

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 8 May 2022
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday

11.00am Solemn Mass

*A very warm welcome to everyone especially if this is your first visit.
Please join us for refreshments following the service.*

Please take this order of service away with you

THIS WEEK

Observances	Monday:	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
	Tuesday:	<i>Easter Weekday</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Wednesday:	<i>Easter Weekday</i> Low Mass: 7.30pm
	Thursday:	<i>St Pancras</i>
	Friday:	<i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> Low Mass: 11.00am
	Saturday:	ST MATTHIAS <i>No services here today: May Devotion at St Silas, Kentish Town 12 noon</i>
	Sunday 15 th :	EASTER V Solemn Mass: 11.00am

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FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those in need

Joan Aubee, Hazel Sack, Ruth Cansdale, Arthur Shorey, Constance, Joanne Donaghy, Kingsley Eson, Beryl Hodges, Siobhan Manning, Roberto Sanchat, Sergio, Elly Kostur, Bernadette Savage, Catherine.

We pray for peace in Ukraine.

Anniversaries of death

8: Alfred Burley, Thomas Tuitt, Bernhard Cuthbert, Stan Young, Robert Chancellor (pr)

10: Lewis Hockridge, Sarah Ampiah, David Joseph Lewis

11: Florence Field, Kate Beatrice Hodff, Edward George Saunders, Doris May Ledstone

12: Elizabeth Newman, Gregory Dix (pr), Minnie Saxby

13: James Weetch, Peter Tester, Ernest Claugher, Alice Snellgrove, John de Satgé (pr)

14: Kathleen Bevir

NOTICES

TABLETOP SALE

Thank you to those who helped with yesterday's table top sale, and to all who supported it.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

APCM takes place on Sunday 22 May after the Parish Mass.

UKRAINE COLLECTION

Our Lent collections for Ukraine have raised a total of **£565.73**. This an excellent amount – many thanks indeed for your generosity.

SOCIETY OF MARY: MAY DEVOTION (SAT 14 MAY AT 12 NOON)

We are invited to join in the annual May Devotion of the Society of Mary. 12 noon Mass at St Silas, Kentish Town NW5 3QP, followed by a procession of Our Lady through Camden Town. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Robert Ladds. Lunch available - £10 payable on the day. There will not be a Mass here that morning. If you would like to travel together to St Silas please have a word with Fr Philip

CONCERT OF CHORAL MUSIC: THURSDAY 19 MAY AT 7.00PM

The London Chorus (directed by Fr Ron Corp) will present a programme including Faure's *Requiem*, and a second half of choral favourites to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee (Parry, *I was glad*; Handel, *Zadok the Priest*) as well as music from modern British composers, including Sir James MacMillan.

Tickets: £10 (available online: tinyurl.com/ascensionsw11concert)

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION: SUNDAY 29 MAY AT 5.00PM
We will celebrate our Feast of Title with a Solemn Mass at **5.00pm**.
Please make a careful note of the time. Visiting Preacher: Fr Toby
Boutle, Parish Priest of Swindon New Town
The evening Mass will be followed by a parish party.
NB There will be a Said Mass earlier in the day at 9.30am.

PLATINUM JUBILEE PICNIC: SUNDAY 5 JUNE
We will mark the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
on Sunday 5 June. The Church celebrates the great feast of Pentecost
that day, and during Mass there will be special prayers for the Queen.
After Mass there will be a bring-and-share Jubilee picnic, which we will
hopefully be able to have outside. Pray for good weather!

FR LUKE DEMETRI: ORDINATION & FIRST MASS
Please remember Fr Luke (our sometime parishioner & Churchwarden)
who is preparing for his ordination to the Priesthood. The traditional
prayer cards are available at the back of church: please take one away
with you and please pray for him.
Ordination: Saturday 9 July at 3pm; First Mass: Sunday 10 July at 5pm.
Both services at St Michael's, Croydon CR0 1UA. To help with seating
and catering arrangements, please sign the lists at the back of church if
you intend to be present.
The PCC has agreed that a gift be sourced for Fr Luke to mark these two
important occasions. If you would like to make a contribution please see
Ann Warwick.

Today is 'Good Shepherd' Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter receives this title due to the theme of the proper
prayers and the Gospel Reading at Mass.

Good Shepherd Sunday is an opportunity to pray for vocations, to encourage
those who might be considering ordained or religious life, and for each of us to
ask ourselves whether the Lord might be calling us to do some definite service for
him.

Might the Lord be calling you to some new form of service in his Church? Or do
you discern in someone else the gifts and talents that could be used in the service
of the body of Christ?

We pray that the Lord will call more faithful priests, deacons and religious to his
service, and for those whose task it is in the Church to discern these particular
callings in others. Let us pray also for the work of St Stephen's House, Oxford, for
the staff and students, particularly for those to be ordained this summer.

Christ the Good Shepherd
from a homily by Pope St Gregory the Great

I am the good shepherd. I know my own – by which I mean, I love them – and my own know me. In plain words: those who love me are willing to follow me, for anyone who does not love the truth has not yet come to know it.

My dear brethren, you have heard the test we pastors have to undergo. Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar.

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. Clearly he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father's knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father.

Again he says: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; they follow me, and I give them eternal life. Shortly before this he had declared: If anyone enters the sheepfold through me he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture. He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

So our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more.

Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveller who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going.