



**Time & Intentions for Sundays
And Weekdays Masses**



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 26 th April	9 am	4th Sun. of Easter	Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 26 th April	11.15 am	4th Sun. of Easter	Willem J. Vis (Bing Vis)	Our Lady V
Mon 27 th April		Weekday of Eastertime		The church is closed
Tue 28 th April	9 am	St Louis Grignon de Montfort	Sarah E. Stevens	Our Lady V
Wed 29 th April	9 am	St Catherine of Siena Prayer for Europe	Kenneth C. Davis	Our Lady V
Thu 30 th April	9 am	St Pius V	<i>Assigned from other Church</i>	Our Lady V
Fri 1 st May	9 am	St Joseph the worker	<i>Assigned from other Church</i>	Our Lady V
Sat 2 nd May	12 noon	St Athanasius Our Lady on Saturday	Constance (Connie) Will (LD)	Our Lady V
Sun 3 rd May	9 am	5th Sun. of Easter	Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 3 rd May	11.15 am	5th Sun. of Easter	Eddie Blackburn (LD)	Our Lady V

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions:
Tue 9.30am to 10am; Sat 11am to 12

Holy Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotion:
Tuesdays 9.30 am OLOV.

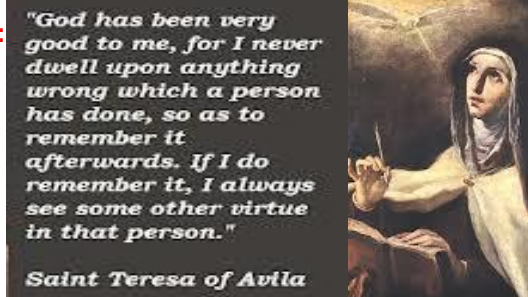
Baptisms, Weddings: by appointments.

Wednesday Club: You are welcome!

We pray for all who are sick and elderly: Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, Henry Henderson, Anne and Mike Quinn, Ronnie Baybut, Geoff Morrissey, Michael Hyland, Paul Blackford, Harry Caine, Sophie Caine, Christine Watts, Deacon John and Ann Crooks, Joan Callaghan, Natalie Kavanagh, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello, Pauline Hayes, Irene Halsall.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time: Bridy Cheshire, Sean Jennings, Terry Crosbie, Barbara Pratt, Douglas Steers,

We pray for those who have died: Eddie Blackburn R.I.P.



**The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell
Our Lady of Victories, Hightown**

Email: olovhfb@rcaol.org.uk / Tel.: 0151 936 1533

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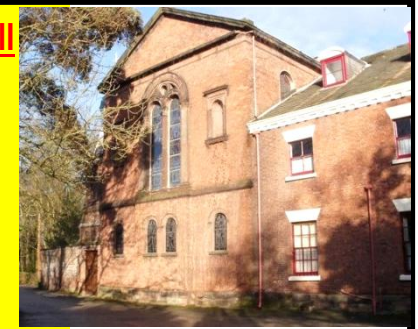
Presbytery: Sandy Lane, Hightown, L38 3RP

Parish Priest: Fr Sergio Haro

Archdiocese of Liverpool, Reg. Charity Number 1199714

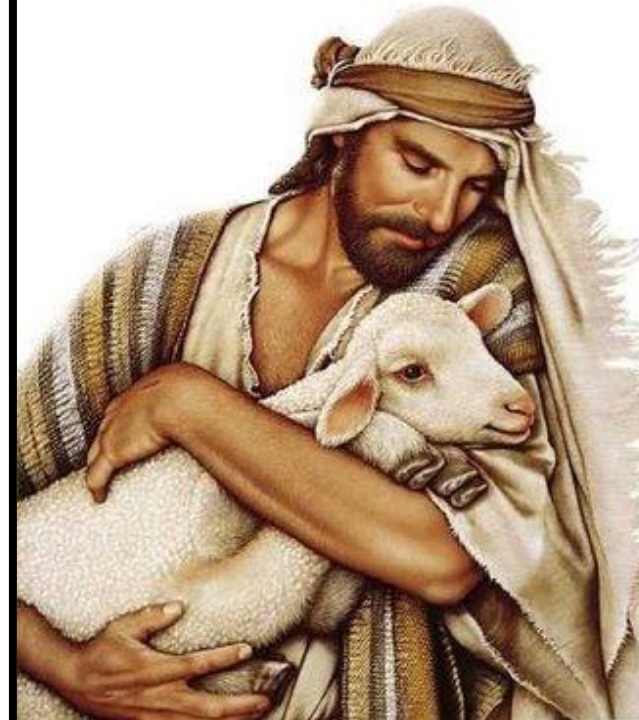
OLOV, Hightown: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 01544993

Holy Family: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 71545094



Fourth Sunday of Easter (A): 26th April 2026

I AM the Good Shepherd



This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. 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 us 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 and trust. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. 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 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 both to Jesus and the Community. Saint Archbishop Oscar Romero once said: "All priests should have one ear attentive to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and the other to the people of God, the sheep."

Father Sergio P.P.

Vocations Sunday:

In 1964, Pope Saint Paul VI launched Vocations Sunday - a day celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This year it is on the 26 April 2026, which marks the 63rd Anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As Catholics and people of God we all know that God is calling us and has a plan for each of us. He called each of us by name through our Baptism to holiness. He continues to call and cry out to us each day to be his disciples, some to the married life, some to the priesthood or the diaconate, some to religious life or to live as kind single people. Everybody is called! What is God calling you to? Along with the whole Church, let us pray for vocations today. Let us take time to stir the hearts and minds of the people around us to think about the topic of Vocation. The National Office for Vocation invites you to talk and encourage children, young people, grandchildren, students, family members to respond generously to the calling of the Lord.

New President elected for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:

The Bishops of England and Wales have elected Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster, as President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He succeeds Cardinal Vincent Nichols, his predecessor in Westminster, who served as President from April 2009. Archbishop Moth said: "It's a real privilege to be in this position and I really pray that, with my brother bishops, I'll be able to serve the Catholic Church in England and Wales. "We look at the challenges in the world around us and that very often shapes our priorities. But it's not just about being reactive, it's about having a real consciousness that the Gospel message is an eternal message, the fact of God's love for us all, that's something that's unchanging, and it's about bringing that message into the world. "For me, 'mission' is very much a priority: a mission grounded in prayer and our celebration of the liturgy, and a mission that enables us to bring the light of the Gospel and the peace of Christ to the world in which we live." Archbishop John Sherrington, Archbishop of Liverpool, was elected by the Bishops to replace Archbishop Moth as Chair of the Bishops' Conference Department for Social Justice. The Bishops held a one-day plenary assembly on Saturday, 18 April, followed by a week of ongoing formation that concluded on Thursday, 23 April. The gathering took place at Convento Palazzola, the Venerable English College's villa and retreat house just outside Rome. The English College is a seminary that prepares men for the priesthood.

Spring Plenary 2026:

The bishops had a one-day plenary assembly on Saturday, 18 April, followed by a week of ongoing formation that concluded on Thursday, 23 April. The gathering took place at Convento Palazzola, the Venerable English College's villa and retreat house just outside Rome. The English College is a seminary that prepares men for the priesthood.

Plenary Statement - Peace:

The Catholic Bishops' of England and Wales issued this statement as a sign of solidarity with the Holy Father, asking for Catholics to pray with them for an enduring peace with justice in the world's conflict zones. "We stand in solidarity with the Holy Father in his sustained witness and unshakeable commitment to the Gospel of Peace. "We embrace our responsibility to act as bridge-builders and peacemakers and call upon the faithful, whom we serve in the dioceses of England and Wales, to join us in redoubling our prayers and advocacy for peace and justice. "We pray that the leaders of all peoples at war open their minds and hearts to the dialogue and encounter necessary to attain a peace which disarms and endures. "Hope is central to our Christian faith. In Eastertide, we are reminded that we are called to build a future sustained by the Risen Christ. As Pope Leo said in Equatorial Guinea: ***'There is hunger for a future imbued with hope that is capable of engendering a new sense of justice and producing fruits of peace and fraternity. This is not an unknown future that we must passively await, but rather one that we ourselves are called to build with God's grace.'***" (Homily of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Mongomo), Wednesday, 22 April 2026.)

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER + CYCLE A

First reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The word of the Lord

Second reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So, Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Source: Universalis App - New Lectionary

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23(22)

R:/ The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. **R:/**

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R:/**

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R:/**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the LORD's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. **R:/**

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD.

the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Prayer for Peace of Pope Saint John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love.

Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace.

Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters.

May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Amen

