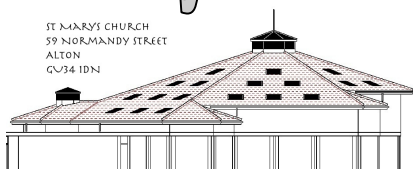


St Mary's Parish Newsletter

ST MARY'S CHURCH
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Safeguarding Rep. Mrs. Anne Bothwell
What-3-words: masks.scans.dinosaur

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 21st April, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

(Year B) Psalter Week 4

Saturday	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	5.30pm	Jeannie & Sean Norris, RIP
Sunday	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	John McGinty, RIP
Monday	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	9.30am	Edward & Jean Snelson, RIP (F)
Tuesday	<i>St. George</i>	
		NO MASS
Wednesday	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	9.30am	Sarah Hall, RIP
Thursday	<i>St. Mark</i>	
	9.30am	GCSE Candidates
	11.30am	Alton Cemetery Burial of Ashes of Joan Remnant, RIP
Friday	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	9.30am	Special Intention
Saturday	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
	9.30am	Mathew Antony, RIP
	5.30pm	Denise Graham, RIP
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	Barry Hughes-Jones, RIP

Confessions: 4.45pm prior to Mass and by request at any time

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Entrance Antiphon

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia ! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia !

Communion Antiphon:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

The Pope's Prayer intentions (April) For The Role of Women

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

PLANT SALE

Following the Masses on 4th & 5th May, there will be a Plant Sale. We would be most grateful for any donations you may wish to contribute. These can be left by the gate into the Presbytery Garden.

*The Special Collection this weekend
is for the Clergy Training Fund*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

21st April 2024

This is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because of the Gospel narratives (from John 10) read each year, in which Jesus talks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock.

A general "theme" to the Scriptures is the person of Jesus and what he has achieved by the Paschal Mystery (his dying and his rising): the first reading talks of his name, and the power of the name of Jesus to save: one of the results of the "power of this name" is that in him we are all God's children, and are promised an eternal reward. All this is summed up in the Gospel, in which Jesus talks of himself as the real shepherd, who is prepared to do anything for his flock, even to the point of giving his life. This he said before his passion, but during Eastertide we read it with the benefit of hindsight. His words are true, and by his dying and rising he has truly saved his flock.

"The Good Shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep."



A Pope's Reflection—Pope Benedict XVI

The Eucharistic celebration during which I ordained nine new priests of the Diocese of Rome has just ended. Let us thank God for this gift, a sign of his faithful and provident love for the Church! Let us gather round these new priests in spirit and pray that they may fully receive the grace of the Sacrament which has conformed them to Jesus Christ, both Priest and Shepherd. And let us pray that all young people may listen to the voice of God who speaks in the depths of their hearts and calls them to leave everything to serve him. This is the real purpose of today's special World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In fact, the Lord is always calling but all too often we do not listen. We are distracted by many things, by other, more superficial voices; and then we are afraid to listen to the Lord's voice because we think he might take away our freedom. In fact, each one of us is the fruit of love: of our parents' love of course, but more profoundly, of God's love. The Bible says: even if your own mother does not want you, I want you because I know and love you (cf. Is 49:15). The moment I realize this my life changes. It becomes a response to this love, greater than any other, and in this way my freedom is completely fulfilled.

The young men whom I ordained priests today are no different from other young men, except that they were deeply moved by the beauty of God's love and could not but respond with their whole life. How did they find God's love? They found it in Jesus Christ: in his Gospel, in the Eucharist and in the community of the Church. In the Church we in fact discover that every person's life is a love story. Sacred Scripture clearly shows us this and the witness borne by the saints confirms it. St Augustine's words are an example of this. Addressing God, he says in his *Confessions*: "Too late I loved you, O Beauty of ancient days, yet ever new! Too late I loved you! And behold, you were within and I abroad.... You were with me, but I was not with you... But you called and shouted and burst through my deafness" (X.27.38). Dear friends, let us pray for the Church, for every local community, that it may be like a watered garden in which all the seeds of vocation that God scatters in abundance sprout and ripen. Let us pray that this garden may be cultivated everywhere, with the joy of feeling that we are all called, in the variety of our gifts. May families in particular be the first environment in which we "breathe" the love of God that provides us with inner strength in the midst of the difficulties and trials of life. All those who experience God's love in the family receive a priceless gift which, with time, bears fruit. May the Blessed Virgin Mary — a model of free and obedient acceptance of the divine call and Mother of every vocation in the Church, obtain all this for us.

**CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN
INDEED, ALLELUIA**

Saints of the Week

April 27th—Saint Louis Mary de Montfort

Louis's life is inseparable from his efforts to promote genuine devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. Totus tuus ("completely yours") was Louis's own personal motto; Pope John Paul II chose it as his episcopal motto. He was born in the Breton village of Montfort, close to Rennes, France, as an adult Louis identified himself by the place of his baptism instead of his family name, Grignon. After being educated by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians, he was ordained a diocesan priest in 1700.



Soon he began preaching parish missions throughout western France. His years of ministering to the poor prompted him to travel and live very simply, sometimes getting him into trouble with Church authorities. In his preaching, which attracted thousands of people back to the faith, Father Louis recommended frequent, even daily, Holy Communion—not the custom then!—and imitation of the Virgin Mary's ongoing acceptance of God's will for her life.

Louis founded the Missionaries of the Company of Mary, for priests and brothers, and the Daughters of Wisdom, who cared especially for the sick. His book True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin has become a classic explanation of Marian devotion. Louis died in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, where a basilica has been erected in his honor. He was canonized in 1947, and his liturgical feast is celebrated on April 28.

Reflection: Like Mary, Louis experienced challenges in his efforts to follow Jesus. Opposed at times in his preaching and in his other ministries, Louis knew with Saint Paul, "Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth". Any attempt to succeed by worldly standards runs the risk of betraying the Good News of Jesus. Mary is "the first and most perfect disciple," as the late Sulpician Father Raymond Brown described her.

April 28th Saint Peter Chanel

Anyone who has worked in loneliness, with great adaptation required and with little apparent success, will find a kindred spirit in Peter Chanel. Born in France, Peter's interest in the missions began in school, when he read letters that missionaries to America sent back home. As a young priest, Peter revived a parish in a "bad" district by the simple method of showing great devotion to the sick. Wanting to be a missionary, he joined the Society of Mary, the Marists, at 28. Obediently, he taught in the seminary for five years.



Then, as superior of seven Marists, he traveled to Western Oceania. The bishop accompanying the missionaries left Peter and a brother on Futuna Island northeast of Fiji, promising to return in six months. He was gone five years. Meanwhile, Peter struggled with this new language and mastered it, making the difficult adjustment to life with whalers, traders, and warring natives. Despite little apparent success and severe want, he maintained a serene and gentle spirit, plus endless patience and courage. A few natives had been baptized, a few more were being instructed. When the chieftain's son asked to be baptized, persecution by the chieftain reached a climax. Father Chanel was clubbed to death. Within two years after his death, the whole island became Catholic and has remained so. He was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1954.

Please remember in your prayers

Ann Lowther, Maria Proli, Sister Terry, Eileen Bowler, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Sheila Payne, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock, Jonathan Wiltshire, Alex Smith, Mary Sturgess, Brenda Gregory, Margaret Collins, Theresa Davies, The Rogers Family, Flavia Stampa Gruss, and all in need of God's grace at this time.



Peter Chanel is the first martyr of Oceania and its patron.

Reflection: Suffering for Christ means suffering because we are like Christ. Very often the opposition we meet is the result of our own selfishness or imprudence. We are not martyrs when we are "persecuted" by those who merely treat us as we treat them. A Christian martyr is one who, like Christ, is simply a witness to God's love, and brings out of human hearts the good or evil that is already there.

A VOCATIONS

Your Call

God has something special he wants you to do that no one else can do. It is as individual as you are, as unique as your fingerprints. But it is up to you to find out what it is with God's help. And when you have found it, it will make you more alive, happy and content than anything else life can bring you.

Extract from Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Vocations

Listening to God opens our hearts, allowing us not only to find his voice, but to hear the voice of others, especially those in need who God in turn sends us to.

We must try to create space and listen to God by making time for him in silence and prayer.

Discerning to find your vocation means making choices: this, not that, here, not there, today, not tomorrow.

Only by confidently walking towards the future can we discover, sometimes by a process of elimination, what our vocation may be.

Prayer to the Blessed Mother for Vocations

Hail Mary, full of grace!

When the angel asked you to bear the Son of the Most High, you responded generously:

"Let it be done unto me."

Be with us now as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow your Son.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to us.

Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest

that He may send us more labourers for the harvest. Ask the Lord to bless our Diocese with more vocations to all states of life and ministry within the Church but especially to the sacred priesthood.

Thus may the word of your Son be made flesh anew in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim the good news of everlasting life. Amen.



ANIMA CHRISTI

(translated by John Henry Newman)

Soul of Christ, be my sanctification. Body of Christ, be my salvation. Blood of Christ, fill all my veins. Water of Christ's side, wash out my stains. Passion of Christ, my comfort be. O good Jesus, listen to me. In Thy wounds I fain would hide; Ne'er to be parted from Thy side.

Guard me, should the foe assail me;

Call me when my life shall fail me.

Bid me come to Thee above. With Thy saints to sing Thy love. World without end. Amen.

S	R	L	F	O	W	O	R	D	S	GOOD	SHEPHERD	SHEEP	WOLF
N	P	E	E	H	S	C	E	S	C	VOICE	ABANDONS	FATHER	LEAD
O	D	P	W	D	I	R	H	D	A	FLOCK	WILL	POWER	COMMAND
D	E	E	A	O	I	E	T	N	T				
N	A	E	V	H	P	F	A	A	T				
A	L	S	C	H	F	I	F	M	R				
B	A	L	E	I	F	L	G	M	E				
A	T	R	I	O	O	D	O	O	G				
R	D	L	L	W	I	V	O	C	S				
S	R	E	T	T	A	C	S	D	K				