



ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH
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Fr Albert Ofere
5th Sunday of Easter
28th April 2024

"We are the Easter People and Alleluia is our Song"

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April for the role of women - We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

Sun 29th	(Sat) 6 p.m. 9.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 6 p.m.	M Lawrence R.I.P.; A McNamara R.I.P. J Murphy R.I.P.; J Monteiro Int P Payne R.I.P.; P & M Vathaj R.I.P. S Flannery OAR R.I.P. People of the Parish; N Rachel R.I.P.	
Mon 29th	St Catherine of Si- enna	J Murphy R.I.P.; D Allam Int	
Tues 30th	Easter Feria	M Outred R.I.P.;	
Wed 1st	St Joseph the Worker	B Moran R.I.P.; I Peter R.I.P.; R Peter Int	Confirmation Candidates 7 p.m.
Thurs 2nd	St Athanasius	S Cameron & Family R.I.P.	Exposition until 11 a.
Fri 3rd	Sts Phillip & James	F & H Acres R.I.P.; O McNicholas R.I.P.	
Sat 4th	English Martyrs	Jazran Family & E Armstrong R.I.P.	Reconciliation 10.40 a.m. & 5.15 p.m.

• **Mass Books: Order of the Mass: Page 7 – 5th Sunday after Easter : Prayers and Readings of the day: Page 268**

Jesus, the Centre

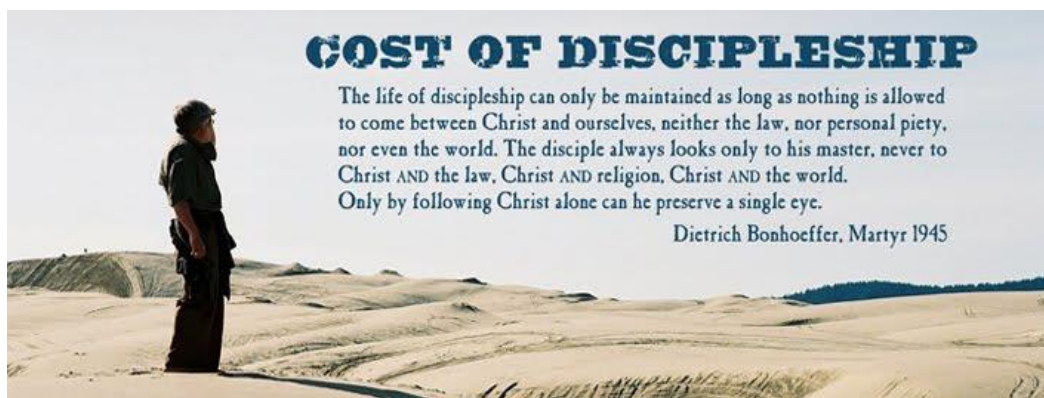
Without some centre of unity, groups lose their way. A team which puts its eyes on money rather than on teamwork will lose games. A family which relies on anything other than love to keep it together will fall apart. The church, the community of Jesus is something similar.

What keeps the church together at its best is Jesus. Human leadership, moral authority, ritual dogmatism, are not the centre of the church. Leadership can fail, moral authority can take wrong turnings and ritual dogmatism can override the concerns of people. The centre of the church is Jesus Christ. Our unity with Jesus is the central bond of the church. He is the Vine, we the branches.

When we have been let down by the church, like in the situations of abuse, or cover-ups by church authority, we are kept going as Christians by our unity with Jesus.

The image of roots and branches, of fruit and tree, all very much part of each other, is what Jesus uses. Other images like this might be the unity or light and colour in a rainbow, or of

Only if we can look on Jesus Christ as the centre of our faith can church life be sincere and have the energy which will save and change our world.



- **Fr Albert** will be available on Mondays from **6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.** to see parishioners regarding non urgent matters, including the signing of passports and other forms.

REGINA COELI

V: O Queen of heaven, rejoice,

R: alleluia

V: For he, whom you were worthy to bear,

R: alleluia!

V: Has risen, as he said,

R: alleluia!

V: Pray for us to God,

R: alleluia!

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

R: For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

• No First Communion class this week.

- Priest Training Fund – Thank you Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The total was £1681. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church, or by contacting the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things

and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen

Parish Finances: Offertory – Envelopes £780
Loose Plate: £1020 Thank you for your support

- **St Luke's Hospice Annual Walk.** Following my hip operation last year, I am delighted to say that I will be taking part in this year's long distance walk next weekend. The walk is in Shropshire beginning in Church Stretton and ending in Ludlow with lots of hills along the way. If you would like to sponsor me forms are available in the porches. **Please leave your address blank I will fill it in later.** (Data Protection). Thank you for your support in the past. St Luke's is a very worthy cause.

- Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the Flannery family and the Augustinian Recollects friars following the death of Fr Sean during the week. Fr Sean was parish priest at English Martyrs for nine years. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

- **Pentecost Sunday** (19th May] Let's celebrate our unity in diversity and the different Nationalities that are part of our Parish.
- Due to Data Protection Laws, we can no longer leave out lists as in the past, it would be very helpful if you could complete the forms in the porch to indicate your donation of food/drink and return to presbytery. A huge thank you to the parishioners who provide the food.
- Once again we ask for a donation for the lunch - suggested donation Adults: £10; Senior Citizens & Children over 12 years: £5. Children under 12 years free. **[All children must be accompanied by parent or guardian.]** The money raised will go towards the Parish Building Fund.

- **Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Katherine Hamilton email wembley2sg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk