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*Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message. If you do not wish to opt-in to hear more about our work and fundraising via text, but would still like to donate £5, text METROCATHEDRALNOINFO instead.



Cathedral Record

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends, Today is traditionally known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday as, in today's gospel reading, Jesus says, 'I am the Good Shepherd: the good shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep'. Jesus's listeners, although very familiar with the image that Jesus is using, would be startled by his use of this imagery with reference to himself. Shepherds lived on the margins of society and were treated with suspicion. What on earth is Jesus doing? Well, in the first place, he has made his listeners ears prick up and then, by identifying with certain qualities of the good shepherd, he is showing us clearly the mission he has received from his Father: to gather us into one flock, to know each of us individually, to protect us and to lay down his life for us. Jesus takes this on freely but also predicts his resurrection. I want to ask you to reflect on your vocation because this gospel applies to every one of us, not simply those who are called to serve in the Church as priests, deacons or religious. By baptism we have been gathered into one flock and called to holiness. That call is unique to each of us; the Good Shepherd knows his sheep and they know him, and furthermore Jesus, through his death and resurrection, has opened for us the way to eternal life with his Father. Our particular journey through life in response to God's loving purpose for us is different from the person sitting next to us. Some of us live out our vocation in a particular way such as by being married and having a family. Others will live in a religious community. Many people respond to the call to holiness through the work they do, perhaps as a teacher or in a caring profession. There are as many ways of hearing God's call and answering it as there are people on this earth. Our responsibility as Christians is to listen to God's word and hear how he is calling us individually. Although the call is particular to each of us, the way we as a community find holiness is through each other in the church, becoming one in Christ and by being Christ to the wider world. Holiness is not confined to the church. We have seen numerous examples of this throughout the pandemic in the service which individuals have given to others. The ultimate sacrifice has been paid by many NHS workers who cared for infected patients with selfless love and fatally caught the virus themselves, but many others in every part of our society have reached out to offer help and support to isolated people they did not know before

the lockdown. Volunteers are stepping forward to make our churches safe, to train as vaccinators, to steward the vaccination centres and to get their neighbour's shopping. These practical actions are signs of the communion that characterises the human person and, dare I say, speak of holiness, as they are a sign for us of the unity that we strive for under Christ, the Good Shepherd. It is therefore essential that we allow the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work in and through us. By doing so we are able to understand more fully the life to which we're called. Be in no doubt that if we accept that the Spirit is at work, every one of us is called to a particular Vocation. As an archdiocese we have been opening ourselves to that same Spirit as we move towards our Archdiocesan Synod in June this year. The future of our church here in the Archdiocese of Liverpool depends on every one of us discerning our individual vocation and following it in truth; and we should not let any mistakes in the past or a feeling of unworthiness hold us back. Pope Benedict noted several years ago that "Weaknesses and human limits do not present obstacles, as long as they help to make us more aware of the fact that we need the redeeming grace of Christ." I pray that some of you may have specific calls to priesthood, religious life and the diaconate. The ordained ministry and religious life are necessary for a healthy church. Just as it is really impossible to have a church without the mass, so I believe it is also unthinkable to be a church without men and women religious, contemplative and active, who have laid down their lives in service. If I were to give you statistics of the falling numbers of vocations you would be quite shocked and worried, suffice it for me to say that the church is changing, and we should not be afraid of what the future holds - Jesus tells us that the Good Shepherd knows his own and they him. That should be enough assurance for us to face what lies ahead with bold hearts. Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide shepherds for his flock and that you may continue to be supported by his love as you follow your vocation. Wishing you and your families every blessing in this Easter season.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon

Tel: 0151 709 9222
Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING 25 April 2021

Sunday 25 April Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00am Mass
11.00am Mass
This Mass will be streamed live on
Facebook and Youtube

Monday 26 April 12noon Mass

Tuesday 27 April 12noon Mass

Wednesday 28 April 12noon Mass

Thursday 29 April St Catherine of Siena 12noon Mass

Friday 30 April 12noon Mass

Saturday 1 May 10.00am Mass 4.00pm Mass

**RECONCILIATION (Confession)
The Sacrament of
Reconciliation will take place
at 10.30am, and again
between 3.00pm – 3.45pm on
Saturdays only.**

Crypt Crypt Chapel

SS -
55 Seel St,
Missionaries of
Charity

RLUH -
Royal Liverpool
University Hospital

CLERGY:

PRIESTS:
Canon Anthony
O'Brien Dean
Fr Stephen Lee
Fr Chris McCoy
Fr Peter Murphy

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings

Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Mary Lawrence (RIP), Pat Collins (RIP), Brenda Davies (RIP), Rita Talon (RIP), John Balshaw (RIP), Gerard Webb (RIP), Holy Souls, Mrs Alzbeta Durajova (Good Health), Mr Michal Kamzik (Good Health), Bill Hitchen (Special Intention), Bill and Sally Hitchen (Special Intention), Barbara Nolan (RIP).

MET CATHEDRAL YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults aged 18 to 35(ish) from the Cathedral community are meeting together each week via Zoom.

Worship Wednesday - every Wednesday. A time of prayer, and reflection of some shared reading.

Currently we are reading Pope Benedict XVI's 'School of Prayer'.

Social Sunday - 1st Sunday of the Month. An opportunity to socialise with each other, and hear some input.

Sycamore Sundays - 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays (begins 14th March)

Using videos and discussion points from the popular Sycamore project we will explore and deepen our appreciation of our Christian faith.

If you would like to join them please contact Fr Peter by emailing p.murphy@metcathedral.org.uk or calling Cathedral House.

SYNOD UPDATE

As we approach our Archdiocesan Synod, taking place online on 19th June, Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on

the recommendations that have emerged. If you haven't seen them yet, there are three places you can find them:

1. Printed in the April edition of the Catholic Pic (www.catholicpic.co.uk)
2. On our Synod Recommendations Website

(www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk) alongside theological reflections on the topics
3. Printed in our Synod book Together on the Road which also includes resources for discernment and the theological reflections (available for £3 from Pauline Books and Media, and the Synod Office, email: synod2020@rcaol.co.uk, tel: 0151 486 1206). Please continue to keep the Synod in your prayers in the coming months.

NEWS FROM MICAH

This week has seen numbers rise yet again - 108 people at St Vincent's and 418 at St Bride's have been provided with essential food, thanks to the continuing generosity of our donors. The crisis is clearly far from over. Needs in particular are for long life milk, Weetabix type cereal, tinned beans, tomatoes or other veg and pasta. Please drop off any items of food that you have at the Cathedral Security Office.

CATHEDRAL READERS

We are actively looking for people to come forward who are interested in becoming part of our Guild of Readers. This is a really important ministry within our Cathedral community. As we start to think about our own road map and adding in more Masses to our timetable we need people to come onto our Readers rota. You don't need any previous experience and full training will be given, and any concerns or queries will be answered. All you need is some confidence and to be

reliable. If you would like more details, or are interested please email

c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk in the first instance and we can then out you in touch with the Readers co-ordinator.

NEWS FROM SAINT NICHOLAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a lovely start to the summer term welcoming all our children back after the Easter break. Spring is certainly in the air right now and this can be seen around school in our garden areas, signs of new life are all around us. The children are beginning their new topics and enjoying new learning in lessons. Springtime hope brings so much to look forward to.

SAFE GUARDING NEWS

[/LGBTQI Toolkit Mar 2021 Edition.pdf](#)

This is a brilliant resource that defines the different types of LGBTQ+ hate crimes and also covers key points such as: understanding hate crime law, online hate, how to report a hate crime, taking care of yourself after a hate crime, going to the police and going to court. Do take a look at this document. [/LGBTQI Toolkit Mar 2021 Edition.pdf](#)

DAUGHTERS OF ST PAUL

As you may be aware the Daughters of St Paul have purchased a new property and have moved from Bold Street to [84 Church Street](#). We are

delighted that on Tuesday 4th May they are scheduled to open.

The temporary opening hours are as follows:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 10am to 5pm
Wednesday: 10am to 5pm
Thursday: 10am to 5.30pm
Friday: 10am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to 5pm
Sunday: Closed

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE UPDATE

Helen Jones writes, 'To see us through the easing lockdown we invite you to go deeper into scripture with Echoes of Isaiah! Jo Wallace, Pastoral Associate in Upholland and I are facilitating a multimedia zoom exploration of scripture using Isaiah 43 and its echoes in the New Testament. Basing the seven sessions on clips from the crowd funded The Chosen (available for free) you are welcome to join us in delving deeper into our faith, journeying together. If you have never discussed scripture before or are well versed in the bible, the discussion and sharing is open to all. You can sign up for the Zoom link through our website or at www.TheGodWhoSpeaks2020.org.uk. We will be starting Monday 26th April at 7pm on Zoom until 21 June. The Way of Light (Stations of the Resurrection) for our Pastoral Area will be both a Zoom prayer on Sunday 16 May at 6:30pm and also online thereafter: details to follow. "Sunshine is to flowers, what God's love is to the soul." Leila Grandemange, author. God bless, keep safe and enjoy the beautiful weather! Helen.'

Last week's collection: **£587.36**



— THE MYSTERY OF THE —
LUTYENS CRYPT
— LIVERPOOL'S BEST KEPT —
ARCHITECTURAL SECRET




Reopening soon. Please sign up to our newsletter for updates.

Keep in touch

Be the first to hear about Cathedral news, services and events. Please visit liverpoolmetroscathedral.org.uk/sign-up

Stay Connected

Join our online community

Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book is open and accepting your entries but on a limited basis for the time being. Please email goldenbook@metcathedral.org.uk or telephone 0151 707 2107 where a member of the team will assist you.