

Refreshments are available after 9am Sunday Mass in the St Bernard's hall. Thank you to the volunteers who facilitate this.



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Waterside Parish NEWSLETTER

Sunday 30th April 2023: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Sunday Masses: 9am at St Bernard's and 11am at St Michael's

Weekday Masses: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 9am at St Michael's

Wednesday – 9am at St Bernard's followed by Adoration and Grandparents' Group

Confessions: Saturday after 9am Mass (St Michael's) "Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." Pope John Paul II

100 Club

The next draw for the 100 club will be Sunday 5th March after the 9.00am Mass at St Bernard's church.

A POLITE REMINDER

The reorganisation works at St Bernard's now being complete, please can we all remember that the church is no place for food and that socialising after Mass should take place in the hall. Please let us take care of the new carpet in the church which has been provided and fitted at no cost to the parish.

Our **Second Collection today is for the Clergy Training Fund** which supports our seminarians, including the ten men currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six- or seven-year journey to ordination. Each seminarian brings to his training his own life experience and then participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually.

These are the men who will baptise and catechize the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow.

We rely on your commitment and generosity to do this. If you would like to give a gift to this collection, parishioners can donate using their gift aid envelopes or online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-training-fund-second-collection-2023>. This collection will close on 8th May.

Thank you for your support.

Plant Sale and Spring Fair

*** Plants and cakes for sale. ** Refreshments. ** Hamper raffle. ** Tombola table, homemade cards and table for bric a brac items. ** With music from Mike Slipper and his band. ***

The hall will be open from 3.00 pm on Friday 12th May for all donations. All proceeds from the day will go to parish funds. The sale is from **10.00 am to 12.00 pm on Saturday 13th May**. Everyone welcome.

If anyone can lend a hand on the day this would be very much appreciated.

We keep in our prayers the sick and housebound members of the parish:

John Allen

Please note that a GDPR issue has been drawn to our attention. We must now have express permission from the sick person to name him or her in this section of the parish newsletter. If we don't have a signed Parish Registration Form, it will be very difficult to include the sick in this section of the newsletter.

We pray for the dear departed of the parish and for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

30th: Patricia Conroy (1995)

1st: Rosalind Board (1974) Violet Rogers (1991) Jozef Stankiewicz (2003) Michael Teague (2005)

2nd: Alison Johnson (1991) Mary Janseen (1999) Briget Cotter (2002)

3rd: Joseph Gruber (1998) George Krzymuski (2005) Mary Goddard (2012)

4th: Euphemia Wilson (1990) Bridget Wyatt (2017)

6th: Irene Frances (2021)

Pious tradition holds that Jesus promised St. Gertrude that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory each time the following prayer is said devoutly: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

This year has been dedicated by the Bishop to the Holy Spirit. Here is a pertinent extract from the Catechism of the Catholic Church upon which to reflect in terms of our cooperation with the Church, the Body of Christ:

'797 "What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church."²⁴³ "To this Spirit of Christ, as an invisible principle, is to be ascribed the fact that all the parts of the body are joined one with the other and with their exalted head; for the whole Spirit of Christ is in the head, the whole Spirit is in the body, and the whole Spirit is in each of the members."²⁴⁴ The Holy Spirit makes the Church "the temple of the living God";²⁴⁵ ...

'798 The Holy Spirit is "the principle of every vital and truly saving action in each part of the Body."²⁴⁷ He works in many ways to build up the whole Body in charity:²⁴⁸ by God's Word "which is able to build you up";²⁴⁹ by Baptism, through which he forms Christ's Body;²⁵⁰ by the sacraments, which give growth and healing to Christ's members; by "the grace of the apostles, which holds first place among his gifts";²⁵¹ by the virtues, which make us act according to what is good; finally, by the many special graces (called "charisms"), by which he makes the faithful "fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church."

**Collections 23rd April
2023:**

St Michael's £96.65

St Bernard's £81.00

Envelopes £121.40

Donations received
directly into the parish
bank account for **March**
amounted to **£1,382.**

**On 25th April Pope Francis
said:**

"We discover we are children of God at the moment we discover we are brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. This is why it is essential to be part of a journeying community. No one goes to the Lord alone."

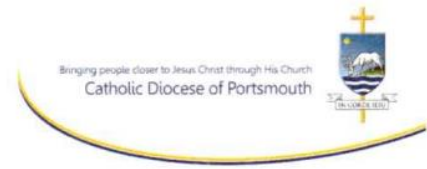
@Pontifex

We keep our First Holy Communion candidates in our prayers as they prepare to receive the second Sacrament of Initiation: Daniel, Daniel, Eryk, Jaspar, Santiago, Sofia and Vivienne.

"The Holy Eucharist is the perfect expression of the love of Jesus Christ for man." St Maria Goretti

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - 30th April 2023

SUGGESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER



First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Peter preaches to the crowd on Pentecost, exhorting them to be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit

The Vocation Angle When Peter addressed the crowd, 'they were cut to the heart'. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks in a moment of clarity deep in our spirit. Many men who have been called to the Priesthood have had this experience - during Mass, on a retreat, or at a youth event. The question is, how do you respond? Will you be like those in the crowd that day, who responded wholeheartedly to the call?

Psalm: 23

The most famous psalm describes peace in the midst of danger because of reliance on the shepherd.

The Vocation Angle When a young person feels called to the priesthood or religious life, he or she can experience a lot of confusion and anxiety. But the Saints tell us to never make a decision about one's vocation in a state of fear. Rather, like the psalmist, we must learn to discover a place of inner peace, where we hear Jesus best, and then trustingly respond to His call.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

'For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your soul.'

The Vocation Angle Imperfection does not disqualify you from a vocation! In fact, those whose have strayed further are the greatest testaments to God's mercy. Offer your unworthiness to God, then follow wherever He leads.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Those who hear his voice follow him.

The Vocation Angle To hear the Shepherd's voice requires quiet and prayer. The late Pope Benedict XVI said, 'Young people, if they can be taught how to pray, can be trusted to know what to do with God's call'. Preach about prayer, methods of prayer, and the importance of listening for God's voice, especially when making big decisions in life.

Please consider sharing your vocation story

When it began? Who encouraged you? How you responded? What was your discernment like? How has your priestly ministry unfolded? What advice you would give to others who are discerning?

Feeling discouraged or reluctant?

Remember the power of humble witness

'Recently a parish priest in a large German city told me that he had come to his vocation by the particular work of a priest who was actually bereft of all exterior gifts. He was a hopeless preacher, a dreadful singer, and so on, and yet under his care, the parish really blossomed. In the end, four or five priestly vocations were awakened in the city parish, something that had happened neither under his predecessor nor under his successor, both of whom were far more capable. We can see here how the humble witness of someone who does not have the gift of persuasive speech can itself become a sermon, and how we should thank God for the variety of gifts'.

'God and the world' - Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger

Please Pray for Vocations

- For Priests, that they will minister with the heart of the Good Shepherd, and that their example inspires more young men to enter formation.
- That all those involved with our young people will foster a genuine encounter with Christ and accompany students as they discern God's call.
- That parents and families will be open to priestly and religious vocations and that they will encourage their children to seriously consider every vocation.
- For a renewal of sacramental marriages, and for those searching for a spouse, that God fulfils their hearts desire.
- That the Holy Spirit will create a culture of vocation in our Diocese and that young people in our own parish will respond to the Lord's invitation to follow him on a path of holiness.
- In thanksgiving for all our clergy and religious who have served our community and the repose of the souls of those who have died.

MASS READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22(23) The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14 Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'