHOOLS

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School. Certificate of Catholic Practice. Parents of children who are practising at St Monica's are invited to email the parish office to receive a date and time with Fr Mehall.

PARISH VACANCY

We are now advertising for a **Parish Cleaner** to work 2 days per week (4 hours per day). If you wish to apply, please see the link below: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-cleaner-job-ref-853-palmg>. Closing date **29th April midday**.

FINANCE

75% of weekly offerings are now by standing order. **October to December quarterly income/expenditure summary** displayed in the porch. Thank you for your continued generosity. **To Donate Bank**



Transfer please use the following HSBC bank details: Sort Code: 40-05-20; A/c no: 41096176; A/c name: WRCDT Palmers Green. If

you pay income tax, click on the [gift aid form](#) to complete & return. Thank your generosity. Chair of Finance Committee

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

Are you interested in joining the Knights of St Columba? If you are male, over the age of 16 and a practising Catholic you are eligible to join. We have different gifts to offer to our national and international organisation. We work by the values of Charity, Unity & Fraternity. Will you join us? Please contact Kevin Donnelly on 0208 364 1721/07484 134848 or see our website: <https://www.ksc.org.uk>

FINANCE

DONACONTACTLESS MACHINES. (Contactless Giving) If you would like to donate by card we have two DONA machines and the **QR Code** on the newsletter. Machines are located in the church porch and in the parish office. For example: donations can be made for: **Sunday Collection; Votive Candles; Repository** purchases; and for **Mass Offerings**. Please select the option you want and then the amount you wish to donate. If you require assistance using the machine or the QR code then please ask any member of the parish team who will be happy to help you. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

MARRIAGE

Easter Marriage and Family Life Reflections. The first links to this Sunday's Gospel and the second begins with the question, 'Do you have a song that reflects your shared journey of commitment, resilience, and renewal in marriage?'

<https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/news/two-hearts-one-journey-a-pilgrims-guide-to-marriage/>

<https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/news/here-comes-the-son/>

Marriage Matters for the forthcoming Liturgical Year A. A newly written forward from Bishop Bosco MacDonald, lead bishop for Marriage and Family at CBCEW.

<https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/two-in-one-flesh/>

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

Marriage Care provides a relationship counselling service for couples when life gets tough and it is hard to find a positive solution. www.marriagecare.org.uk/

TEL: 0800 389 3801 <https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/news/sea-glass---beauty-from-brokenness-1/>

VACANCIES

Diocese Vacancies, for further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>.

The Archdiocese of Southwark have a vacancy for a HR Manager. More information in the Church porch.

CHARITY

CAFOD: Stand with Sudan. On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help: "So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored." Donate at cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan.

St. Monica's Church Foodbank. Since the beginning of the year we have seen a 45% increase in the number of households we are helping. Add to this the current cost of living crisis and it is proving increasingly difficult to keep up with demand. We have had to restrict who we can help to those who live in the borough of Enfield or within 3 miles of the church hall. **More than ever we need your help to support neighbours who are struggling. You can do this by making a financial donation to parish bank account (see bank details below) using reference "food distribution". Or you could donate food to us directly on a Monday morning at the church hall.** Items like cheese; eggs; tins of corn beef; ham; long life milk; tea; coffee; cooking oil; washing up liquid; and toiletries would be most welcome.

RETREATS and PILGRIMAGES

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) - Discerning God's Call in your life 15th - 17th May, Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org. To register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>.

A Day with Mary Pilgrimages 2026: Pilgrimage to Fatima. 8th July to 15th July 2026, closing date 28th April 2026.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. 17th to 24th July, registration is now open. Please see <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/>

Pilgrimage to Italy. 1st September to 10th September 2026, closing date 23rd June 2026. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome. Fr Sean is planning a Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 9th to 13th November. There are still some places available. Please email parish office on palmersgreen@rcdow.org.uk

SCHOOLS

Finchley Catholic High School are delighted to share with the community that they have been graded as Outstanding in all areas of their recent Section 48 Inspection. To see the full report, please visit the school website: www.finchleycatholic.org.uk .

OTHER

CELEBRATE Trust is excited to announce two new webinars for parents and carers of teenagers: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/>. **Confident parenting in a world of screens. 29th April @ 8pm** Worried about the impact of phones and social media on your teen? A helpful webinar with Kate Duroux from Care for the Family, offering practical advice for supporting teenagers growing up in a digital world.)

Raising teenagers in a Catholic family. 2nd June @ 8pm As children enter adolescence, parenting can feel brand new. Mike and Alicia from the Messy Family Project share faith-filled wisdom and practical tools to help parents guide their tweens and teens with patience, modelling, and stronger relationships. **To reserve your place, book now by visiting <https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting>**