

Newsletter

*Parish of St John Vianney, incorporating the former
Parishes of St Andrew, Holy Family & St Mark
St Therese of Lisieux Pastoral Area*

Parish Administration:

Maureen Conley (Mon & Tues 9am - 1pm)

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Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Nunes

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for a priest, all enquiries should please be
directed to the Parish Office (0151 486 9885) in
the first instance.*

Fourth Sunday of Easter, 22 April 2018

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticising the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the

sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Rite of Welcome

Holy Family, 5.15pm: Laila Olivia Rochford-Connor.

Baptismal Information



The next Baptism Registration meeting will take place on Monday, 30 April at 6.00pm in St Mark's Annexe.

Parish Council

For your information, the procedure for consideration of Parish Council minutes is that at any meeting of the Council, the minutes of the previous meeting are agreed for accuracy and content. It is only after this point

that the minutes can be released to parishioners. Parish Council meetings take place approximately every 2 months. The Council appreciates that this means that some information provided in the minutes may appear out of date by the time parishioners read them but this cannot be avoided.

The minutes from the meeting held on 27 February 2018 and all previous minutes, are available to read on our website but if you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the office.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 12 June.

SVP Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 24 April at 7.00pm in St Mark's Annexe.

Invitation to Prayer



The next Pastoral Area Invitation to Prayer will take place on Wednesday, 2 May and this time will be held at the Parish of Christ the King & Our Lady at 7.00pm as the Parish will be celebrating their

25th anniversary. We invite you to join us. Parking is available.

With You Always

Family Session 7 will take place on Monday, 23 April at 4.45pm & 6.00pm in St Mark's School.

Vianney's Voice

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 25 April, 7.00pm-8.30pm in the Holy Family meeting room.

Thank You All!

A big thanks for your caring and generous support for the homeless. For all of those who sponsored Ron Smith for undertaking his sleepout at Liverpool Cathedral, you helped raise an incredible £630 (at the last count) for Liverpool's leading homeless charity The Whitechapel Centre. With just an overcoat to keep him warm, Ron spent the night on the cathedral floor to experience how difficult it is to be without a home and the safety it offers. Like so many of our parishioners, you are an inspiration.

For the anonymous donation towards the Parish Lourdes Fund, thank you so very much.

Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham

We have received some promotional material from the above offices advertising a number of events being held at this Shrine. Please check out the noticeboards if you are interested in seeing what they have on offer during 2018.

The Call

The Irenaeus Project will be providing a series of talks entitled 'The Call' with the opportunity for one to one prayer support at Our Lady of the Assumption, Gateacre every Wednesday evening at 7.00pm from 25 April. For further details please contact the OLA parish office on 487 9372. All welcome.

St George, Martyr, Patron of England

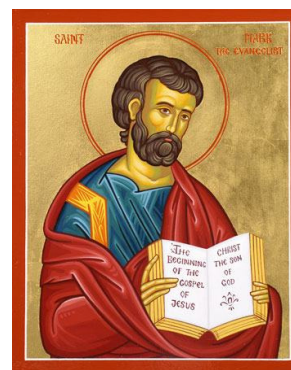


The Gospel on this feast day (23 April) speaks in two themes that are central to stories of St George: the hard demands of living the

Gospel and the total commitment of heart and soul in discipleship that the martyr George took on with courage and our 'connectedness' to God through Christ the vine and to one another as branches of that vine, a connectedness that George lived in his defence of the vulnerable and his compassion for the impoverished.

St George's battle with the dragon is the stuff of legend, of course, but 'dragons' exist in our own realities in the form of injustice, avarice and hatred. Inspired by the determined faith of George who gave his life for the conviction of his faith in the risen Christ, may we take on the 'dragons' that wreak destruction and death in our lives and world with the 'lance' of God's love and grace.

Feast of St Mark, 25 April



John Mark, later known simply as Mark, was a Jew by birth. He was the son of that Mary who was proprietress of the Cenacle or

"upper room" which served as the meeting place for the first Christians in Jerusalem. He was still a youth at the time of the Saviour's death.

An intimate friendship existed between Mark and Peter; he played the role of Peter's companion, disciple and interpreter. According to the common patristic opinion, Mark was present at Peter's preaching in Rome and wrote his Gospel under the influence of the prince of the apostles. This explains why incidents which involve Peter are described with telling detail. Little is known of Mark's later life. It is certain that he died a martyr's death as bishop of Alexandria in Egypt. His relics were transferred from Alexandria to Venice where a worthy tomb was erected in St Mark's Cathedral.

Vocations to Priesthood

22 April is Vocations Sunday. Pope Francis says "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 to us. We must try to create space to listen to God by making time for him in silence and prayer".

If you feel called to serve God as a priest then please go along to St

Charles Borromeo Church, Aigburth on the first Saturday of every month where men of all ages gather to listen to the Lord and follow His Will. For more information please contact Father James Preston, Archdiocesan Vocations Director on email frjamespreston@gmail.com.

In Preparation For Adoremus

The Carmelites have offered to host a series of talks in preparation for the National Pilgrimage & Congress once a month until September. The first talk takes place on Sunday, 29 April, 3.30pm-5.00pm at the Carmelite Convent, Maryton Grange, Allerton Road, L18 3NU and will focus on the Eucharist and praying for the sick. All are welcome, refreshments available.

Northern Catholic Conference

This is taking place on 22, 23 & 24 June 2018 at Liverpool Hope University and the theme is "I am with you always, YES, to the end of time" (Matthew 28:20).

Maybe it's been a while since you attended the conference or perhaps you have never been! Why not go along this year and bring a friend or family member with you to enjoy the NCC experience? It is

always fresh and unique and abounding in graces and blessings with activities and talks for all age groups.

Telephone NCC direct on 07543 800812 for more information or check the website northerncatholicconference.co.uk.

Keep In Your Prayers

All those who are sick and who have died in our Parish and wider community especially Terence William Kenny. Let us remember the families and friends who mourn and for all those who have no one to mourn for them. The Funeral Service for Terence took place on Friday, 20 April at Holy Family Church.

Parish Finance

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 503.02
Other Envelopes	£ 101.50
Loose GASDS	£ 410/09
Total Offertory	£1,014.61
Standing Orders	£ 219.15
Bonus Ball 58	£ 82.00

Retiring Collection

This weekend Priests' Training Fund and envelopes are available at the back of church. Next weekend Parish Lourdes Fund.

Gift Aid

Anyone wishing to make their weekly donations through Gift Aid, whether by envelopes or standing order, please contact the Parish Office.

SJV Bonus Ball

Don't forget to support our Bonus Ball game for your chance to win £30, only £1 per number. You've got to be in it to win it!

Weekday Mass Availability In Our Pastoral Area

This information can be found on the noticeboards at the back of church and also on our website. As Mass times are subject to change, it is always advisable to ring ahead.

Prayer in Preparation for the Eucharistic Congress 2018 and for Synod 2020

We thank you Father for the love you have shown us in the gift of Jesus, your Son. Keep us grateful each day for the blessings that surround us.

As we are fed by you, so now send us out to share what we have received with our hungry brothers and sisters.

We humbly ask your help to become the Church that you are calling us to be: a community that listens, that trusts, that lives with courage and that puts out its nets into new waters.

May the gentle presence of Christ in our hearts be a source of healing, of new life and of a deeper trust in you.
We ask this in faith.

Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Volunteer Pastoral Assistants

Funeral Lay Ministers

Carole Clancy, 07855 769863
carolechristine78@gmail.com

Ron Smith, 07546 252142
ronaldsmith57@btinternet.com

Baptism Coordinator

Chris Myles, 07443 018816
christinamyles52@hotmail.com

With You Always Coordinator

Kami Lester, 07881 817799
vianneywya@gmail.com

School's Information

St Andrew's: 0151 288 8940
Headteacher:
Mrs Jan Cunningham

St Mark's: 0151 288 8910
Headteacher: Mr Richard Coakley

Holy Family: 0151 282 8971
Headteacher: Mr K Quigley

St Edmund Arrowsmith:
0151 477 8770

St Julie's: 0151 428 6421

SFX: 0151 288 1000

Bellerive FCJ: 0151 727 2064

Confessions

Holy Family, 4.45pm, Saturday

Our Lady Of The Assumption,
Gateacre,
11.30am-11.55am, Saturday

St Mary's, Woolton,
11.00am-11.45am, Saturday

Our Lady Of The Annunciation,
Bishop Eton,
4.00pm-5.00pm, Saturday

Blessed Sacrament Shrine,
City Centre
Mon-Sat 11.00am-12 noon

And Finally

How wonderful to hear that former pupil of St Mark's Primary School Katarina Johnson-Thompson won Commonwealth Games heptathlon gold. Once again, well done.

Remember, if you have something you feel may be of interest to our Parish community please let the office know and space allowing, we'll pop it in the newsletter.

Question of the Week

Adults: Whom are you shepherding in your life right now and who shepherds you?

Children: Who has been like a shepherd to you by their example?
For who could you be a shepherd?

Fourth Sunday of Easter 22 April 2018

Date – 2018	Holy Family Church	St. Mark's Church
Saturday, 21 April Weekday of Easter	5.15 pm – Mass (Ann Coysh)	
Sunday, 22 April Fourth Sunday of Easter	11.00 am – Mass (People of the Parish)	9.15 am – Mass (Rita & Harry Pinnington)
Monday, 23 April Solemnity of St George		10.00 am – Service of the Word
Tuesday, 24 April Weekday of Easter	9.00 am – Requiem Mass for William Joseph Parry	
Wednesday, 25 April Feast of St Mark		10.00 am – Mass (SJV Parishioners)
Thursday, 26 April Weekday of Easter	10.00 am – Service of the Word	
Friday, 27 April Weekday of Easter		9.00 am – Mass (John & Pat Sammonds)
Saturday, 28 April Weekday of Easter	5.15 pm – Mass (People of the Parish)	
Sunday, 29 April Fifth Sunday of Easter	11.00 am – Mass (William Warnock)	9.15 am – Mass (Danny Fox)

* We apologise for when times and Mass intentions may occasionally need to be changed at short notice to allow for a Requiem Mass or Funeral Service.

Guidelines for the submission of Mass Intentions can be found on our website.

Readings for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

St Mark's Eucharistic Ministers

22 April – Maureen Cl, Bernie, Terry, George, Maria

29 April – Stephanie, Paul, Rosemarie, Edyta, Bernie