

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

Newsletter

Contact us:

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Diocesan Safeguarding Office and in a **Safeguarding Emergency:** 020 7261 1606 or 999; Email: safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

Further information:

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



Year A

Fourth Week of Easter

26 April – 3 May 2026

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 26 April	9am Holy Mass	Bernadette Austen (Birthday)	
Fourth Sunday of Easter	11am Holy Mass	For All Parishioners	
Good Shepherd Sunday	6pm Holy Mass	Mgr Michael Connolly RIP	
Monday 27th	9.30am Holy Mass	Fr Arthur Webb RIP (F)	
Tuesday 28th	9.30am Holy Mass	Deceased Marist Fathers	<i>Saint Peter Chanel</i>
	10 – 11am	Coffee Morning in Hall	
Wednesday 29th	No Public Mass	Lucy Norris RIP (F)	Saint Catherine of Siena
Thursday 30th	9.30am Holy Mass	Thomas Hardy RIP (F)	<i>Saint Pius V</i>
	7 – 8pm	Adoration and Reconciliation Service	
Friday 1 May	No Public Mass	Holy Souls	<i>Saint Joseph the Worker</i>
Saturday 2nd	11am Confessions	Mgr Fred Hynde RIP (F)	Saint Athanasius
Sunday 3 May	9am Holy Mass	Deceased Parishioners	
Fifth Sunday of Easter	11am Holy Mass	Confirmation Mass	
	6pm Holy Mass	For all parishioners	

Priest Training Fund Second Collection this weekend. By supporting this collection, you will directly help the formation of the men who have said “Yes!” to a sense of being called to the Catholic Priesthood. 🙌 Or donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF Read Pope Leo’s Message for Vocations Sunday [here](#)

Reconciliation Service (Confessions) with Adoration next Thursday 30 April at 7pm – it is available for all, but especially the children who will be confirmed next Sunday, and those who will receive their first Holy Communion on 10 May. There will be Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Even if not going to Confession, PLEASE COME along and support these young people with your prayers.

Rosary for Life. Archbishop John Wilson is calling on all of us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable who are facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly and vulnerable. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife. **Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.**

Encounter Pentecost: Saturday 23 May, 10 am to 5pm at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR. Come to discover and experience the meaning of Pentecost. A Day-long celebration with spiritual and fun activities for all the

family. Children and Teen ministry. Latin American, African and Caribbean food. Talks, praise and worship, prayer spaces, stalls, and confessions, rosary and Mass (at 4pm). ALL WELCOME!

Go on an inner journey to prepare for this great feast with the daily reflection ***Pilgrimage to Pentecost* booklet**, available at the back of Church, price £3.50. And/or join the **6 Pilgrimage to Pentecost evening sessions** 7.30 – 9pm in Our Lady's Chapel at St George's Cathedral: times of prayer, praise and worship, talks and sharing to unleash more of the Holy Spirit in your life. From 28 April - 2 June. (Refreshments in the Amigo Hall at 6.45 pm).

On the Table at the Back of Church you will see some **publications for Children**, produced by a parishioner. If interested in purchasing any, search *Christian Publications and Catherine Habbie* on Amazon.

Christ our Good and Loving Shepherd

This Sunday, the fourth of Eastertime, the Gospel passage is always taken from Chapter 10 of St John's Gospel, where **Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd**. This powerful image, found in the other Gospels too, is one of the most comforting images Jesus uses for himself.

It is also **one of the earliest ways Our Lord was represented artistically**. The image below (probably from the close of the Second Century) is in the Catacombs of Priscilla in Rome. Christ is represented as a humble and youthful shepherd with a lamb on his shoulders as he watches over his little flock, here shown as just two sheep placed at his side. It was an image of comfort for those very early persecuted Christians who went to the Catacombs to bury their dead and entrust them to Christ's continuing care.



There is another wonderful ancient image of the Good Shepherd, in Ravenna. It is over the entrance of the early 5th century Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and reproduced on the next page. In this beautiful mosaic, the Lord, in gold vestments, is keeping a very watchful eye on his sheep, especially those who might stray. In his parables found in Matthew 18 and Luke 15, **he is the one who goes in search of the stray**. He applies to himself this image of God that comes out of the Old Testament (see below). **He speaks of his continual care for us** (as in today's, much-loved, Psalm 23).

The Gospel passage on Sunday actually comes immediately before the verse where Jesus first refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. We hear Jesus call himself **the 'door' of the sheep** – the one through whom we enter



to find the pasture we need. He also says **he goes ahead of his flock**, and *'the sheep follow him, because they know his voice'*. The 'Good Shepherd' like the 'Sacred Heart' is a deeply loved name for Jesus that speaks of his tender and abiding care for us; an image for how **he leads us to life and true happiness, 'so that [we] may have life and have it to the full'**.

'By his wounds you have been healed' says Saint Peter (in today's second reading). We **'were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls'**. The Psalm on Sunday reassures us that he gives us repose in *'fresh and green pastures'*, and leads us to *'restful waters'* to revive us, as we see in the image from Ravenna above.

Ask yourself what Jesus your Good Shepherd might want to say to you today?

- Can you name any ways you need the sort of care he is offering you?
- Can you recall any times you have already received it?
- Could you make a prayer of trust in Jesus' care for you?
- Jesus says this to you: *I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.*

The words of the Prophecy of Ezekiel (34:11-16) are fulfilled in the care Jesus our Good Shepherd, the Son of God incarnate, continually shows us:

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice."

Pray fervently for Peace in these Dangerous Times

Pray for Peace along with Pope Leo and all people of good will:

- For the cessation of the wars in the Middle East and the murder of innocent civilians, the displacement of hundreds of thousands from their homes, and for a lasting peace and justice. For the end of Israel's war on Lebanon, the people in Gaza, and to the intimidation and destruction aimed at fully annexing the occupied Palestinian West Bank; and to all provocations of Israel by Hamas, Hezbollah and similar armed terror groups.

- For the peoples of Lebanon and Iran, cruelly attacked and driven from their homes and workplaces.
- For an end to the violent civil war in Sudan.
- For the suffering people of Ukraine, as they endure the fifth year of Russian aggression.
- For peace in so many troubled places across our world, including Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cameroun, Chad, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Tigray, Haiti, Hong Kong, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Thailand, Yemen.... and all the places where the innocent are caught up in the violent power struggles of others.

Pray fervently for lasting peace with justice for all, for an end to the starvation, killing, wounding, and trauma of innocents, and the utterly unnecessary destruction of people's homes and livelihoods.

And for numerous Christians in so many places who face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, especially in the Holy Land, the occupied West Bank, Gaza, and Nigeria.

Other Intentions for our Prayer

Join Pope Leo in his Prayer Intention for April - For priests in crisis: 'Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.' Pray along with Pope Leo:

<https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

Please pray for our young parishioners who will be confirmed next Sunday: Alban, Arthur, Elisabetta and Isabella that they will open themselves up to all the ways the Holy Spirit wants to conform them to the image of Jesus and lead them deeper into the life of the Church.

For all who are sick or housebound, particularly: Brian and Bridie Connolly, Rose Egan, Ethna Ezechie, George Giannoukakis, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Gina de Lorenzi, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Robina Rafferty, Gus Twycross-Hills, Angela Wells, Monica Wisdom, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for our parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Your Parish needs your generous financial support

Thank you for last Sunday's Donations to our Parish

To donate to our Parish Online just scan this Code. Please Gift-Aid as well:



- **The most efficient way to donate regularly is with A GIFT-AIDED BANK STANDING ORDER.** Please ask us for details, or use the **Parish Pledge Form on our website [using this link.](#)**
To do this **DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT**, you require these **BACS details** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid):

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- **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 have already paid - [use this link to register.](#) **ANY DONATION to the Parish can be GIFT AIDED, including Offerings for Masses.** Indicate your wish to do so by using the special Gift Aid envelopes (in the boxes on the right-hand Church wall), and include your contact details.
- **Use the CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but remember you should **Gift Aid each Card you use** the first time used. If you use the same card in the future, you need usually only register once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish [JustGiving page](#)** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid your donations.**
- There is a '**DONATE BUTTON**' [on our website](#) allowing you to donate directly online. **This, too, lets you Gift-Aid.**
- When you **SHOP ONLINE**, start first from our [Easyfundraising Page](#), and you will find you can raise donations for the parish from some 8000 online retailers. There is **no additional cost to you.**

*God Bless us all this Eastertime
Fr Tim*