



**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**



**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

***Easter IV (b) (Good Shepherd)***  
***21st Apl 2024***



*Loving Shepherd of your sheep,*

*all your lambs in safety keep;*

*nothing can your power withstand,*

*none can pluck them from your hand.*

***I am the Good Shepherd!***

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SK13 8DR  
Head : Mr J Kayes  
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<b>DATE</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Sun 21st	<b>EASTER IV (Good Shepherd Sunday)</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) D James (sp int) (P&CJ)	
Mon 22nd	<b>Easter feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA	
Tues 23rd	<b>ST GEORGE, MARTYR, PATRON OF ENGLAND</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA	
Weds 24th	<b>Easter feria / St Fidelis / St Adalbert</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA	
Thurs 25th	<b>ST MARK, EVANGELIST</b> 9.30 (BB) DCA	
Fri 26th	<b>Easter feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA	
Sat 27th	<b>Easter feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA	
Sun 28th	<b>EASTER V</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) C Brazier RIP (fam)	

  

<p><b>EASTER IV (B)</b></p> <p><i>Psalter Week 4</i></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Jesus the Good Shepherd promises rest and contentment to those who follow Him.</p> <p><b>First Reading :</b> Acts 4 : `Jesus` is the only name through which we can be saved.</p> <p><b>Resp.Ps.</b> THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE</p> <p><b>Second Reading :</b> 1 Jn 3: We shall see God as He really is.</p> <p><b>Gospel :</b> Jn 10 : The Good Shepherd longs to gather all into his flock.</p>
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### **SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

**Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:** Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Joe Singleton, Joan Killeen, Winifred Cook, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, David Healey, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Beatrice & John Eaton, Keith Winston.

*Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Colin Mitchell, Matthew O'Meara; Grace Revell, Mary Griffin, Norman Wain, William Stevenson, Janet Porter, Catherine Smith, Eileen Lonergan, Barbara Stafford, Colin Brazier. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them: may they rest in peace. Amen*

### **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** In 1964, Pope Paul VI, launched Vocations Sunday, which we celebrate on the fourth Sunday of Easter, also called Good Shepherd Sunday. This year marks the 61st Anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As Catholics and people of God we all know that God is calling us and has a plan for each of us. He called each of us by name through our Baptism to holiness. He continues to call and cry out to us each day to be his disciples, some to the married life, some to the priesthood, some to religious life or to live as kind single people. Everybody is called! What is God calling you to? Along with the whole Church, let us pray for vocations today. Let us take time to stir the hearts and minds of the people around us to think about the topic of Vocation. The National Office for Vocation (NOV) invites you to talk and encourage children, young people, grandchildren, students, family members to respond generously to the calling of the Lord.

There is a **second collection** for the clergy training fund today.

**ST CHARLES MASS OF AFFIRMATION** is celebrated this Sunday. We welcome candidates and families for this time of commitment.

**IN THE GOSPEL** Each year on this Sunday there is a reading from John about the Good Shepherd. To think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky and often dangerous ground, amid boulders and rocky cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed to be on the alert to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our stubbornness, our mistakes and our fears. Again, as in the other two readings, there is the reassurance of a close relationship with the Father. Jesus knows us intimately, just as he knows the Father. It is questionable whether in real life a shepherd should lay down his life for his sheep: what would happen to the remainder of the flock? But it is an expression of his whole-hearted devotion to the sheep, and an assimilation to the case of Jesus.

**SAINTS ALIVE St George (- c.303)** was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel), during the persecution of Diocletian. Like so many saints of that period, the only fact that we can be certain of is his martyrdom. His cult spread quickly through both the East and the West, and

*the legend of St George and the Dragon only appeared some time afterwards. During the crusades, George was seen to personify the ideals of Christian chivalry, and he was adopted as the patron saint of several city states and countries, including England and Catalonia. King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast was proclaimed a holiday.*

***St Mark the Evangelist** was a cousin of Barnabas and accompanied the apostle Paul on his first missionary journey; later he followed him to Rome. He was a disciple of Peter, and his gospel is told from Peter's point of view. He is credited with founding the Church in Alexandria. His body was stolen from Alexandria in 828 (though some say that the wrong bones were stolen) and taken to Venice, which adopted him as its patron saint.*

***MAY SHE REST IN PEACE** We note the recent death of **Glenis Ellison**, late of Heather Grove, Hollingworth. The funeral (St Charles) is indicated for Wednesday May 8th. God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her relatives.*

***CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES CONFESSIONS** are heard this Sunday afternoon at St Charles. At 3pm there will be a brief service of reconciliation preceding the individual time for confessions.*

***RED BOX MESSAGE:** Maureen relates: "I have received a message from Missio National Director, Father Anthony Chantry, to let us know that jointly St Charles Borromeo and the Immaculate Conception raised £1,363.04 in 2023 through the Red Boxes, including individuals giving directly via direct debits, cheques or online. He has asked that our parishioners are thanked for their generosity. He added that our parishes are part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance, which enables missionary priests to share the Sacraments and the message of the Gospel with their communities. Missio also provides services to improve the well-being of the most vulnerable in society. Red Boxes are available at the back of the Church."*

***ST CHARLES SOCIAL COMMITTEE** will be hosting a Wine Tasting evening on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Oratory at St Charles' Church from 6 until 8 pm. Tickets will cost 15 pounds and will include tastings of 6 wines to be served with cheese and biscuits. We can only accommodate 24 people so it is a case of first-come first-served. Tickets are available from Christine James (07828 703200).*

***"MAGNIFICAT"** and **"MY DAY BY DAY"** for the month of May are found at the back of church. The former is £5; the latter free-of-charge.*

***"DIGNITAS INFINITA"** is a recently-released Vatican document which outlines the church's teaching on the value of life. It addresses many contemporary issues such as gender dysphoria, trans-gendering and assisted suicide. I thoroughly recommend it to you.*

***LOURDES REMINDER** we have had a reminder of the Lourdes pilgrimage (15-19th July). You can find booking forms at the back of church.*

***RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles** : £40: M Cowden, A Brown; £20 : A Black, L Hockey.*

***STANDING ORDERS:** Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.*

***POINTS TO PONDER** On this Vocations Sunday it is important to pray that local lads to hear the calling of the Lord to serve as priests in the gathering of the harvest in the Nottingham diocese. But it is also worth recalling that at present our diocese has only one young man in seminary training. If, God willing, he perseveres, his sacerdotal ordination might be in five years. Several men however, are in training for the permanent diaconate. We pray today for a strengthening of vocation in their hearts. And another thought: when we the diocesan clergy gather together - for example for the Cathedral Chrism Mass - it is impressive to note the variety of backgrounds from which our priests nowadays come. Time was when the lilt of the Irish accent would predominate. Now our clergy are from every continent, and a huge variety of countries, racial backgrounds and with an impressive skill in learning English as a second language. We surely thank God for the sacrifice these men accept in leaving their native lands to serve the Bishop, parishes and people of this diocese. Thanks be to God!*