

**No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Tuesday 23rd April.

“**Awakening**” is here, a Eucharistic Adoration initiative taking place all across the UK to Pentecost Sunday. Join us here at St. Stephen’s as we gather in prayer before the Eucharist Lord next Saturday (27<sup>th</sup> April), from 10.30am to 4.30pm. This initiative is being organised by the *Jesus Youth* movement.

**St George’s Cathedral: Second Collection**  
**Next Weekend 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> April**

For over half a century, St George’s Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George’s has been a beacon of light. Today, St George’s Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year, as well as serving a lively local parish community which proudly reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, as well as concerts and events for various Catholic charities. There is a rich musical tradition, maintaining a choir of boys and men, as well as a girls’ choir, both of which sing at Sunday Masses and on major feasts. In many respects, St George’s Cathedral serves as a spiritual home and ‘beehive’ for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese of Southwark.

St George’s Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. Thank you!

- Donate Online: [www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral)
- Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (below)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – Gift aiders please use the envelope in your GA box.
- Card Reader at the back of the church



**Confirmation:** We are inviting past and present Confirmation candidates and their parents to a special session. All parishioners are warmly invited too.

**Date:** **Sunday 21st April 2024**

**Time:** 9:45am

**Venue:** Church Hall

**Topic:** *Forgiveness, Peace, and Hope*

**Presented by:** Barry and Margaret Mizen whose 16-year-old son, Jimmy, sadly lost his life in a tragic circumstance. The *Jimmy Mizen Foundation* was created by his family in his memory. Try not to miss this opportunity to hear from Barry and Margaret.

**Opportunities for Young People** booklet in the porch giving details of some events and activities for our youth (under 18) and young adults (18 to 35) to assist in their faith journey. Please take a copy home.

**The Southwark Catholic Youth Service** has several activities for those aged 10-35. For details of what is on offer, please sign up to receive regular updates at <https://form.jotform.com/230894642403052>

**To Mark the Year of Prayer**, as designated by the Holy Father, the Archdiocese of Southwark is encouraging people to #GivePrayerAGo through an online campaign. Go to [#GivePrayerAGo: Archdiocese of Southwark \(rcsouthwark.co.uk\)](https://www.giveprayerago.com)

**New Boxes of Gift Aid Envelopes** may be collected from the table at the back of the church. *New* subscribers to our Gift Aid scheme are welcomed. Please take a *Gift Aid Declaration* form from the back table. Once completed, please post it through the presbytery letterbox. Alternatively, you can sign up online by clicking the link <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid>

**The Golden Jubilee** of ordination to the priesthood of Archbishop Kevin McDonald will be on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Archbishop Kevin will be marking this anniversary by preaching at the Celebration of Priesthood Mass in St George’s Cathedral on 31 May. Archbishop John will be the principal Celebrant of the Mass, which will begin at 12:30pm. Archbishop Kevin would like to extend a special invitation to all of the archdiocese to join him at this Mass, as he would greatly appreciate their presence and support.

**A Day With Mary** on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at St Joseph’s Church, Bromley BR1 2PR starting at 9.30am. See poster or [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org) Live stream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@ssjosephswithun3615/streams>



# ST. STEPHEN’S CHURCH

26 DEEPDENE ROAD, WELLING, KENT DA16 3QL ☒ Telephone: 020 8303 4422

Parish Priest: Canon Edward Perera

website: [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) Email: [welling@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:welling@rcaos.org.uk)

Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk)

School: St. Stephen’s Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG  
Telephone: 020 8303 9738

## Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

**Saturday 20th April**

**5pm** Olive & Michael Reilly

**Sunday 21st April**

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Mary Lyons RIP (A&P Lynch)

**Mon 22nd Feria**

**10am** Marie Herity RIP (M Rush)

**11am** **Funeral: David Foley**

**Tues 23rd St George, Martyr, Patron of England**

**10am** Anne Mullen RIP (R Sullivan)

*(No Adoration)*

**7pm** **Novena Mass**

**Wed 24th Feria**

**10am** Mr Germans Loginovo

**Thurs 25th St Mark, Evangelist**

**10am** Gala Lobo RIP (J Kelly)

**Fri 26th Feria**

**10.15am** **Funeral: Catherine Gorman**

**Sat 27th Feria**

**10am** Priest Ints

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

**Saturday 27th April**

**5pm** Repose of the Soul of Ellen Kelly  
(Lobo Family)

**Sunday 28th April**

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Malcolm Ireland RIP (M Harmer)

**Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or residential care.**

## DONATIONS

All donations are greatly appreciated to help support our church & parish. Thank you.

The offertory collection after the Liturgy of the Word during Mass on Saturday evening & Sunday morning is for parishioners who wish to donate with their gift aid envelopes or with loose cash. If you choose to donate via the digital plate in church, online or by standing order, please continue to do so—there is no need to change your chosen method of giving. The collection bag will also be circulated for second collections.

**Donate online** at <https://portal.myдона.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> or <https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport>—please include parish name and location or click on the PayPal donate button on [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk). To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.

NatWest Bank  
Sort Code: 51-70-14  
Account No. 39013332  
Account Name: RCAS Welling  
Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.

**Digital Collection Plates** are situated at the back of the church. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted. Your donation can be gift aided by completing a digital Gift Aid Declaration on the Digital Collection Plate screen (name, address and email address required) and all future donations you make using this card will automatically be recorded as a gift aid donation. A Gift Aid Declaration is required when using the Digital Collection Plate for the first time even if you are registered for Gift Aid at St Stephen’s.

My dear People

The fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Each year the Gospel text is from John and about Jesus. Jesus describes himself using the positive image of the 'good shepherd.' He uses the expression 'good shepherd' twice to describe himself.

The Greek word for 'good' is kalos and it can mean 'beautiful' or even 'true' or 'genuine.' So, Jesus is saying that he is a model of a true shepherd—a trustworthy, authentic and faithful shepherd who tends and safeguards his sheep, unlike the hired men who flee whenever danger approaches. This image of Jesus as the good shepherd has influenced the way in which many Christian denominations refer to their leaders. Those in ministry are often called or referred to as "pastors", which comes from the Latin word for shepherd. Ministerial care of the congregation is referred to as "pastoral care."

In the Old Testament God is portrayed as a shepherd and we see that especially in the Psalms. In Psalm 23 we pray: 'The Lord is my shepherd...' In Psalm 80 we pray:

'O shepherd of Israel, hear us...' In Psalm 95 we pray: "Let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand."

However, the text which is undoubtedly the backdrop to this chapter of John's gospel Chapter 34 of the prophet Ezekiel. There God is described as the shepherd who cares for the sheep, rescuing them from danger, feeding them, tending to the weak sheep, healing the wounds of those who are injured and going after those who are lost.

This is why Peter can invite the rulers of the people and elders whom he addresses in our first reading of today, to join this community of love. It is a community that has one head, one true shepherd who is Jesus Christ in whose name and through whose power wholeness occurs. Though he was rejected, crucified, died and was buried, through His resurrection and Ascension, He continues to draw all people to himself and remain with them always.

God bless and love you all.  
Canon Edward

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

#### Scripture Insights

The Gospel for today is a portion of the longer and very familiar discourse on the Good Shepherd. Most people reading this passage have had no experience with tending sheep, but it is important to keep in mind that this discourse is about relationship. The Jewish community would have been familiar with the images of the shepherd and the hired hand. The hired hand to whom Jesus refers is an individual (or individuals) who had no relationship with the sheep he is paid to tend. The shepherd, on the other hand, is the one who knows and tends to the sheep with tender care. When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd," he is not only identifying himself as the one with whom he and his sheep have a mutual relationship, but also saying that he and the Father have a mutual relationship. While using the familiar shepherd imagery of the Old Testament, Jesus expands the image of shepherd to include "other sheep that do not belong to this fold." Jesus will lay down his life for many, not for an elite few.

#### Reflection

• A good shepherd knows that it is best to lead from the back, gently nudging the flock toward nourishment and keeping out of harm's way. What patience and humility is needed to get out of the way, to put our own agendas aside when we are in a leadership role.

• Perhaps you have heard Pope Francis' invitation to "smell like the sheep." Obviously, this is much less a comment on the odour of a farm animal, and much more an urging for one who loves God's people to be in and among them, working alongside them, taking part in their daily labour. What are the hopes and dreams of others in our community? Where do they struggle, ache, grieve? What brings them joy and hope?

• Think about the "wolves" in our world today. Poverty, illness, inconvenience, racism, sexism, evil: what is our response when these woes come our way? Do we run? Do we look the other way while people suffer? How can we brace for these known and unknown dangers that threaten to separate and destroy our communities?

LTP Sourcebook 2024

#### Priest Training Fund Second Collection

##### This weekend—20th / 21st April

The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. *Good Shepherd Sunday* is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 5 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest.

We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

- Donate Online: [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF)
- Scan QR Code using telephone camera (see below)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church
- Card Reader at the back of the church



**Mass Intentions:** If you would like to offer a Mass for an intention, please use the Mass Intention Envelopes available on the table at the back of the church and post it through the presbytery letterbox. Please ensure you include your contact number. The recommended stipend (donation) by the Archdiocese for a Mass Intention is £10.

**Prayer Intentions Book:** Parishioners are invited to write any prayer intentions in our Parish Prayer Intentions book which is placed on the table at the back of the church. Please take time to read the intentions and include them in your prayers.

**Join our Mailing List:** To receive our weekly newsletter by email please email [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk) to subscribe, include your name and confirm your consent to receive our newsletter. You can unsubscribe at any time by notifying the parish office. Your email address will not be shared and used only to receive our newsletter.

**Missio Red Boxes:** If you have a box to be emptied, please bring it in during the month of April and leave it in the sacristy, ensuring that your name is on the label. Thank you.

**Join Archbishop John and Bishop Paul** on a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23 to 30 August 2024. Details on the pilgrimage, including volunteering and accommodation options can be found on [our website](http://ourwebsite.com). Experience the unique spirituality of Lourdes, along with people from parishes around the Archdiocese. Please pick up an information and booking form from the table in the porch. For more information and / or to register your interest please email [contact@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:contact@catholicassociation.co.uk). More details at [www.tangney-tours.com/CA](http://www.tangney-tours.com/CA) see poster.

**Migrant Mass:** To celebrate the valuable contribution migrants make to life in London and beyond, a special Mass is being held at St George's Cathedral on Monday 6 May at 12.30pm. It will be led by Archbishop John and is in partnership with the dioceses of Westminster and Brentwood, and supported by Justice and Peace and the Ethnic Chaplaincies. We expect it to be well attended, so please arrive by 12pm to secure a seat. [More details here](#)

**Bexley Foodbank:** Donations left in the box in the porch are delivered by our volunteers on a Tuesday and Thursday to the Foodbank so please do not donate perishable items (fresh or frozen food items). Locations of food donation points in our area where you can donate fresh food items (including a list of all food items needed) can be viewed on [https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/Store cupboard food items](https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/Store%20cupboard%20food%20items) only (no fresh or frozen food) can be left in the box in the porch. Thank you.

**Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham - 27 April.** Bishop Philip Moger is leading an Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 27 April. Bishop Philip was the former Rector of the Shrine and the pilgrimage will include adoration, confession, the rosary and Mass. Find out more [here](#)

**Funeral** for Father David Standley: Funeral Mass at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR on Thursday 25th April 2024 at 10am. In April 1985 Fr David was appointed as Parish Priest at St John Vianney, Bexleyheath.

**Parish Garden Day:** Saturday 4th May from 10.30am (weather permitting). Everyone welcome. Please bring your own equipment. Families welcomed—jobs for all. Any amount of time you are able to give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.