

Southeast Hampshire Pastoral Area
Jesus Prince of Peace
St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church, Leigh Park

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth charity number 1199568

Parochial Administrator: Rev. Fr. James Lewis

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Tom Hiney

Parish telephone number: 023 9248 4323

Deacon Rev. Nick O'Neill noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary Ellen McCarthy office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk

Safeguarding Ministry: 023 9248 4323 safeguarding@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk

BACS details Lloyds Bank CDP Leigh Park St Michael 30-93-04 Account number: 00882004

Our Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-michael-and-all-angels-leigh-park/>

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Parish Mass Book page 262

Scripture Readings at Mass

Acts 2:14, 36-41 'God has made him both Lord and Christ.'

Peter 1 2:20-25 'You have returned to the Shepherd of your souls.'

John 10 1:10 'I am the door of the sheep.'

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26 APRIL 2026

Fr. Tom writes...

**"The sheep hear his voice and,
and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."**

In these moving words from John's Gospel, Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd, and his followers as sheep. In many ways, this is not a flattering image, particularly now. We live in a very individualistic age, and even those of us who attend church each Sunday can tend to individualise our faith. Me first, Jesus second, more like an app on my phone when I need it, rather than my way, my truth and my life. We perhaps prefer the image a lone wolf, roaming where it wants, or a resplendent horse, admired by all. In any case, sheep would probably not be at the top of our list.

Sheep are herd animals, and it is their *obedience* that Jesus is singling out here. That too is not a very fashionable virtue. Our self-indulgent age revolts at the idea of being told what to do, or what not to do, and yet Jesus did not hesitate to set right from wrong in between the miracles of his earthly ministry, and the Church continues to do so. When the rebel voices sound within our hearts, we remind ourselves that this is no ordinary boss. This is Jesus Christ, who wants only to lead us to the safe pastures of heaven, and who laid down his life to get us there. Before He ascended, he entrusted St Peter with the same image ("feed my sheep...tend my sheep") and sent, as promised, the Holy Spirit to help the Church to continue this responsibility.

Because of our pride and individualism, obeying the voice of Jesus in His Church is not easy. There are times when we grumble, or question inwardly the route He has chosen for us. We look mournfully at tempting-looking grass, not knowing why Jesus would have us avoid it, but rather press on into harder lands. But we do so, strengthened by the faith He gives us, faith that has revealed to us that in following this Good Shepherd we are already tasting something of the glory of heaven.

Second Collection for Clergy Training

The Clergy Training Fund supports our seminarians in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six or seven-year journey to ordination. To sustain a seminarian costs around £30,000 each year (2025 costing). Each seminarian brings to his training his own life experience and then participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow. To donate online:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?campaignPageId=31700#amount>

CAFOD: Stand with Sudan

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help: *"So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a regular gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored."*



Donate at cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan

Prayer Ministry

On the last Sunday of every month after 5.30pm Mass at Sacred Heart Church there will be an opportunity to receive individual prayer for anything in your life that is causing you anguish, pain or concern. God works in mysterious ways, but in the history of the Church has often used the prayers of others to provide courage, consolation and even miraculous help in difficult or challenging situations. There will be music playing and pairs of people dotted around the sides of the church offering discreet and caring prayer for anyone brave enough to ask. Many of us have been helped by this kind of prayer ministry and would urge you not to let pride or fear stop you if you are interested. May the Lord be particularly with the volunteers as we start this ministry.

The Tea and Chat Group meet at St Michael's on Thursday 30th April at 2pm. All very welcome.

Bible Timeline The Story of Salvation, continues on Tuesday mornings at 10.15am at St Michael's in the Committee room. Each session will have a video, discussion and question time. Please do come along. Kathy Collins will be hosting kathyimcollins1@gmail.com.

The Humphreys' Family Trek for Rare Dementia Support

Alison Humphreys writes... Three years ago, Fr John was diagnosed with a rare form of dementia, Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). Since then, we have been helped tremendously by Rare Dementia Support, which is part of the National Brain Appeal Charity. It provides much needed help and advice for people with rare dementias and their families. To help raise funds for this important work, on May 2nd Fr John's children, Clare, Rosemary and Edward, are doing a 36 mile sponsored walk from Dean Park Cricket Ground in Bournemouth to the Utilita Bowl at Eastleigh. This is in recognition of Fr John's love of cricket. They would be delighted if you felt able to sponsor them. The link to their Just Giving Page is: www.justgiving.com/page/humphreys-walk

Mass for the Sick

St Edmund, Horndean, would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone in Jesus Prince of Peace Parish for a special Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick on Saturday 9th May @ 12noon. Lunch in the hall afterwards and *for catering reasons please email Sue on office@waterlooville-catholic.org.uk* or sign the list in St. Edmund if you wish to attend. They will be collecting donations which will go towards the cost of the lunch and any money left over at the end of the year goes to charities like CAFOD, Rowans Hospice, Jesuit Refugee programme and Aid to the Church in Need.

Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May commencing with Mass at 9 am. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Afternoon Tea at St. Joseph's

Wednesday 10 June @ 2pm. Traditional tea with a free draw! Tickets cost £10. Please book by Wednesday 3 June – payment is required when booking. To book your tickets or for more information please contact Julia juliaat28@hotmail.co.uk

LITURGICAL WEEK

DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL CELEBRATION	VENUE	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 25 April ST MARK, Evangelist, feast Vigil Fourth Sunday of Easter	11.30am 12noon 2pm 5-6pm 6.15pm	Confession Mass Wedding Carl Heslop & Fiona Darroch Holy Hour & Confession Mass	St Michael St Michael Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	For the parish Fr. Frank Reynolds, RIP (FM)
Sunday 26 April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9am 9.30am 11am 4pm 5.30pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass Mass	St Edmund St Michael Sacred Heart QA Hospital Chapel Sacred Heart	Arlene Lodrick & Emmie Willis, RIP. Deceased members of Lodrick, d'Esperance & Adams families Stephen Harrison RIP Sheila & Michael Crombie, RIP People of the Parish
Monday 27 April Of the Fourth Week of Easter	7am 7.30am 12.30pm 2pm 4.30pm	Mass Holy Hour Mass Funeral Service for Sabine Cooper Reception of body into church	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart QA Hospital Chapel Sacred Heart St Edmund	Matthew Upham, RIP
Tuesday 28 April Of the Fourth Week of Easter	7.30am 12noon	Holy Hour Funeral Mass	Sacred Heart St Edmund	Theresa O'Byrne, RIP
Wednesday 29 April St CATHERINE of SIENA, Religious & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe, f	7.30am 10.15am 11.30am 12noon	Holy Hour Mass followed by Adoration Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart St Michael St Michael Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Nicholas Riley Nuala Egar
Thursday 30 April Of the Fourth Week of Easter	7am 7.30am 9.30am 10am	Mass Holy Hour Adoration & Confession Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart St Edmund St Edmund	Holy Souls Verity Lawless, RIP (2nd Ann)
Friday 1 May Of the Fourth Week of Easter	7.30am 11.30am 12noon	Holy Hour Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Susan Sheehan
Saturday 2 May Vigil Fifth Sunday of Easter	11.30am 12noon 5-6pm 6.15pm	Adoration & Confession Mass Holy Hour & Confession Mass	St Michael St Michael Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Svetlana Urbandvich INT Anne Finn, Intention
Sunday 3 May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9am 9.30am 11am 4pm 5.30pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass Mass	St Edmund St Michael Sacred Heart QA Hospital Chapel Sacred Heart	Louisa Ryder RIP George Riley People of the Parish Rose Hayllar, RIP