

# Our Lady of Lourdes Wanstead

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Newsletter

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**Live Mass Sunday at 11am via YouTube <http://tiny.cc/OLOLE11>**

9th / 10th May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The following is attributed on Facebook to Fr Eamon Graham, Parish of Lavey, Magherafelt, Co Derry

There is plenty of food for thought here...

1. There are no bombs raining on our heads.
2. I am not a prisoner held in solitary confinement, as millions are.
3. I am not a refugee trying to escape with my life.
4. I am not standing in line waiting to fill a pot of water.
5. I have access to fresh food and I'm not starving.
6. I have hot running water.
7. My country has not been ruined by years of war.
8. I can reach my friends by phone and check in on them.
9. My friends check in on me because they care about me.
10. Any whiplash I feel about this strange turn of events is itself a sign of privilege.
11. More than half of the world would gladly trade their everyday problems for the modest inconveniences I am experiencing.
12. I may have anxious dreams but I'm dreaming them on a proper bed and I'm not sleeping on the sidewalk.
13. By staying at home, I'm helping the planet rest.
14. As long as I have my mind I can create, imagine, dream and not be lonely.
15. This global crisis connects me to people around the world and reminds me of our common humanity. This is a good thing.
16. When something tragic happens to another country next time, I will respond to it not with superiority, but humility and recognition.
17. I will fight for positive changes and economically just policies in my own country.
18. I am surrounded by books.
19. I am surrounded by love.
20. The trees have already begun to bloom.

## Bishop Alan's homily for Confirmandi at Good Shepherd Sunday last weekend



### Good Shepherd Sunday

We have two great intentions today, said Bishop Alan. “We pray for our Confirmandi and for vocations.”

Addressing the Confirmandi directly, he said: “Normally I would have met many of you in Brentwood Cathedral or come to your parishes in the weeks and months ahead to confirm others – we will have to wait and see when that will happen.”

He added: “On vocations, our fundamental belief as Catholic Christians is that God in Christ calls each one of us by our name. We pray today that whatever that call is, we will be given the grace to hear and do the will of God.”

Good Shepherd Sunday, he said, is also the time of the risen Lord – Eastertide. “We are trying to work out how it is possible that the man Jesus could die on the cross, be buried and after three days rise again. As we try to puzzle that out, we are like the first Christians. They were in shock: the man who seemed to have changed their lives so amazingly – they saw him crucified and buried and had to work out what could it mean when he was raised from the dead. Faith in the risen Lord was transmitted by personal encounter as early Christians in shock, in mourning, in confusion began to meet Jesus, to listen to Jesus, even to eat with him. What strikes me is that all those encounters were personal and unique – they were called by name, they were given a mission, a vocation, a path in life.”

Other Christians in the early Church never actually met Jesus as the risen Lord, he said, but heard from priests, preachers about him, about his death and resurrection. “The same thing seems to happen to them: they heard the word of God, they heard the Gospel preached and it ‘cut them to the quick’, the phrase in the first reading. They realised that Jesus Christ was the same yesterday, today and forever and his call to them was exactly the same as it was to the first disciples on that first Easter Day.”

He added: “I pray that wherever you are, you will have an encounter with the risen Lord. He is the way, the truth, the life – he is the good shepherd. Pope Francis says it is fundamental to living a great human life. Unless you meet the risen Lord, you can’t taste the fullness of life. Christ says, I’ve come that you may have life to the full and if you want that joy of the Gospel, that joy of Christ, I pray for that real encounter for you during this Eastertide.”

Bishop Alan said that in the early church, those first few weeks between Easter and Pentecost were marked by great confusion, fear and despair. “The disciples were locked in the upper room – and in these days of lockdown that’s something we can all think about. What does it feel like to be locked by fear within a building, unable to get outside? We perhaps have an insight into that ourselves in these difficult days.”

But those early Christians had to work out what it meant to have the risen Lord among them, a Lord who was calling them personally, uniquely by name to go and preach, to go and live the gospel, he said. “As they worked on this, they remembered all the images Christ had used about himself. Many of them, of course, were familiar with sheep, were shepherds and so naturally Our Lord used images about sheep folds, about gates, about shepherds. Indeed in the Gospels, he sometimes said I am the sheepfold, that place of safety that you need to go. In today’s gospel he says, I am the gate to the sheepfold, the way to truth and life. And of course the enduring image for us, especially today, is that of the Good Shepherd. That can be a comforting image.”

He explained the rather uncomfortable and challenging parable of the lost sheep. “It seems a bit of a crazy parable. Who would leave 99 sheep to dangers – wolves, lions – to go in search of the one in the wilderness? It’s a really hard thing to understand. Is Jesus really serious; is he exaggerating to get our attention? Well let me give a little key to the parable. Imagine that you had lost a brother, sister, son, daughter, mother, father, best friend – they were lost, abandoned, needed to be saved. What would you do? Would you leave everything in search of them? I suspect the answer is yes, you would because love knows no boundaries, love knows no limits. In the parable of the lost sheep we see that there is nothing that God would not do for each and everyone of us – he loves us so much. If it means being reckless, if it means being foolish, if it means dying on the cross, our God in Christ will do exactly that. Today we celebrate the outrageous love of the good shepherd for each one of us. How do we respond to that love? I hope that you find great comfort in Christ the good shepherd, in salvation, in being saved.”

Quoting Fr Herbert McCabe OP, he said: “Catholic Christianity is not about being good – it is about being rescued; not about feeling safe, but about being saved. Christ has called each one of us by name – he has a unique path for each one of us and, in our turn, we must become like the good shepherd. As St Peter said in the second reading, he came to give you an example. All of us – whether bishop, priest, religious or consecrated, lay, married or single, whatever we are – need to become shepherds ourselves in the image of Christ.”

### **Mass Intentions:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and morning Prayer  
9am Mass Holy Souls

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and morning Prayer  
9am Mass Margaret and Daniel McColgan RIP

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and morning Prayer  
9am Mass Anthony Quinn RIP

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and morning Prayer  
9am Mass Keenan family

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and morning Prayer  
9am Mass Mercy and Assumption Sisters

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and morning Prayer  
9am Mass Marie Lloyd RIP

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

11am Mass Mario Biagioni RIP

### **RIP Anniversaries**

Pauline Agostini, Jessie Cornish, Honorah Overton, John Lenihan, Joanna Killeen, Margaret Moon, Barbara Burgeon, Edward Dunn, Joan Winberg, Alan Dean, Margaret Collins, Michael Egan, John Sammon, Annie Mockeradge, Rose Floyd, Stan Taylor, Kathleen Connor, Edward Winpass, Andrew Anastasio, Francis Favell, Kathleen Borg, Alzira D'Souza, Florence Kennedy-Jolly, Beatrice Marsh, Mary O'Moore., Michael McGovern, Kevin Keating, Florence Smith, Henry Walsh, John Andrews, Peter Hand, Tom Lynch, Annie Nash, Ida Devereux, Edna Cronin, John McKenna, Anthony Quinn.

### **Parish Finances**

Do please if you can, remember to make your offertory contribution by cheque, bank transfer or cash, or online via the website. We have taken a huge financial hit.

### **Parish Office**

The office is closed until further notice. Emails are checked daily. Normally Father Pat is available 9.30am after Mass.

### **Pastoral Visits**

Due to the Government Regulations, Father Pat is unable to visit homes, care homes or Hospitals. In case of an emergency, provision for the Reception of the Sacraments will be made.

### **Sick and Housebound**

Due to the limitations of this newsletter we are unable to publish the names of the sick and housebound, but they are remembered every day in prayer.

## Thank you

Barbara Biagioni and family would like to thank members of the Parish Community for their prayers, mass cards, cards, floral tributes and expressions of sympathy following the death of her husband Mario. They were all very much appreciated. Thank you too Father Pat for conducting our funeral service under such extreme conditions.

**APPEAL FROM POPE FRANCIS:** On February 4, 2019, Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar met in Abu Dhabi to sign the Document on Human Fraternity—a joint statement calling for the reconciliation of people of goodwill in service of universal peace. With the support of the United Arab Emirates, who themselves are deeply committed to harmonious coexistence through dialogue and understanding, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity was founded [www.forhumanfraternity.org/](http://www.forhumanfraternity.org/) Pope Francis made the following appeal on Wednesday: “As prayer is a universal value, I have accepted the proposal of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity so that on Thursday May 14th believers of all religions unite spiritually in a Day of Prayer and Fasting and Works of Charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic. Remember: May 14, all believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast, and do works of charity.” Please join in this initiative in whatever ways you can.

## Safeguarding Resources during COVID 19

Some useful links to keep our families Safe during COVID 19

Where to report child online Safety issue during lockdown. <https://parentinfo.org/article/child-online-safety-during-lockdown-where-to-report>

Online Safety <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Surviving Family Life under Lockdown <https://parentinfo.org/article/surviving-family-life-under-lockdown>

Where can your child get mental health support online during lockdown <https://parentinfo.org/article/where-can-your-child-get-mental-health-support-online-during-lockdown>

## Vacancies

Trinity Catholic High School

- Teacher of Science - F/T - Sep 2020
- Teacher of Science 0.8FTE, P/T - Sep 2020
- Teacher of Home Economics, 0.6FTE- P/T- Sep 2020
- Teacher of Computer Science with a TLR - Full time - Sep 2020
- Teacher of Computer Science - Part time - Sep 2020
- Teacher of Religious Education - Full time - Sep 2020
- Lead Teacher for PRE & RSE with a TLR - Sep 202

The web address of the above vacancies on the school website <https://fc.tchs.uk.net/vacancies/index.html> Trinity Catholic High School is committed to safe guarding children; successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School (V.A.)**

**Station Road**

**Chingford**

**London E4 7BJ**

**Tel: 020 8529 4723**

**Email: [school@st-marys-pri.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:school@st-marys-pri.waltham.sch.uk)**

**Website: [www.stmaryschingford.com](http://www.stmaryschingford.com)**

**Special Needs Assistant (SNA)**

**Level 2/3 for 1:1 Support**

**17.5 hours per week (12:00 noon to 15:30 daily)**

**Term time only plus inset days**

**Fixed Term Contract Sept to December 2020**

**(possibly ongoing)**

**Salary negotiable by experience**

**Number on Roll 218**

The governors seek to employ a primary trained and enthusiastic professional with excellent classroom practice to join our friendly, well-resourced learning school environment.

For further information including application forms, please visit our website:

<http://www.stmaryschingford.com/>

For any further information you contact the School Office on 020 8529 4723 or email:

[finance@sch.walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:finance@sch.walthamforest.gov.uk)

**Closing Date: 29 May 2020 at 12:00 noon**

**Interviews w/C: 1 June 2020**