

# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2011



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## THE NEW PARISH CENTRE

The Builders continue to make progress. The underfloor heating and the screed in the link corridor have been completed. In the new sacristy the floor has been screeded, and most of the new walls have been plastered. The side entrance and the partition have been removed. The toilet and the sink in the old sacristy have also been removed, and various pieces of wall have been demolished to start opening up the new access from the Church to the Centre. In the Centre itself, the detailed fitting out is ongoing. The kitchen units have been fitted, and await their doors, the work on completing the toilets is ongoing. The new access to link corridor from the Church will be opened up next week, and then the final wall in the corridor will be plastered.

**We have now banked £7,282 (Thursday evening) from The Parachute Jump. There is still about £700 of sponsorship on the sheets which we have here in the Parish to be collected. If you have not yet made your donation, or still have a Form or money at home, we ask that you return them as soon as possible. When all the forms are returned, we will be able to make the (quite sizeable) Gift Aid Claim. Thank You to all those who have donated.**

**If you wish to see the video of the Jump, please click on the link on the Parish Website.**

## PENTECOST CELEBRATION

The Pentecost celebration this year will take place at 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. It is hoped that this will be the First Parish Celebration in the New Hall. The Builders are doing every thing possible to have the Hall ready, so keep your fingers crossed and keep praying that all goes according to plan! If you wish your home nation to be represented please speak to Margaret or Jacqueline so that we know which country's flags and food to expect! A contact number would also be helpful. The Annual Spring/Summer Raffle will be drawn during the Celebration. The tickets are available at the entrance to the Church.

## FIRST COMMUNION

The Parish will be celebrating First Communion for the next four weeks. They will take place during the 12.30 Mass each Sunday. The Folk Group will "move" from 11.00 Mass to the 12.30 Mass each week! There will be a meeting at 10.00am in the Church on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May for the children and their parents who are celebrating their First Communion the next day.

## ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE PRIEST TRAINING FUND (WEEF)

Today is the worldwide day of prayers for vocations and, in his message for this day of prayer, the Holy Father has called on every Christian community throughout the world to encourage and support those who have said "yes" to God and "yes" to the Church. This message is especially relevant to our diocese as over 40 men are now preparing for the priesthood at our seminary, compared to 20 just 10 years ago. While this is an answer to our prayers, it also means that the diocese must raise the costs. The Diocese is, of course, all too aware of the financial pressures on so many of you in the current very difficult economic climate and all they ask is that you give as much as you can afford as the Fund relies on our donations. If you are a taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid form on the back of the donation envelope as this will add 25p to every £1 that you give at no extra cost to yourself. Thank you.

## STUDY DAY ON THE KING JAMES BIBLE

This year 2011, marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible (KJB). Though 16<sup>th</sup> Century Catholics consciously made their own translations, the KJB is familiar to all of us from its place in English life and culture. Here is an opportunity to hear about its making and its influence through the years, and about the production of the near-contemporary Catholic Douai-Rheims translation. It will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9.45am at University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield. Cost £10 if booked before 31<sup>st</sup> May, £12 thereafter – to include buffet lunch. To book, send your name and address, telephone and email address, with a cheque for £10/12 (payable to St Albans BDF) to Laura Hart, 41 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, AL1 1HE, telephone 01727 818151 or email, [ihart@stalbandsanglican.org](mailto:ihart@stalbandsanglican.org).

## PUSHCHAIRS AND BUGGIES IN THE CHURCH

We have to keep the aisles of the Church clear during Services. We ask people not to cause obstructions with their pushchairs in the aisles. There is room for pushchairs between the heaters along the right hand wall of the Church, and in the Sacristy during Mass. Empty Pushchairs can be left in the Corridor near the Parish Office. Your co-operation is appreciated in this matter.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk through the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff,  
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Acts 2:14.36-41	Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 22	Psalm 32
1 Peter 2:20-25	1 Peter 2:4-9
John 10:1-10	John 14:1-12

**Mass Times**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm</b>
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday	John 1	10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday	Bernardine	10.00am
Saturday	Christopher Magallanes	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm &amp; 6.30pm</b>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation –**

Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45am.

**Offertory Last Week: £1713.43**

**Easter offerings: £63.50**

**April Standing Orders:£2,036.00**

**Parachute jump £874.65**

**Thank You!**

**SVP GROUP**

There will not be an SVP meeting this Monday evening.

**RCIA GROUP**

The RCIA meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

**ST JOSEPH'S MARIAN GROUP**

St Joseph's Marian Group meets in the Sacristy at 10.45am on Tuesday mornings.

**BAPTISM THIS WEEK**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm Erin Smith.

**THIS WEEK'S WEDDINGS**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
at 12.00 noon - Roberto Castiglione & Sally Cannon  
at 2.30pm - Adamo Castiglione & Sian Cusack.

**FUNERAL NEXT WEEK**

The Funeral Mass for the late Pat Lubinski will be celebrated on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 1.30pm.

**THE TYBURN WALK**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June the Martyr's Walk will be held in London, honouring our English Martyr's. It begins at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start at St. Sepulchre's churchyard (opposite the Old Bailey) and will continue with a walk through London, with stops for talks and the Rosary, finishing at Tyburn Convent at 5.00pm with Benediction, confessions, and tea. Everyone is welcome – come and join in this witness to our Faith.

**CHESHUNT URGENT CARE CENTRE**

Our local MP is organising a petition to present on the floor of the House of Commons to get the decision to close the Care Centre reviewed. There are copies of the Petition available for signing at the back of the Church. There will be a demonstration march on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May from Theobolds Grove Station at 10.00am.

**CAFOD – PEDAL AGAINST POVERTY**

Riders are needed to take part in CAFOD's annual family friendly sponsored cycle ride. This will take place in the beautiful Lee Valley Country Park, North London/Hertfordshire on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Please contact CAFOD for a registration form for either a 10 or 18 Mile Ride by phoning 0208-449-6970. email [Westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Westminster@cafod.org.uk) or see our web page: [www.cafod.org.uk/sponsored-events/bike/pedal-against-poverty](http://www.cafod.org.uk/sponsored-events/bike/pedal-against-poverty). If you have a CAFOD Lent self-denial box please could you hand it into the church.

**KSC PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD**

This will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, leaving St Joseph's Church at 9.30am returning approx. 7.00pm. Cost £12 adults and £6 for school children. Bookings to be made to Richard Collison on 01992 440968 or John Anthony on 0208 363 3721. For further details, please see the poster in the Church.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER**

During Easter, we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members of the Church; The Right Use of the Media; Vocations; the Church; Human Work.

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

## A Blessing for Farmers and Ranchers

Creator God, you who set the earth in the heavens  
and ordered the change of the seasons, we thank you for new life in the spring.  
You who created plants and creatures of all kinds,  
we ask your blessing on all who farm and raise animals.  
Be with them as they produce our food.  
Give them strength for their hard labor.  
Give them wisdom to be good stewards of the land.  
Comfort and encourage them in the midst of bad weather and economic hardship,  
and make us all attentive advocates of just policies,  
so that farmers can thrive and find joy in their work.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Sunday, May 15, 2011 The Good Shepherd

Today's Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10. In today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts himself, the Good Shepherd, with "thieves and bandits . . . who come only to kill and destroy" (John 10:8–10). Jesus is referring to bad religious leaders, but how often do we allow "thieves and bandits" through the gateways of our homes and our minds? This may come as advertising (which makes us feel inferior), broadcasting filled with violence and greed, people who demean us, even the messages we send ourselves: "you're not good enough," ". . . smart enough," and so forth. It's as if we allow a dump truck full of garbage to unload in the living room.

In contrast, Jesus offers himself as a guide who brings us into green pastures filled with abundant life. Can we hear this Good Shepherd calling our name, or are we too buried in busy-ness and distraction? Jesus never coerces or forces himself. Instead we are drawn to him as to a friend who deeply understands us and believes in our potential, someone we *want* to be near. Sometimes we're confused about what we need most. How consoling to have the one who knows better than we do what we need.

The Good Shepherd "calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:3). What would that be like? Remember someone beloved calling your name, in tones warm with affirmation. Now magnify that sound, so that it drowns out all the destructive influences and negative voices. Jesus is pleased with you, delights in you, protects you. Celebrate that today!

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## Monday, May 16 Making No Distinction

Today in Acts, Peter explains to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem how he came to understand that Christ's message must be extended to the Gentiles. In visions and in direct communication, the Spirit tells Peter "not to make a distinction between them and us." What distinctions are we making between us and others that the Spirit is asking us to abandon? Today's Readings: Acts 11:1–18; John 10:11–18.

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## Tuesday, May 17

### Spring Planting

In today's reading from Acts, we learn that the word is being preached to "Hellenists," or Gentiles, in the city of Antioch. God's word, like a germinating seed, begins to grow as many Gentiles become believers. Is it time for you to do some seed planting? Depending on where you live, spinach, lettuce, and radishes do well while it's still cool. In warmer regions you might plant herbs or tomatoes, even in a few pots on a balcony. As you watch your plants grow, tend also to the new life of the Resurrection growing in your heart. Today's Readings: Acts 11:19–26; John 10:22–30.

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## Wednesday, May 18

### Savoring Easter Silence

In the last verse of today's Gospel, Jesus says: "What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me." To know God's intention and speak it clearly requires spending time in silent reflection, just as Jesus did. Check out the offerings at a retreat center nearby. Or see if any local parishes or monasteries offer quiet days of prayer. Or create your own retreat at home, planning time away from other activities for spiritual reading, prayer, and meditation. Then seize the opportunity, savoring the silence. Today's Readings: Acts 12: 24—13:5a; John 12:44–50.

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## Thursday, May 19

### Spring Salad

To celebrate the spiritual and earthly bounty of the Easter season, make a spinach salad:

Combine 6 cups fresh spinach leaves (stems removed) with 2 cups fresh strawberries, stemmed and halved. Sprinkle with 1 Tbsp. sesame seeds, toasted in a small skillet for 2 to 3 minutes. Serve with your favorite dressing or try this: Mix 1/4 cup cider vinegar, 1 Tbsp. lemon juice, 1/4 tsp. Dijon mustard, a pinch of sugar, and salt and pepper to taste. With a whisk, beat in 1/2 cup olive oil or salad oil. Serves 6.

Sing an Alleluia before you eat it! Today's Readings: Acts 13:13–25; John 13:16–20.

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## Friday, May 20

### Optional Memorial of Saint Bernardine of Siena

Although Saint Bernardine (1380–1444) was known chiefly for his preaching throughout Italy, as a young man he cared for plague victims in Siena. Much later in America, Rose Hawthorne (1851–1926), daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of *The Scarlet Letter*, converted to Catholicism and founded a Dominican community called the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer. Today, pray for victims of deadly diseases, their caregivers, and those who research a cure. May the peace of Christ surround them. Today's Readings: Acts 13:26–33; John 14:1–6.

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## Saturday, May 21

### Liturgy of the Hours

Sometimes called the Divine Office, this is an ancient way of punctuating the day with prayer. For centuries, communities of monks and nuns have met seven times a day to chant the psalms and listen to scripture. Lay people can do the same, using the official Liturgy of the Hours or adopting an informal prayer practice. Some set a timer and pause for a few minutes' prayer at set times. Others commit to Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer. Today's Readings: Acts 13:44–52; John 14:7–14.

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