



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF  
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,  
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,  
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE  
and  
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,  
TAMWORTH ROAD,  
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY): B

Fourth Week of Eastertide: 25<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week IV)

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April: <u>Easter Feria</u></b>		<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim &amp; Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem, Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April: <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u></b>		
10:00 am: Mass;	John Herbert RIP (Anniversary)	
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April: <u>Easter Feria</u></b>		
10:00 am: Mass;	Sister Nora Curran Birthday Intentions (Breame)	
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April: <u>Easter Feria</u></b>		
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Special Intention (Robinson)	
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April: <u>Easter Feria</u></b>		
10:00 am: Mass;	David Powell RIP (Jane)	
5:15 pm: Reception:	Erica Kalota RIP	
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April: <u>St Catherine of Sienna, Virgin &amp; Doctor, Patron of Europe (Feast)</u></b>		<p><b>HOSPITALS</b></p> <p>A number of priests are still trying to maintain an 'on – call' rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.</p>
10:15 am: Requiem Mass;	Erica Kalota RIP Erica Kalota RIP	
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April: <u>Easter Feria</u></b>		
10:00 am: Mass;	Eileen Hopkins RIP (Wilson)	
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May: <u>St Joseph the Worker (memoria)</u></b>		
Mass;	Holy Souls	
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u></b>		
10:00 am: Mass;	Joan Lynch RIP (Sharon Mullens & Fiddes Family)	
<b>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</b>		
<p>The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall at St Francis of Assisi are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).</p> <p>For enquiries or to book a Mass Intention, please see me after the one of the Scheduled Public Masses or contact me by telephone. Mass Stipends and Parish Collection Envelopes can be posted or given at a later date.</p>		

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to [frcathomas@live.com](mailto:frcathomas@live.com) by WEDNESDAY of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Erica Kalota* who died on *Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021*. Erica will be received into Church on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April and her Requiem Mass will take place on *Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10:15 am* followed by Burial at Beeston Cemetery. Also please remember two priests of our Diocese who died recently, *Canon Owen O'Neill (10<sup>th</sup> April 2021)* and *Fr Anthony Colebrook (20<sup>th</sup> April 2021)*. We remember them and their families at this sad time. May they rest in peace.

**POOR CLARES:** I will be visiting the Sisters this coming *Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021*. If you have any donations for the Sisters could you either give them to me or leave them at Church or the Presbytery. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson*.

**SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS:** Obviously due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we have been unable to Celebrate some of the important Sacraments in the life of the Church over the past year. Specifically, Baptisms, First Confessions and First Holy Communions and Marriage. I am hoping that Baptisms can begin again after all the restrictions are finally lifted by the Government on *21<sup>st</sup> June 2021*. Any families wishing to have their child(ren) Baptised are asked contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date for after the 21<sup>st</sup> June. Similarly, with First Confessions and First Holy Communions, it is hoped that we can complete the programme that was begun in 2020 and that the Celebration of the First Holy Communion Mass can be held some time at the beginning of the New School Year in either September or October 2021. Any children who would have ordinarily made their First Holy Communion in 2021 (School Year 3) will now begin preparations in 2022 and we will have two Schools Years' Celebrations at the same time. Any couples who intend to marry in 2021 are also asked to contact me as soon as possible to confirm dates and make arrangements for the Marriage Preparation Course.

**CELEBRATION OF MASS:** *The public Celebration of Mass is available once again.* Needless to say, that we still need to be aware of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wear face coverings and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. Please remember that you will still need to book to come to Masses using the Diocesan booking system. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will first need to Sign Up (if you haven't already done so) in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. ***PLEASE NOTE: that you can only book on the Mass Booking System up to 7 days ahead, so some of the Masses will not be visible yet.*** The latest time to book for a Mass will be **TWO HOURS** before. ***PLEASE NOTE: If there are only two people coming from the same household please book TWO SEATS and not a whole pew as this will allow more people to attend Mass.*** If you do not have access to or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass, by telephone, by calling Marie Calladine for The Assumption (Tel: 07850 978788), or at Long Eaton by calling Christina Boott on 07875 625974; but I would ask that you only use this option if you are unable to book online. Mass will be available at The Assumption, Beeston on ***Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays*** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on ***Tuesdays***, all at ***10:00 am***. The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 – GOOD SHEPHERD**

**SUNDAY:** This Sunday is our yearly opportunity to reflect on the Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. Also, we can contribute to the Clergy Formation Fund which helps train our future priests and contributes to our priests continuing formation. Please pray for the priests who serve you and encourage the young men [and may be the unattached young at heart!] to either consider the call to Priesthood for themselves or encourage among their peers those whom they think would make good priests.

**'A FATHER'S HEART' – A PODCAST FOR CATHOLIC DADS:** The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a new Podcast to celebrate the Year of St Joseph. A Father's Heart takes its name from *Patris Corde* (Pope Francis' letter that launched this special year). This letter is split into 7 sections, each highlighting a different characteristic of St Joseph's fatherhood. Each month the podcast will pick a section for 2 dads, from around the Diocese, to reflect on and discuss. Find out how to listen (and subscribe) by going to: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts).

**‘BEING A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE’:** After the great success of Bishop Patrick’s Lent Talks on Discipleship, the Formation for Mission Team are offering two talks on Zoom in May on ‘Being a Missionary Disciple.’ The first talk ‘*The Ascension & the Great Commission*’ will be given by Canon Christopher Thomas (General Secretary of the Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales) on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7:00 pm**. This talk will explore the importance of the Ascension and how we can live Jesus final instructions to us. The second talk ‘*Pentecost & Mission*’ will be given by Pippa Baker (A Catholic Missionary, Speaker & Musician) on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7:00 pm**. This talk will examine the significance of Pentecost for us and how the Holy Spirit equips us for mission in our everyday lives. To register visit: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**LEAD LAY CHAPLAIN REQUIRED:** There are vacancies for two Lead Lay Chaplains within the Diocese of Nottingham, at the St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust and also the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Further details are available at [www.stl-cmat.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.stl-cmat.org.uk/vacancies) or [www.srscomat.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.srscomat.co.uk/vacancies). Closing date: **4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE:** The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) has highlighted the importance of prayer and suggested to Pope Francis that the worldwide Catholic Church should join together in a day of prayer. The Holy Father has welcomed this initiative. From 2021, in response to a request from the, “*Let’s Be Honest*” working group, the Bishops have chosen Tuesday of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse — **4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. There were two connected reasons for moving the Day of Prayer from Lent to Easter: this is not a penitential day for the failure of the Church and others to respond to the scourge of abuse but a day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI – ACADEMY TRUST:** Have the following vacancies: Lay Chaplain – St Francis of Assisi Hub; Headteacher – Our Lady of Perpetual Succour; HR Officer – Our Lady of Lourdes Central Team; Teacher of Maths – Christ the King; Teacher of MFL – Christ the King; Teacher of History – The Becket School; Contracts and Procurement Manager – Our Lady of Lourdes Central Team; Midday Supervisor – St Philip Neri with St Bede and; Deputy Headteacher – Holy Cross. All Vacancies can be located on our website here: <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/vacancies-and-recruitment/>

**LET US DREAM – EASTERTIDE REFLECTIONS:** The Spirituality Committee of the Bishops’ Conference has produced a series of reflections based on Pope Francis’ book, “*Let us Dream*” for individual and parish use throughout the Easter Season. Copies are available at the back of church and a PDF version on the Parish website.

**THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE** is looking for a highly skilled and ideally qualified Youth Worker (or equivalent) to work as part of the leadership team of NDCYS, be responsible for the leadership, supervision and management of the Volunteer Team and to lead young people in retreat programmes at The Briars. Applications by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. Programme Leader Band 4, £21, 748 - £24, 491, Full – Time 37.5 hours a week equivalent, week on / week off, to begin on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (if possible). Job description available at: <https://ndcys.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=31e08e04fed7cf68862fb8060&id=8fbd731f23&e=b5a5f5f3c6>. To request an application pack: <mailto:director@ndcys.com>

## ***Fourth Sunday of Easter: B.***

**(READINGS: Acts 4<sup>8-12</sup>; Psalm 117<sup>1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29</sup>; 1 John 3<sup>1-2</sup> and; John 10<sup>11-18</sup>)**

A person’s name is not just a label. It stands for the real person and in the Bible, the name often tells you who they really are. Jesus, for example, was given the name, which meant, “God saves.” It is a privilege to know a person’s name; calling someone by name claims their attention; it opens up a relationship with them. Jesus has given us the power to become children of God; He has given us a share in His divine nature. So when we pray we use God’s name for ourselves, the name of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For through Jesus we come to know God as our own heavenly Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit which moves us to pray and live God's life in our own world. Through the Holy Spirit we are not only disciples of Jesus, but also united with Him as parts of His body. Through sharing the human life of Jesus, we come to rediscover what it means to be human, to reflect the image of God the Creator; through Jesus we come to know God as the Eternal Father, who is always turned towards us in love and we are drawn into the mystery of God which we begin to explore when we pray. The Sign of the Cross reminds us that our vocation to be human does not only call us upwards, as it were, into God; it is a vocation to mankind and indeed to the whole creation – to be servants of all and stewards of all that God has made.

And since our small limited minds are unable to comprehend so many mysteries of our faith, well then we have to rely on images. We depend upon images to help us understand a little better. And Jesus gives us a lot of different images about Himself. Images that are given to us to move us and to inspire us. For example, He tells us that He is the Light of the World. That is an image that can be especially moving when we find ourselves in periods of darkness or discouragement. He tells us that He is the Resurrection and the Life. A title which means an awful lot to us when we lose someone close to us in death. Jesus teaches us that He is the Bread of Life; an image which we gratefully and reverently recall every time we come to celebrate the Eucharist and, approach Holy Communion. Jesus calls Himself the Door, the Gate, through which we all must enter to gain Everlasting Life. And St John the Baptist called Him the Lamb of God; referring to Him as the innocent sacrifice which takes away our sins.

We think of the terms teacher and friend and other moving titles that Jesus used about Himself. There are many more. But traditionally on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church as one shouts out, what has to be the most popular and meaningful title or image of Jesus: the Good Shepherd: Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

It is a kind of paradox that this title is so moving and so meaningful and enduring for us, because I would bet that most of us have never seen a shepherd. And yet the image of the Good Shepherd is so rich, it is so alive, it is so soothing, it is almost embedded in our human nature to know who and what a shepherd is and what a shepherd does.

Think for a moment about everything a shepherd does for his sheep and how that applies to Jesus. A shepherd for instance, leads his sheep to water. And Jesus brings us to the redeeming waters of Baptism. A shepherd feeds his flock; and Jesus feeds us in Holy Communion. A shepherd keeps his flock together, united. And we find ourselves united in the Church by the teaching and the Person of Jesus. A shepherd will go out to search for a lamb that has gone astray. And Jesus in His mercy searches for us, when we are in sin, when we have wandered and, He brings us back through His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And a shepherd we know, will even risk his life to defend his sheep from a robber or a wolf. And Jesus the Good Shepherd gave His very life on the Cross to save us, to protect us from sin and Satan and everlasting death.

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is so apt, so powerful, so consoling to us. Is it any wonder that one of the most ancient depictions of Christ that we have is a mural on the walls of the Catacombs in Rome, showing Jesus surrounded by His sheep, carrying one of them upon His shoulders? Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Now pardon me for spoiling this tender scenario. If Christ is the Good Shepherd, guess who the sheep are? You and I are the sheep. And that is not a very flattering image. Sheep might look innocent and pure and fluffy and cuddly, but we are told that they are among the most stupid animals God ever created.

Sheep like to go off on their own, believing that they know better than the shepherd. And they end up in the jaws of a wolf or stuck on a cliff. And if some smart thief comes up to them and whispers sweet pleasantries in their ears, the dumb sheep will follow that one; and of course end up covered in gravy and mint sauce on the dinner table that afternoon. Sheep think that they know better than the shepherd. So they wander away; they like to assert their independence. They like to be on their own, thinking that this will lead them to happiness and freedom and security. While being apart from the shepherd only leads to wolves and thieves and marauders; and thorn bushes and cliffs and dinner tables.

I don't know about you, but when I hear that description of a lamb or a sheep, I think that it does apply to me. We are sheep aren't we? We are tempted throughout life to think that we can do a lot better without Jesus as our Shepherd and the Church as our flock.

So periodically we wander off, we drift away, we experiment, we assert our independence. We think that we are smart; but really we are dumb. Because real freedom, real security, real unity, verdant pastures, the waters of life eternal, they come only by following the Good Shepherd, as a member of His One flock.

So the Good News today: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. The bad news – we are dumb sheep. But actually that is also Good News, if we admit it, because we stick more closely to Him as members of His One flock.