

SERVICES THIS WEEK – APRIL/ MAY 2024

SUNDAY 28 April	9.00am, 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed (see www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk for link)</i>
MONDAY 29 April	9.15am	Mass	St Catherine of Siena
TUESDAY 30 April	9.15am	Mass	
WEDNESDAY 1 May	7.30am 12noon	Mass Mass	St Joseph the Worker
THURSDAY 2 May	9.15am	Mass	St Athanasius
FRIDAY 3 May	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass	Sts Philip and James
SATURDAY 4 May	9.15am 6.00pm	Mass Mass	The English Martyrs
SUNDAY 5 May	9.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Mass Mass Mass	6th SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>The 11.00am Mass is livestreamed</i>

ROSARY	After Morning Masses Monday to Saturday
EXPOSITION/private prayer	Wed: 10–11.50am; Fri 10-11am; 5-5.50pm; Sat 9.45-11am
RECONCILIATION	At the above time of adoration & on request
PRAYER GROUPS (in Chapel)	Charismatic Prayer Group - Monday evenings 7pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Peace and reconciliation in Israel and Gaza, and for no further escalation between Israel/Iran.
- Release for all hostages in the war in Israel and Palestine.
- Peace & reconciliation in Ukraine/Russia, Sudan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria and other countries in crisis at this time.
- For all those God is calling to the priesthood and religious life.
- All Christians being persecuted around the world, for example in Nigeria, Nicaragua, Pakistan, India, Burkina Faso, Sudan, China and so many other countries at this time.
- All those affected by the cost of living crisis in our local community and beyond.
- All those affected by famine in Sudan and other parts of the world.
- All who have died recently & all whose anniversaries occur at this time.
- All refugees and migrants – that they may find a place of sanctuary.
- The sick, housebound and most vulnerable members of our parish community.
- CAFOD, Mary's Meals, Caritas, Friends of the Holy Land & the Catholic Children's Society.
- Our First Holy Communion and Confirmation families.
- Our first parish Alpha course, which began last Thursday
- Our parish community – that we may Christ to the centre of our lives this Eastertide.
- All those in our parish and across the diocese received into the Church this Easter.

28th April 2024 / No. 3052



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church - White City

Parish Priest: Fr Richard Nesbitt | Assistant Priest: Fr Ephrem Andom
Parish Administrator: Collise Lynch – Mon, Wed & Fri 10am – 3pm

The Presbytery, Commonwealth Avenue, White City, London, W12 7QR
Tel: 020 8743 8334 | Email: whitecity@rcdow.org.uk | Instagram @olofwc.youth
www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk | Facebook: ourladyoffatimawhitecity

5th SUNDAY of EASTER – Jesus is the Vine, we are the branches

In last week's Gospel Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd, the one who gives his life for his sheep. This week Jesus says of himself "I am the true vine". Why the true vine? Jesus speaks these words to the disciples at the Last Supper in the Upper Room in Jerusalem and one possible explanation is that he is contrasting himself with a famous decoration on the Jerusalem Temple – an imitation vine painted and decorated in gold which slowly spread around the exterior of the Temple thanks to the donations of rich businessmen and pilgrims. Jesus knows that this vine will be destroyed like the rest of the Temple within a couple of generations whereas he, the living vine, will continue to grow and flourish through the Church across the world.

The vine is a plant which grows rapidly and needs to be pruned hard if it is to bear good fruit. Jesus knows as he speaks these words to the disciples that they will need to be purified and what is not of God within them "cut back" in the coming days of his Passion and Death. Then, as long as their lives are truly rooted in him, they will bear rich fruit in his name. The fulfilment of these words is what we celebrate in this joyful season of Eastertide – the Risen Christ is alive in us today!

It is important to recognise that we are the latest generation of the vine, called to continue the disciples' mission as witnesses to the Resurrection. When we hear such words we can think – God must be joking choosing me to represent him! However, look closely at the trees and shrubs in bloom at the moment – the blossom does not grow on the solid trunk or thick branches but out at the very tip on the tender, fragile twigs. The fruit trees show us that the weak little twigs and tendrils are what bear the blossom in Spring and the fruit in Autumn. And that means you and me! So let us root our lives in Christ, the true vine, so that in his name we can bear rich fruit and bring his life to the world.

With prayers - Fr Richard, Fr Ephrem, Deacon Robert and all the parish team

IN THE PARISH...

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 5th Sunday of Easter (Pg 268 Parish Mass book) Acts 9: 26-31; Psalm 21: Response: **You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.** 1 John 3: 18-24; John 15: 1-8 *I Am the True Vine.*

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 6th Sunday of Easter (Pg 270 Parish Mass book) Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Psalm 97: Response: **The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.** 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17 *Love one another as I have loved you.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: £2342.19; Loose: £390.47; Planned Giving: £498.00; On-line donations: £1,225.72; Contactless machine: £228.00. It costs over £8,000 a month/ £2,000 a week to cover just the parish's basic running costs. We don't receive money from the diocese/Vatican /Government but rely 100% on your support. The parish is struggling financially – could you help us more?

Our New 2024/5 WEEKLY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES can be collected from the Presbytery. If you would like to sign up for weekly envelopes/ standing orders, please contact Collise on 0208 743 8334 Mon/Wed/Fri

The PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND has so far raised £400. Last week to donate.

On Line Donations Account Name: WRCDT White City Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 31264990. A regular standing order is a great way to help the parish. Use the parish bank account details above. Add your surname/first name as a reference. Tax payers - gift aid your donation! Email giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with: the name of your parish (White City); your title, first name/surname; address & postcode; date of your gift, or start date of standing order; the amount; please add the line: 'Please gift aid my donations'. Many thanks indeed – this is a HUGE help.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS:

Saturdays at 1.00pm in our Parish Centre Free friendly community lunch run by FoodCycle charity (see www.foodcycle.org.uk). Veggie Lunch & take-home bags. A very special community time with lots of friendly faces and really delicious freshly cooked food. All welcome!

White City Community Food Hub - Mondays in our parish centre. Doors open: 10.30am & the food is usually distributed from 11.30am. You need to be registered and live in W12 – bring proof of address and ID.

The WEDNESDAY WARM WELCOME FAMILY HUB Weds 3.30 – 6pm in the parish centre. Sports for children, arts & crafts, baking plus upcycling & for parents. Simple supper too! Children must be with a parent/carer.

THE THURSDAY CLUB for our older parishioners/local residents meets every Thursday 10am – 12noon in the parish centre. Social time, knitting, chair exercises with Carol & much more.

The ACTIVE MINDS PROJECT is about helping mind, body & soul by promoting physical activity & friendship. On **Tuesdays & 3 Fridays a month 12-1.30pm** (excl. the 3rd Friday) the community are invited to **our parish centre** to participate in social/physical activities for free. **Tuesday afternoons is boxing and Friday is table tennis/multi-sports.** Both sessions are open to adults of all ages and abilities. Why not give it a go!

THE PARISH ALPHA COURSE – continues to go well. We have a wonderful team running the course & equally wonderful 'guests' attending the course. We are no longer accepting new guests as this Alpha ship has now set sail from the harbour! But please continue to hold everyone involved in your prayers. We hope to run another course in the autumn.

Saturday 11th May. Parish Retreat Day led by the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) – a day of prayer, teaching and devotion. A beautiful way to prayer for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13th.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Sat 25 May 2:30pm. Cardinal Vincent is inviting all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please let Fr Richard know the following details asap: husband/wife's names, wedding date, full postal address & email (or telephone number, if no email). Last call!

CAFOD's EMERGENCY SUDAN APPEAL While world attention is focused on Israel/Gaza & Ukraine, there are many other tragedies and disasters around the world which are not making the headlines. These include a devastating famine in Sudan where millions of families, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face extreme hunger. You can give any donations to us here in the parish or donate directly to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. **Next Sunday after the 9am & 11am Masses, Della and her team will be having a pop-up rail sale of bargain, pre-loved clothes to raise money for CAFOD's Sudan appeal.** Remember to bring some money to support this. Many thanks.