

St. William of York Catholic Church



PARISH PRIEST
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(Marcello – via text message)

MASS TIMES

Sunday
8.00 am & 10.00 am

Weekdays
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday No Mass
Friday 7.00 pm
Saturday 5.30 pm (Vigil of Sunday)

Confessions on Saturdays 4.15-5.15pm in church,
or by personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year C) Good Shepherd Sunday

8/9 May 2022

Saturday 7 May

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year C)
Good Shepherd Sunday
17.00 Rosary
17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sarah Corrigan RIP

Sunday 8 May

8.00 Mass Mr & Mrs James
McDermott (Anniversary)
10.00 Mass For the people
of the parish

Monday 9 May *Easter ferial*

9.30 Mass & Rosary
Roque Dias RIP

Tuesday 10 May *Easter ferial*

9.30 Mass & Rosary
Patrick Coyle RIP (Anniv)

Wednesday 11 May *Easter ferial*

9.30 Mass & Rosary
Joseph Fernandes
(special intentions)

Thursday 12 May *Easter ferial* No Mass

Friday 13 May

Our Lady of Fatima *Memorial*
19.00 Mass & Rosary
Yvonne Jansz and Natalie RIP

Saturday 14 May

St Mathias the Apostle Feast
No Mass of the day
16.15-17.15 Confessions
Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)
17.00 Rosary
17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
People of the parish

Sunday 15 May

8.00 Mass Noreen Coyne
(6th Anniv)
10.00 Parish Mass
Eric Chandler RIP

The readings for today's Masses are in the *Parish Mass Book*, pages 269–70

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Year C)

It's easy to imagine that the early days of the Church were so blessed by the Holy Spirit that it was easy for the disciples to remain faithful and for the Church to grow. However, that's clearly not true. The first generations of believers were in uncharted territory. They faced huge problems, 'social exclusion' we might call it today, even death. The new testament, especially Acts and Revelation, give a clear picture of the courage of the apostles and the infant Church and their openness in facing whatever came their way. It's clear evidence of their utter conviction that Jesus was with them through all their experiences.

First Reading (NT): Acts 13.14, 43–52 Paul finds himself in what is now the south of Turkey. Consulting a map is useful to understand the demands of his first missionary journey. Travel in those days was dangerous. Weather, attacks by bandits and other factors combined to make any journey perilous. This may well explain why John Mark, who had begun this journey with Paul and Barnabas, abandoned the project and returned to Jerusalem. Paul did not speak or preach randomly. Rather in the towns he visited he *went first to the synagogue*, on the Sabbath, and spoke to his own (Jewish) people and any Gentile converts to Judaism who happened to be there. It is clear that Paul was a persuasive speaker, so much so that by the following week many more people had come to hear him. Unfortunately, here, some of the Jewish *leaders* were unnerved by Paul's success, and sought to have him driven out of the town. Even so, a seed had been sown and it was taking root in surprising places – that is, among the Gentiles. This pattern would repeat itself in many of the towns Paul was to visit and it was thus that the Church began to spread among *both* Jews and Gentiles.

Second Reading (NT): Revelation 7.9, 14–17: This scene once again invites us to consider what Jesus has achieved for those who have faith. By means of a symbolic vision of the heavenly liturgy, the early Christian community is reminded that the salvation offered by 'the Lamb' is not for a few, a sect, a tribe, 'people like us'. It is for *everyone*. We already know that 'the Lamb' refers to the crucified and risen Jesus who has conquered death. The countless number of people who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb refers to all the baptised who have endured persecution for their faith. They now stand before God victorious (its symbol is the palm branch), and enjoy the blessings of God's presence. Never again will they know pain of suffering because 'the Lamb [Jesus] will be their shepherd'. He has brought them home and God has wiped the tears away from their eyes.

Gospel: John 10.27 – 30: The focus is on the figure of the Good Shepherd (which is why this day is dedicated to prayers and offerings to support vocations to the priesthood). The language reflects the old testament idea that *God himself* was the shepherd of his people, and that the kings of Israel were to follow his example. Jesus here refers to himself as the good shepherd who is willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

Before Mass ...

It's always been taught that prayer before Mass is an important way of preparing to share in the celebration of the Eucharist (as indeed are prayers of thanksgiving after the Mass is ended). This could, of course, be prayer before you leave home – prayerfully reading the scriptures that will be read, or the proper prayers of the day. But, from this weekend, before all the Sunday Masses, I want us to begin a new shared habit – of keeping the last five minutes before Mass in silent prayer – so that *everyone* has the opportunity to prepare without noise and talking. (There is plenty of time to catch up with one another afterwards.)

Five minutes before Mass I will recite the following very familiar prayer, after which *please pray in silence* until the bell announces the beginning of the liturgy. “ALMIGHTY GOD, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you and worthily praise your holy name; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**”

Main organ

The wiring of the old electronic organ in the gallery has recently been condemned as unusable, and so the console and its speakers are due to be removed, as is the old harmonium in the singers' gallery over the sacristy. Consideration is being given as to the best replacement for the liturgy in future decades.

Rosary

During the month of May, a month as we all know dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, **the Rosary will be said in Church at 5pm on Saturdays**, in preparation for the Vigil Mass, and **immediately after each weekday Mass**. Please consider making this a regular personal devotion during this month. It could transform your life of prayer.

Confessions

All parishioners, of whatever age, are encouraged to make their confession on a regular basis, whether here in your home parish or in neighbouring parishes. You are welcome to make a personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan at any time. But the weekly public opportunity is moving . . . from Saturday morning to Saturday *afternoon* before the Vigil Mass, from 4.15—5.15pm.

Priest Training Fund

This Sunday is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and there will be a second collection at all masses to support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are for our own Diocese, two others are studying in Rome. Last year four men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men to dedicate their lives to serve the diocese in years to come. **Please be as generous as you can.** If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. **You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations**

Please also pray for more vocations – the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few!!

Meeting for altar servers

A meeting for all altar servers will be held in the church after the 10am Mass on Sunday 15 May.

Help needed in the repository after 8am Mass on Sunday mornings

Please call Sue Mason on 020 8954 0090 for further information.

Counters Rota

New collection counters are needed. If you are able to help after the 10am Mass on Sundays please contact Alec via text on 07860 622831. Your services would be required once every five weeks.

Cleaning Team - additional support sought to supplement and increase our Saturday Cleaning Teams numbers. Cleaning takes place each Saturday from 9.30am – either put your name down on the list in the Porch, or turn up on a Saturday and join our dedicated band of cleaners.

Readers Rota

7 May 5.30pm Noretta Reece 8 May 8am Freda Adzinku

8 May 10am Readings Maureen, Bidding prayers Aude & Eduardo

Counters Rota

8 May Amal Graham, Marcello Borgese

Church Cleaning Rota

14 May Team C: Dominick Martins, Elaine & Derrick Pereira and Elvira De Souza