

This week at St Lawrence's



10th/11th May 2014

Fourth Sunday of Easter
(Missal Page 262 – YEAR A)

Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 22; 1 Peter 2:20-25 John 10:14

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Missal Page 265): Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 32; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, the Church puts before us the great need for vocations to the Priesthood, to the Missionary, the Religious, the Monastic and the Contemplative Life, but also to the Married life.

Do you have a vocation? A calling from God? Of course you do! In Christianity there are only two basic vocations, both positive: **Marriage** or **Celibacy** and both of them will lead us to a greater calling that is **Holiness**. Thus, in the Church no one is called to be half-married or half-celibate; no one is called to be a bachelor or a spinster. Each one of us has to work out the mystery of God's will for us. Mystery doesn't mean something we cannot understand. Mystery simply means "*plan*". We have to discover God's plan for our lives.

So how does God reveal his plan? How do we discover the "*will of God*" for us? How? I think simply through events and circumstances; through our temperament and personality; through our longings and inspirations. Above all, through facts. God speaks through facts. For all this we need the grace of discernment. Discernment comes through prayer and the Word of God. But also through "*direction*". We all need to seek some kind of "spiritual direction" – whatever our vocation in life may be. Only then we will understand that those who remain single are not failed people who unfortunately could not find anyone to marry, but they are called by God to lead chaste lives and witness to God's love and beauty in the world. This is also true for those who because of their sexual orientation cannot marry. In the fact of their homosexuality God calls them to a chaste life, with chaste love and friendships. Only the grace of God can make such a life possible: the same grace of God that makes fidelity in marriage possible, and fidelity to the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Many people – even YOU – may experience a call of God. Some quite young, others quite old. But they feel "*unworthy*". They think their past sins or present failings, disqualify them. This is a trick of the Devil! Take a good look at the Bible and you will see that God calls all kinds of men and women who were certainly not models of holiness, purity and love. Because God calls people, not for their wonderful virtues, but rather for the plan He has for them. First God calls. Then God converts us. We are not called because we .../carried over

May is the month of Our Lady, an inspiration to discover the Rosary afresh and to use it more in our own personal and parish prayer life. Our Church Repository has Rosaries, prayer books and prayer cards to help us on that path.



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are already converted. With the call comes the grace for a change of life. Slowly at first. In fact, slowly all the time. In my personal experience, I can confess that the calling to serve was neither my first nor even my second nature, and yet, I am ordained to serve. And **God is faithful**, because he gives me everyday the grace to face life with all its troubles and to make the right decision. Courage, your lives will change when God acts and you do not resist his action. Your lives will change when God calls and you do not ignore his calling. Your lives will change when God chooses and you do not reject his choice.

Today we pray that when the Lord acts, here in Feltham, you will not resist his action! And when the Lord calls, you will not reject his choice! Meanwhile you will be very relieved to know that not all priests are like me. Priests come in all shapes and sizes. Some of us are nice. Some of us are very nice indeed. And some of us are not nice at all! This is to assure us that God is not a selection committee. If he were, I would not be writing this now. God chooses whom he chooses. God could even choose you. Yes, you! Listen to God's call today. There is no need to be afraid. If God risks on you, then risk on Him.

Fr Fortunato

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

We extend a warm welcome to Thayla Jalo Ferrage, Harry Ron Patrick Quincey, Jeremiah Emmanuel Mukasa-Mutebi and Nellie Gustaw who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Parents Session will be on **Tuesday 13th May** at 2.00pm or 7.00pmin the Parish Centre.

POLISH COMMUNITY – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We offer our warmest congratulations to the following children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend - Kasandra Bezubik, Adam Czaplą, Wiktoria Kownacka, Patryk Kwiatkowski, Julia Nocoń, Klaudia Patrycja Rapała, Rostan Mateusz, Jakub Stawiński, Piotr Sulkowski, Vivien Claudia Vilcu, Mikołaj Zabrodzin, Jakub Zalewski and Maria Wanessa Zielińska.

PARISH NOTICES

SLYC - LOURDES PILGRIMAGE REDCAPS FUNDRAISING EVENT

Five members of our Youth Group will be going to Lourdes as Redcaps and would appreciate your support at this event. Redcaps are volunteers who help care for the sick and all those in need of care during the pilgrimage.

BINGO NIGHT

Date: Saturday 10th May: Time: 7.30pm: Venue: St Lawrence's School Hall. Tickets on sale at £3.00 and includes 4 games of Bingo and a Ploughman's supper. Bring your own drink. Prizes for every Bingo game and lots of raffle prizes as well. There will also be a "Tuck Shop".

Please come along and support this event; the money raised will help towards sending our Redcaps to Lourdes in July.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 12th May** at 7.30pm for a talk with film given by Tom Edbrooke entitled "*London scenes from 1895*". A charge of £1.00 will be made.

SATURDAY MORNING CHANGES

There will be **no** 11am Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions on **Saturday 17th, 25th and 31st May**. Instead there will be special First Holy Communion Masses at 12 noon, to which everyone is invited.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next PPC Meeting will take place on **Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm**. If anyone has any items for the Council please write a note to the Chair, Graham Baker and post into the Presbytery by 12noon on the day.

ORGAN RECITAL

There will be an Organ Recital in aid of ICIN (Iraqi Christians in Need) performed by Carl Bahoshy at St Lawrence's Church on **Friday 30th May 2014** at 7.30pm. Tickets: Adults £15.00, Children of school age up to 16 years: £5.00. Tickets available from ICIN website www.icin.org.uk or contacting Carl Bahoshy on 07732 155612 or C.K.Bahoshy@gmail.com. The Parish Office will also take down names of those interested. Refreshments will be served. 10% of the proceeds will be donated to St Lawrence's.

OTHER

PRIEST TRAINING FUND NEEDS OUR HELP.

The number of men training for the priesthood has steadily increased in recent years. Last year we had eight ordinations and a further 32 men are currently in formation. This is wonderful news but the uncomfortable truth is that the Priest Training Fund is now spending much more on the preparation of priests than it is bringing in and now urgently needs our support.

Please give as much as you can afford to today's collection so that the Priest Training Fund can continue to seek out, support and train those men who God is calling to the priesthood. You can also make a donation online by visiting www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

EXPLORE VOCATION TO RELIGIOUS LIFE

We would like to invite single Catholic women in their 30s, 40s or 50s to come for a weekend of discernment from **13 to 15 June** to explore their Vocation to Religious Life. We are looking for women with enthusiasm, energy and love for God, and for whom prayer is a priority, to continue and develop the ministry of Retreats and Spirituality in our small Congregation. For more information please contact the Sisters on 020 8941 2313 or Email us info@christian-retreat.org

CAFOD PEDAL AGAINST POVERTY

Colin and Conor Macken are participating in this event on **Sunday 18th May**. Please support us in any way you can. There are sponsorship forms in the porch at the back of the Church, or you can donate by visiting our just giving page <http://www.justgiving.com/Colin-Macken1> or to donate £1 please text STLW99 followed by £1 on a new line to 70070

We would love to be joined at this event by any cycling parishioners. (Over 14's and if you are under 18 you must have a parent/carer cycle with you) If you would like to enrol or just find out a bit more then please log on to <http://www.cafodpedalagainstopoverty.eventbrite.co.uk/>

We have set up "**Team St Lawrence's**" so any money you raise will be showing against our parish total.

SPONSORED WALK

The Knights of St Columba are organising a Sponsored Walk in aid of the Brompton Hospital Hybrid Theatre Appeal on **Sunday June 1st**. A Hybrid Theatre is one where different Surgical Procedures can take place at the same time. It means that procedures which would normally take weeks or even months can take place the same day. A total of £4.5Million is needed of which £1million has been raised. The walker from this parish will be Peter McCaffrey and he will be seeking Sponsors on Sunday May 18th. Every donation helps.

SVP ST JOHN BOSCO CAMP

Offers children aged 8-13 a sports and activity based holiday on a campsite in the Essex countryside. Run with a Catholic ethos, the camp is especially for children who may not have any other holiday this year. There are three weeks of the camp: **For boys: 26th July to 2nd August or 2nd to 9th August. For girls: 9th to 16th August.** For many details and for application forms log onto www.svpboscocamp.org.uk

PILGRIMAGES

YOUTH WALK PILGRIMAGE

If you are in the age group 18-30, come on the Walk Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela **3rd - 11th August 2014**. Look for the details on the Walk Pilgrimage flyer or contact Sr Graça, Comboni Missionary Sister, for further information as soon as possible. Tel: 0208 994 0449 and Mob: 0778 7132 9123.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 10th Easter Feria	11.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	11.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	11.45	Benediction
	12.00	Patrick Galligan RIP
	12.45	Baptisms of Thayla Ferrage, Harry Ron Patrick Quincey, Jeremiah Emmanuel Mukasa-Mutebi and Nellie Gustaw
	15.00	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – POLISH COMMUNITY
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	People of the Parish
+ Sunday 11th Fourth Sunday of Easter	09.00	Roberto Ordoña RIP
	11.00	Peter Ludden RIP
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	18.00	Vlado Kozumplik RIP
Monday 12th Easter Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Michael Doherty (Get Well)
Tuesday 13th Our Lady of Fatima	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Philip Garvin (Get Well)
Wednesday 14th ST MATTHIAS	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Celebrant's Intention
Thursday 15th Easter Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Joe & Maria Dllma (Intentions)
Friday 16th Easter Feria	09.15	Morning Prayer
	09.30	Ignatius Abreu RIP (A)
Saturday 17th Easter Feria	12.00	For the people of Nigeria (First Holy Communion Mass)
	17.00	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	18.00	Margaret O'Sullivan RIP (First Holy Communion Mass)
	+ First Mass of Sunday	
+ Sunday 18th Fifth Sunday of Easter	09.00	Katrina Rush-Gutcher RIP
	11.00	Christine Cahalane RIP (1st Anniversary) (First Holy Communion Mass)
	13.00	Mass in Polish (Msza sw.)
	18.00	People of the Parish

Sanctuary Lamp: Veronica Charlton RIP

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

3rd-4th May: Envelopes £1092.85, Loose £767.67, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2280.52
Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Sunday Mass Times: Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF
www.saintlawrences.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

020 8890 2367

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Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes