

# PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

Parish Priest: 01432 265177, emergency number: 07785583013

Parish Website: [www.olqmhertford.org.uk](http://www.olqmhertford.org.uk) – Parish email: [olqm@talktalk.net](mailto:olqm@talktalk.net)

Our Lady's Primary School: 01432 274814



## Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A – 11 May 2014

**Entrance:** *The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia*

**Responsorial psalm:** *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want*

**Gospel:** *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!*

**Communion:** *The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia*



### Vocations: Witness to the Truth (part one)

The Gospel says that 'Jesus went about all the cities and villages... When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest"' (Mt 9:35-38). These words surprise us, because we all know that it is necessary first to plough, sow and cultivate to then, in due time, reap an abundant harvest. Jesus says instead that "the harvest is plentiful". But who did the work to bring about these results? There is only one answer: God. Clearly

the field of which Jesus is speaking is humanity, us. And the efficacious action which has borne "much fruit" is the grace of God, that is, communion with Him (cf. Jn 15:5). The prayer which Jesus asks of the Church therefore concerns the need to increase the number of those who serve his Kingdom. Saint Paul, who was one of 'God's fellow workers', tirelessly dedicated himself to the cause of the Gospel and the Church. The Apostle, with the awareness of one who has personally experienced how mysterious God's saving will is, and how the initiative of grace is the origin of every vocation, reminds the Christians of Corinth: 'You are God's field' (1 Cor 3:9). That is why wonder first arises in our hearts over the plentiful harvest which God alone can bestow; then gratitude for a love that always goes before us; and lastly, adoration for the work that he has accomplished, which requires our free consent in acting with him and for him. Many times we have prayed with the words of the Psalmist: 'It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture' (Ps 100:3); or: 'The Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession' (Ps 135:4). And yet we are God's 'possession' not in the sense of a possession that renders us slaves, but rather of a strong bond that unites us to God and one another, in accord with a covenant that is eternal, 'for his steadfast love endures for ever' (Ps 136). In the account of the calling of the prophet Jeremiah, for example, God reminds us that he continually watches over each one of us in order that his word may be accomplished in us. The image is of an almond branch which is the first tree to flower, thus announcing life's rebirth in the springtime (cf. Jer 1:11-12). Everything comes from him and is his gift: the world, life, death, the present, the future, but—the Apostle assures us—'you are Christ's; and Christ is God's' (1 Cor 3:23). Hence the way of belonging to God is explained: it comes about through a unique and personal relationship with Jesus, which Baptism confers on us from the beginning of our rebirth to new life. It is Christ, therefore, who continually summons us by his word to place our trust in him, loving him 'with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength' (Mk 12:33). Therefore every vocation, even within the variety of paths, always requires an exodus from oneself in order to centre one's life on Christ and on his Gospel.

Both in married life and in the forms of religious consecration, as well as in priestly life, we must surmount the ways of thinking and acting that do not conform to the will of God. It is an 'exodus that leads us on a journey of adoration of the Lord and of service to him in our brothers and sisters' ("Address to the International Union of Superiors General", 8 May 2013). Therefore, we are all called to adore Christ in our hearts (1 Pet 3:15) in order to allow ourselves to be touched by the impulse of grace contained in the seed of the word, which must grow in us and be transformed into concrete service to our neighbour. We need not be afraid: God follows the work of his hands with passion and skill in every phase of life. He never abandons us! He has the fulfilment of his plan for us at heart, and yet he wishes to achieve it with our consent and cooperation.

3. Today too, Jesus lives and walks along the paths of ordinary life in order to draw near to everyone, beginning with the least, and to heal us of our infirmities and illnesses. I turn now to those who are well disposed to listen to the voice of Christ that rings out in the Church and to understand what their own vocation is. I invite you to listen to and follow Jesus, and to allow yourselves to be transformed interiorly by his words, which 'are spirit and life' (Jn 6:62). Mary, the Mother of Jesus and ours, also says to us: 'Do whatever he tells you' (Jn 2:5). It will help you to participate in a communal journey that is able to release the best energies in you and around you. A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love. Did not Jesus say: 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (Jn 13:35)?

4. Dear brothers and sisters, this 'high standard of ordinary Christian living' (cf John Paul II, "Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*", 31) means sometimes going against the tide and also encountering obstacles, outside ourselves and within ourselves. Jesus himself warns us: the good seed of God's word is often snatched away by the Evil one, blocked by tribulation, and choked by worldly cares and temptation (cf Mt 13:19-22). All of these difficulties could discourage us, making us fall back on seemingly more comfortable paths. However, the true joy of those who are called consists in believing and experiencing that he, the Lord, is faithful, and that with him we can walk, be disciples and witnesses of God's love, open our hearts to great ideals, to great things. 'We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for small things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals!' ("Homily at Holy Mass and the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation", 28 April 2013). I ask you bishops, priests, religious, Christian communities and families to orient vocational pastoral planning in this direction, by accompanying young people on pathways of holiness which, because they are personal, 'call for a genuine "training in holiness" capable of being adapted to every person's need. This training must integrate the resources offered to everyone with both the traditional forms of individual and group assistance, as well as the more recent forms of support offered in associations and movements recognized by the Church' ("*Novo Millennio Ineunte*", 31). Let us dispose our hearts therefore to being 'good soil', by listening, receiving and living out the word, and thus bearing fruit. The more we unite ourselves to Jesus through prayer, Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the Sacraments celebrated and lived in the Church and in fraternity, the more there will grow in us the joy of cooperating with God in the service of the Kingdom of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. And the harvest will be plentiful, proportionate to the grace we have meekly welcomed into our lives. With this wish, and asking you to pray for me, I cordially impart to you all my Apostolic Blessing."

## Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

**The numbers drawn for week 3 were 15, 10, 43, 9, 41, 46 & 17 – no winner**

**Prize money for week 4 is £245.00 and eight numbers to be drawn**

The second collection: will be for the Archdiocesan Priest Training Fund. Please see attached leaflet

Parish AGM: to be held in the parish hall at 7:00 pm on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup>, that is, tomorrow. All parishioners are very welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Tuesday Devotions: Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary afterwards

Bible Study: to be held on Tuesday this week, due to the concert in the church on Wednesday and the May Procession at Belmont. But it will be in the usual place, and at the usual time, (7:00 pm)

Hereford Fire Choir: will be singing here at Our Lady's on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm, providing an evening of songs from the shows. See poster at the back of church for details

Torchlight Procession: in honour of Our Lady – Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at Belmont Abbey, commencing at 9:00pm. The preacher this year will be Dom. Brendan Thomas

Thursday Mass: due to the Priests' Council on Thursday morning, the parish Mass will be at 7:00 pm

Archdiocese of Cardiff Caritas Social Action Roadshow, 'Being a Church for the Poor' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am for 10:30am start to 3.30pm at St David's Catholic College, Cardiff, CF23 5JB. The day will include workshops, as well as a social action Marketplace where local charities and parish based projects have the chance to talk about the work they do in the Archdiocese. All are welcome. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. To register to attend please call Jim Barnaville on 07870879621 or e-mail jim.barnaville@btinternet.com

Curry and Quiz Night: at Our Lady's - next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7 for 7.30pm. Bar & Raffle; up to 6 people per team. There is a non-curry option - please notify the ticket seller if you would like this. Tickets cost £4 per person, under 12's free. Tickets on sale after Sunday Mass this week (11<sup>th</sup> May) or contact Fran Keogh on 01432 840847

Helpers needed: for the parish Jumble Sale this month. On Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 8:00 am and going on until noon, volunteers are needed to set the stalls up, sort the items into their various types, and generally make the stalls look appealing. Many thanks

Parish Jumble Sale: on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May – help needed for the running of the stalls; fun guaranteed. Home made cakes, bric-a-brac, shoes, handbags, books, clothes, toys, bedding etc all gratefully received

Confirmation 2014: our candidates are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated by Archbishop George at Belmont Abbey on 13<sup>th</sup> July. We would very much like all our Parishioners to pray for the young people over the next few months. We would also like some Parishioners to act as "Prayer Sponsors" to our candidates - there is a list at the back of the Church for you to sign up as a prayer sponsor, so please make a positive effort to share in this very special sacrament. Thank you for your support

Missio Boxes: the total from the counting of the boxes is **£602.60** – thank you very much to all involved

Creating a dementia friendly Hereford - see you in the church hall: would you like to be a part of a national movement to help make Britain a place where people who have dementia can live well with understanding neighbours and supportive friends? This Sunday after the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses come join other people who want to be dementia friends. All it takes is 45 minutes, 5 key facts and 1 small action. These sessions will be run again, same time same place, at the start of National Dementia Awareness Week on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Can't make it after mass? Think a friend or colleague may benefit from an information session? That's fine, just call Paula on 07446 85 75 03 to book your own friends session at your workplace or for your group

# Fourth Week of Eastertide

## Psalter week IV

Today:

9:30 am	Ciaran Greene
11:30 am	John Farren
6:30 pm	Victoria Jones Int

Monday 12 May 9:30 am Mass – Edward Lane  
*Eastertide*

Tuesday 13 May 7:00 pm Mass – Monica Hamilton  
*Our Lady of Fatima*

Wednesday, 14 May 9:30 am Mass – Joyce McDermott  
*St Mathias, Apostle*

Thursday, 15 May 7:00 pm Mass – Special Int (VB)  
*Eastertide*

Friday, 16 May 7:00 pm Mass – Natalie Chadwick  
*Eastertide*

Saturday, 17 May 9:30 am - Confessions  
*Eastertide* 10:30 am Mass – Mary Hall

Sunday, 18 May (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

9:30 am	Parish Intention
11:30 am	Ken Davis
6:30 pm	<i>Fr Cenydd Marrison</i>

### Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Joe and Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Joan Sheeran, Glyn Matthews, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Anna Foggo, Catherine Rollings, Sheila Seemarks, Judith Carter, Katie Richardson, Pearl Bray and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Ellen Sloane, Grace Gillespie, Joyce McDermott, Natalie Chadwick and Ryszard Dabek

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of May, including: Kaz & Helena Domalik, Harold Halls, Joseph Greene, Mary Robbins, Desmond Joyce, Hilda Bindon, Mary Turner, Bernadette Lynch, Veronica Lowe, Ann Maloney, Milborough Plummer, Gerhard Kostorz, Josephina Rizzardini, Elizabeth Donovan, Bernadette Graham, Ellen Elkin, Alice Derrick, David Martin, Marguerite Jacobs, Margaret Jones, Francis Meigh, Geoffrey Staton, Ron Tyler, Florence Pockett, Jacqueline Cotton and Franciszek Drynda

Aunt Mary and two of her old friends were having a glass of lemonade at her house, and talking about their health problems. "I think I must be getting old." said one of the women. "I sometimes find myself at the foot of the stairs, and I can't remember if I was going up to get something, or coming back down." "I know what you mean," added the second friend. "Sometimes I'll be standing in front of the refrigerator, and I can't remember if I wanted to take something out, or if I had just put something in." Aunt Mary sat up. "I guess I'm better off than either of you. I haven't had any problems like that so far, knock on wood". Saying that, she rapped on the table three times; after a slight pause she slowly stood up, smiled at the other two women and said, "Please excuse me, someone's at the door."

### Rota Schedule for 16 to 22 May 2014

**Flower Arrangers:** L Meredith & C Mulloy

**Cleaners:** Volunteers

**Ushers:** 9:30am P Roberts & C Sharland

11:30am R Cotterell & J Kelly

6:30pm Volunteers

### Readers:

9:30am P Roberts

11:30am S West

6:30pm J Winter

### Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am C Sharland, A Hepworth, (F Keogh)

11:30pm M Davies, J Meenaghan, D Lissaman

6:30pm G McAleer, J Winter, C Milsom

**Altar Linen:** A Whitehead

### Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 25 maja godz 16:00

### Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May came to **£590.74** – thank you

