



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

***Eastertide Sunday IV (a)
26th April 2026***



Loving Shepherd of your sheep,
all your lambs in safety keep;
nothing can your power withstand,
none can pluck them from your hand.

Where you lead them may they go,
walking in your steps below;
then, before your Father's throne,
Saviour, claim them for your own.

I am the Good Shepherd

Canon Don Bowdren
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OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation
Gamesley SK13 6HB
Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary
SK13 8DR
Head : Mr J Kayes
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 26th	EASTERTIDE SUNDAY 4 (Good Shepherd Sunday) 9.15 (BB) private int 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 27th	12.30 (HAD) Requiem Mass for Winnie O'Brien RIP	
Tues 28th	St Louis 9.30 (HAD) private int	
Weds 29th	St Catherine of Siena 9.30 (HAD) private int	
Thurs 30th	St Pius V 9.30 (HAD) private int	
Fri 1st May	St Joseph the Worker FIRST FRIDAY VISITS TODAY DV 9.30 (BB) Aracey Amorosino RIP (AB)	
Sat 2nd	St Athanasius 9.30 (HAD) private int	
Sun 3rd	EASTERTIDE SUNDAY V 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) private int MAY PROCESSION DURING MASS	

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER (A)

Psalter Week 4

Introduction: Jesus the Good Shepherd promises rest and contentment to those who follow Him.

First Reading : Acts 2 : Peter urges his listeners to be baptised and turn to Christ

Resp.Ps. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT

Second Reading : 1 Pet 2: The disciples of Christ must be ready for persecution, and suffer as did Christ.

Gospel : Jn 10 : The Good Shepherd longs to gather all into his flock

Comm. Ant THE GOOD SHEPHERD HAS RISEN, WHO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP
AND WILLINGLY DIED FOR HIS FLOCK, ALLELUIA.

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, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time : Revv Tony Colebrook, John Timson, Colin Mitchell, Charles Adams, Danny Clavin, Ned Bedford; *Sheila Doyle, Mary Griffin, Norman Wain, William Stevenson, Janet Porter, Catherine Smith, Eileen Lonergan, Barbara Stafford, Colin Brazier, Craig Doodson, Mark Binks, Mary Mycio: May eternal light shine on them : Amen*

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we honour **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY** (aka 'CALLED BY NAME SUNDAY') when we pray for an increase of vocations to the diaconate, priesthood and religious life. In our diocese as elsewhere the harvest is great but the (clergy) labourers are few. Pray with me to the Good Shepherd for more faithful shepherds.

There is a **SECOND COLLECTION** at all Masses this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund. Please be generous.

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL The presentation of the Good Shepherd is the nearest approach to a parable given to us in the Gospel of John. Jesus tells it immediately after a major clash with Pharisees as a result of his cure of the Man Born Blind. This position gives it additional force: the hearers could not fail to understand it in the light of the chapter of Ezekiel 34, in which the prophet contrasts the lazy and self-seeking shepherds ruling Israel in Ezekiel's day with the ideal shepherd whom God would send as his representative. This shepherd would be God himself and his servant David. So Jesus' description of himself as the Good Shepherd is at once a claim to be the Messiah of the line of David and in some sense to be himself the divine Shepherd of Israel. In some way this parable holds the same place in John as the parable of the Wicked Tenants in the synoptic gospels (Mark 12.1-12 and parallels), a condemnation of the present leadership of Israel and a promise of a special messenger sent from God. In the synoptic story the murderous malice of the farm-workers is more prominent; in the Johannine story the devotion and loving care of the shepherd. Stories and images of farming life abound in all the gospels, a testimony to the background of Jesus and his hearers in the farming communities of Galilee. These were the images which would naturally spring to mind. In most of these parables sheep appear as helpless and gormless creatures, prone to getting lost and needing to be sought out, carried back on the shoulders of the shepherd – an apt image of most of us most of the time! Only in this parable are they more responsive and seem to have a real relationship with their shepherd, having the confidence to go out through the gate into freedom when he opens it, recognising his voice, following him and even responding when he calls their name. We might pray to have that confidence and warmth of relationship.

AS PART OF 'CALLED BY NAME' SUNDAY, Bishop Patrick is inviting everyone in the Diocese to submit the names of young faithful men who exhibits qualities of faith, leadership, and a heart for service. You can help encourage him in his vocational discernment by sharing his name and contact information. We are looking for young men over the age of 18. These men will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Patrick and an invitation to meet with him for discussion and refreshments. They will also receive from Fr Neil, our Vocations Director, invitations to discernment groups and ongoing support. To fill out the details of the invitation card, you will need to liaise with the man you wish to nominate and to check that he is happy for the information to be forwarded to us. You can either fill out the card and drop it in the basket today during the collection, or email vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Feel free to take an invitation card home. Finally, submitting multiple names is most welcome. Thank you for your generous participation

in 'Called By Name' Sunday. Please pray for all who are called.

A SINGULAR DAY In 1964, Pope Paul VI, launched the Vocations Sunday, which since then we celebrate on the fourth Sunday of Easter, also called as Good Shepherd Sunday. This year it is on the 26 April 2026, which marks the 63rd Anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Along with the whole Church, let us pray for vocations today. We take time to stir the hearts and minds of the people around us to think about Vocation. The National Office for Vocation invites you to talk to and encourage children, young people, grandchildren, students, family members to respond generously to the calling of the Lord.

THIS SUNDAY EVENING (26th) there is the concert starring Philippa Hanna at 7pm at St Andrew's Church, Hadfield : £7.50. All are welcome!

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS I am minded on May 1st to bring the Blessed Sacrament to the sick & housebound. If you know of someone who would welcome such a gift, please let me know.

MAY DEVOTIONS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Weekly Rosary Sessions will be available every Tuesday evening at 7pm during May. These are online Zoom sessions so you don't have to travel. If you wish to join in just contact Rob Cranston either in person, on the phone (07825953868) or email him on cranston1948@aol.com and he will send you an invitation.

Furthermore : it is our custom during May (and October) to pray the rosary 20 minutes before every public Mass. This is not a 'priestly' liturgical function. Please volunteer to lead any day.

MAY PROCESSIONS Next Sunday (3rd May) we hope to hold the May procession at St Charles. On Sunday 24th May we hope to enjoy good weather for a May Procession at Immaculate Conception.

THE BIG LENT WALK - CAFOD. Thank you to everybody who took part in and supported this year's Lenten efforts. We collectively raised in excess of £2,000 and walked 1,620km (1006 miles).

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE We note the recent death of parishioner **Philomena Atherton** (97). Her funeral rites are indicated for Tuesday 5th May at Immaculate Conception at 12:30pm. May she rest in peace.

And also we have noted the recent death of **Sister Collette PBVM**, the Presentation nun who for years was hospital chaplain at Tameside. May she too enter into a well-merited eternal rest.

HADFIELD METHODIST CHURCH is looking for more volunteers to help out when they can on Thursdays, anytime between 11am and 2pm in the "Warm Spaces Cafe" on Station Rd. This is a venture now in its fourth year and well attended by members of the local community for food, drink and a friendly chat. Anyone interested please contact Elspeth Levitan (07852208468).

RED BOXES Maureen B writes : 'Huge thanks to the Red box holders for their continued support of Missio. Last year, 2025, the two parishes combined donated £1,558.00 through the Red Boxes. Please bring in your Red boxes for emptying during the next couple of weeks.'

REMEMBERING OUR PRESENTATION SISTERS The Presentation Sisters write "this Sunday at 2.30pm we will be gathering in the cemetery at our Convent in Matlock, to remember our Sisters who have died and are buried there and other places. You are welcome to attend, and enjoy refreshments thereafter. Contact us by email eprov@pbvmengland.co.uk."

RECENT TOTE WINNERS **St Charles:** 1st (£40) M Bailey; 2nd (£20) D Bernard.

Broadbottom: 1st (£40) J Hickinson; 2nd (£20) M & J Hambleton.

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 "St Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

SAFEGUARDING If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk; / phone 07513 725411.

AND FINALLY You will note that most Masses I celebrate these days are for 'a private intention'. Simply put, that indicates that no specific Mass intention is indicated. It is a holy and very 'Catholic' gesture to ask a priest say Mass for a relative, friend, a deceased relative, or even world peace. The Mass is the summit of Catholic prayer. The stipend offered is the diocese-mandated £10. Or indeed nothing! Please consider well. Mass Intention envelopes are found at the back of church.