

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish  
36 Altenburg Gardens, Battersea, London SW11 1JJ  
*One of the South Battersea Churches*

# Newsletter

**Contact us:**

**Parish Priest:** Monsignor Timothy Galligan: 020 7228 2121; Email: [batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk)  
**Parish Administrator:** Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; [batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk) Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9.15am – 12.15  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives:** Ed Elliot & Deborah Sherwood: [batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**Further information:**

Our Parish Website: [www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org](http://www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org) or Scan the QR Code on the right  
The Archdiocese of Southwark Website: [www.rcaos.org.uk](http://www.rcaos.org.uk)  
Our Diocesan Directory: [www.rcaos.org.uk/directory](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/directory).  
The Catholic Church in England and Wales: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)



Year B

## Fourth Week of Easter

21 – 28 April 2024

**Priest Training Fund Second Collection this Sunday (21 April).** Our Archdiocese has five men in formation for the Priesthood, with a further three expected to start in the autumn. By supporting this collection, you will directly help the formation of the men who have said “Yes!” to a calling to the Catholic Priesthood. **Please return the special envelope you were offered last Sunday** or donate in the Second Collection or via the Card Reader.

**Next Sunday, 28 April** (following St George’s Day): there will be a **Second Collection** at each Mass to support the **upkeep of our Cathedral Church of St George. He is the patron of our diocese and Cathedral.** By donating, you will not only help maintain our Mother Church, but also support its wonderful music tradition, youth and social outreach, as well as keeping it open daily for worship and prayer. Do pay the Cathedral a visit sometime, if you have not yet done so.

### Holy Masses and Intentions for the coming week

<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am</b>	Holy Souls	<i>(St Anselm)</i>
<b>Sunday 21 April</b>	<b>11am</b>	All Parishioners	<b>[Family Mass]</b>
<i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i>	<b>6pm</b>	Deceased Members of Pope Family	
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10am</b>		
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Our Diocese	<b>St George (patron of England and our Diocese)</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>		
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<i>[Funeral: Newton Abbot]</i>	<b>St Mark</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>		
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11am</b>	<i>Confessions</i>	
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am</b>	Bernadette Austen RIP (Birthday)	
<b>Sunday 28 April</b>	<b>11am</b>		
	<b>6pm</b>	All Parishioners	

### Eastertime Evening of Reconciliation and Mercy - 2 May

We warmly invite you with your family and children to join us for another **Evening of Reconciliation and Mercy on Thursday 2 May at 7.30pm.** Come to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), and enjoy a moment of peace, prayer and music. **‘Come back to me with all your heart’.** Provision will be made to care for your younger children while you receive the Sacrament of reconciliation. **If you came to our previous services, come again this time. If you enjoyed the experience, invite others to come with you. If you couldn’t come before, come along this time.**

**The Funeral of Fr David Standley** will take place next **Thursday 25 April at 10am** at **St George’s Cathedral**, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR. The Cathedral is a short walk from Lambeth North Underground Station, London Waterloo and Elephant & Castle stations. Numerous buses serve the area, including the 344 from Clapham Junction.

## Are You Looking for More in Your Catholic Life?

The 'Life in the Spirit Seminars' have been an effective programme used in the Catholic Church for over 50 years to bring people to a deeper relationship with God and an understanding of the charisms of the Holy Spirit. This year two opportunities are offered which you might wish to consider joining:

- the series of seminars will be run at Saint George's Cathedral (8pm to 9.30 pm on Tuesdays, starting 23<sup>rd</sup> April until May 28<sup>th</sup> – with a retreat day on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May);
- in addition, St Vincent's parishioner, Stuart Edwards, is also offering to run a small group in his home following the same talks. This group will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings starting 24th April.

Those who wish to attend the Cathedral sessions, please register at [bit.ly/LISS2024](http://bit.ly/LISS2024). Those interested in meeting at Stuart's home, please contact Stuart personally for details on [ste7474@icloud.com](mailto:ste7474@icloud.com)

## Diocesan Youth Events

**Youth Day (10 – 14-year olds) at St George's Cathedral, Saturday 11 May** from 11am. £5 per child (£8 per family), payable on the day (and including lunch and dinner). During the day there will be a range of opportunities, from learning more about the Catholic faith through catechesis and adoration. to fun with friends through crafts and sport. All are welcome. For more information and to book, visit: [this web page](#).

**Young Adult Events:** St George's Cathedral hosts a monthly Young Adult Mass at 6:00 pm on the first Sunday of every month, followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+). There are also weekly events and socials on Thursday evenings. Details can be found on the [RCAOS website](#), Facebook, and Instagram @stgeorgesya.

**Flame 2025** Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in the UK, featuring guest speakers, award-winning musicians, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, and much more! The event is open to those from school year 9 to university age. The Archdiocese has purchased a block booking – book at [www.tinyurl.com/flame25](http://www.tinyurl.com/flame25)

## The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep

This Sunday's Readings may be found [using this link](#).

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we always listen to one of the Gospel passages in which Jesus refers to himself as 'shepherd', and so we pray for those who particularly carry forward his work of shepherding today. In the Word of God on Sunday, which contains teaching from Saints Peter and John, we also see how the Apostles lived out the calling (vocation) to shepherd his Church that they had received from the Good Shepherd.

Raphael (workshop), *The Healing of the Lame Man*, 1515-16, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

The first reading at Sunday's Mass tells of the healing of a man who had been lame from birth (The full story is found in the third chapter of The Acts of the Apostles). Peter and John were going up to the Temple to pray one afternoon, when the lame man begged them for alms. Peter's reply was: 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and



and

walk.’ By Saint Peter’s invoking of the power of Jesus’ name the man was healed. It was a crucial moment in those early days of the infant Church.

The man remained there, clinging to the disciples. As astonished crowds gathered round, Peter took the occasion to explain that it was not by any power of their own but **through their faith in Jesus that the man had been cured**. *‘It is the name of Jesus which, through our faith in it, has brought back the strength of this man whom you see here.... It is faith in that name that has restored this man to health, as you can all see’* (Acts 3, 16). Peter seized the opportunity provided by their curiosity to preach to them about Jesus. The result was their arrest. They were hauled before the rulers, elders, and scribes – giving Peter another chance to assert confidently before them the faith of Christians in Jesus. For this audience of prominent religious figures, he reinterpreted their Scriptures, applying Psalm 117 (this Sunday’s Responsorial Psalm) to Jesus, and declaring that *‘of all the names in the world given to men, [Jesus] is the only one by which we can be saved.’*



*My copy of a Twentieth Century Icon of Christ the Good Shepherd*

**The Apostles’ vocation.** In those early days after Pentecost, Peter and John were rapidly discovering what their original calling, received from Jesus at the lakeside, to be ‘fishers of men’, was going to mean for them – they had to give their lives to preaching Jesus and the saving power of his death and resurrection. They now **longed to share the Good News with everyone**: *‘I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today’.*

In the other readings this Sunday, we hear from writings of Saint John, Peter’s companion. In chapter 10 of John’s Gospel, Jesus used the image of the Shepherd when speaking of his saving work for us. He declared *‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.’* This is what Peter and John had been preaching, before and after their arrest – **Jesus, who freely laid down his life out of love for all people**. *‘The Father loves me’,* Jesus continued, *‘because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it*

*down, so it is in my power to take it up again’.*

In his First Letter, John inspires every Christian as he tells us that we are being transformed by our faith in Jesus: *‘Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are.... [In the future] we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is’.*

**Priestly Vocation.** John, Peter, the other Apostles, and those they eventually chose to help them, gave their whole lives over to calling people to Jesus. Pastor/Shepherd is how Jesus himself described his own ministry, as all the Gospels tell. Unsurprisingly **‘Shepherd’ is a common image for the ministry of ordained priests** too. In some countries (e.g. the USA) ‘pastor’, shepherd, is the name usually given to parish clergy; here we tend to say ‘Parish Priest’. We priests find this an inspiring if challenging image – one that links us directly to Jesus himself, not describing a ‘job’ but a way of life. Shepherds in his time, and right up to the present, lived with and accompanied their sheep. Used by Jesus ‘shepherd’ is a tender image of care and companionship. The priestly shepherd is to manifest Christ’s own love, care, and companionship – going in search of the stray, watching and guarding those in our care, even in some ways trying to ‘lay down one’s life for the sheep’.

**'Good Shepherd Sunday' is therefore an important occasion to pray for vocations to the priesthood**, and for those in formation to become your future priests. Please do so. We need good priests today, more than ever; yet few people seem to hear this call at the moment. Not a few Catholics want to have priests to serve their parish communities but seem to not to consider where they actually 'come from', nor the part they must have in encouraging vocations to the priesthood. *We priests come from families like yours.*



So, what should 'praying for vocations'

**involve?** Certainly not just a pious hope that somebody somewhere might feel called. Surely, it involves you helping to foster what you pray for. 'Vocation' implies calling – but it is hard to hear someone calling when surrounded by other noise, or a prey to continual distraction, or with no inner stillness. ***The spiritual life of your family lays the foundation for future priestly vocations.*** Focus on Christ, an emphasis on prayer, love of the Mass, a sense of generosity and service, a desire to build up the life of the parish community, clear moral values, the conviction that Christ does call people to specific ways of serving him – these can all prepare the ground for your sons at least to consider the priestly life as good and worthwhile, and maybe even for them. A basic openness to God in prayer is essential if somebody is to discern a vocation. There is a number of good prayerful young men in our parish who, I hope, could at least be open to that possibility as they pray about how to do God's will in their future lives.

Pray fervently for those who do serve as your priests, that we may remain faithful to the Lord who calls us; that we may offer a worthy image of Jesus the Good Shepherd's care for you; and that we may receive love and encouragement from our parishioners that will sustain us.

### Intentions for our Easter Prayer

**Pray for Peace.** Please pray fervently for a real and lasting ceasefire in the Holy Land, and a lasting peace with justice for all who live there – for an end to the the starvation, killing, wounding, and trauma of innocents, and the terrible and unnecessary destruction of people's homes and livelihoods in Gaza.

**Pray also for peace with justice for Ukraine, and an end to Russia's violent and unjust war:** for all who have died, been injured, or are bereaved; for Ukrainian refugees here and across Europe.

**Pray for Peace in the many other troubled places across our world** including: Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cameroun, Chad, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen.... and so many other places where the innocent are caught up in the violent power struggles of others.

**And for Christians who are facing persecution in so many parts of the world today,** notably in India, Pakistan and Nigeria, and some countries in the Far East.

**Pray for the Pope's Intention in April, for women:** Let us pray for the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Pray along with Pope Francis himself: just click on [the Pope Video](#).

**Pray for the young children who will receive Holy Communion for the first time next month.**

**And for our sick and housebound:** Rosemary Awere, Ambrose Caldecott, Mario and Mariana Cassar, Rose Egan, George Giannoukakis, Henry Holtz, Lorna Jayamanne, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Pamela Meade, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Gus Twycross-Hills, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Please Support your Parish Financially

*Thank you for your donations last Sunday.*

- **A GIFT-AIDED BANK STANDING ORDER is the most effective way to donate regularly.** Please ask us for details.
- **Always GIFT AID YOUR OFFERING please.** Gift Aiding by UK taxpayers makes an indispensable contribution for it adds 25% to your donations from tax you already pay.
- You can **GIFT AID ANY DONATION**, including Offerings for Masses, as long as you indicate your wish to do so: by using a special Gift Aid envelope and include your contact details (find them in the containers on the Church wall); and you can register your card donations for Gift Aid when using the Card Readers.
- To **GIVE DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid), the **BACS details** you require are:
  - Sort Code:** 50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch
  - Account Number:** 82117209
  - Account Name:** RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens
- **Use the CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but PLEASE also Gift Aid. Register your card the first time; if using the same card in the future, you usually only need to have done so once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish [JustGiving page](#)** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid any donation.**
- We have a **'DONATE BUTTON' [on our website](#)** allowing you to donate directly. **This, too, can be Gift-Aided.**
- If you **SHOP ONLINE** and start out from our **[Easyfundraising Page](#)** you can raise donations for the parish from some 4700 online retailers *at no additional cost to you.*

*May God bless you and all your loved ones during Eastertime,  
Fr Tim*