

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

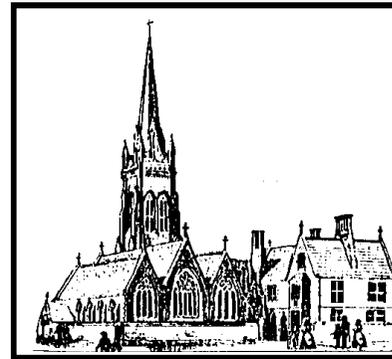
We pray for Maureen Turner, Brian Lowman, Dennis Cunningham, Hazel Pilgrim, Lydia Nelson and Amanda Pelan O'Treasaigh who have died recently and remember also Rose Daly, Luigi Abrim and all the faithful departed. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**OUR SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS OFFERED FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sat 1st May	10.00 am	The Sick and the Housebound
St Joseph the Worker	5.30 pm	Alina Czwalga-Matuszewska (ints)
Sun 2nd	9.00 am	Dennis Cunningham (RIP - LD)
5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.30 am	Pro Populo
	12.00 noon	Jenny Wotten (get well)
	6.00 pm	Students and Staff at Allen Hall
Mon 3rd	9.30 am	Rose Daly (RIP)
Ss PHILIP & JAMES		
Tue 4th	9.30 am	Luigi Abrim (RIP - anniv)
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	7.00 pm	Lourdes Pilgrims Mass
Wed 5th	9.30 am	Hazel Pilgrim (RIP - LD)
Thu 6th	9.30 am	Lydia Nelson (RIP - LD)
Fri 7th	9.30 am	Those who hold political office
	4.00 pm	Bible Study
Sat 8th	10.00 am	The Sick and the Housebound
	5.30 pm	Iza- Mier Jedrzejowicz (RIP - LD)
Sun 9th	9.00 am	Amanda Pelan O'Treasaigh (RIP - LD)
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.30 am	Pro Populo
	12.00 pm	Our 1st Holy Communion children
	6.00 pm	Olivier Soto-Zbikowski (Thanksgiving)

**ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE AT: [www.stthomasfulham.com](http://www.stthomasfulham.com) DURING THIS TIME OF HEIGHTENED RESTRICTIONS THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN MON / WED / THURS / FRI MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS UNTIL ABOUT 3 PM**



**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
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Asst. Priest: Fr Linferd Fernandes

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Seminarian: Dale Cutlan

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Safeguarding Representative: Mr David Belcher

Website: <https://stthomasfulham.com>

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER FROM 9 - 10 AM & FROM 4 - 5 PM ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY + FROM 9.30 - 11.30 AM ON SATURDAY**

**ALL MASS TIMES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL**

Online at: [stthomasfulham.com](http://stthomasfulham.com)

**CONFIRMATION - 2021**

**DEAR CANDIDATES AND PARENTS!!**

**Our Sacramental programmes are up and running and we are now looking forward to commencing our course for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you are in year 9 or above and wish to be considered for this Sacrament please contact Deacon Wayne, by email at: ([fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)) with your details.**

**Also, in your email, write a short piece on why you think you are ready for, and would like to make, your Confirmation.**

**PRIEST TRAINING FUND**

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. Donations are still coming in, for which many thanks. We will let you know what we have been able to send to the Diocese just as soon as we can. However, it is not too late to make a donation if you wish by contacting the Parish Office. You can also donate online

[www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the religious life.

Dear friends,

Vocation has as many expressions as there are people for God to call; married life, single life, lay movements, religious orders and congregations, the Holy Orders of Bishop, priest and Deacon. All of these particular ways of life are responses to God's call for us to be his holy people. God has created each and everyone one of us to do him a definite service, we each personally have a call from God to answer.



On Good Shepherd Sunday we are asked to consider the call to Holy Orders, to the priesthood and diaconate, as well considering how we can better nurture those who believe they are called to the priesthood. We do this by offering prayers for more priests, for holy priests, and considering more practical ways in which we can support our clergy and those in formation for the priesthood.

Men are formed for the diaconate and priesthood in places called seminaries like Allen Hall in Chelsea. Currently, Alan Hall is overseeing the formation of 43 men, 14 of these are in formation for our Diocese, our future priests.

Usually, around this time of year seminarians invite the parish they are in to come along to the seminary for a chance for you to get to know the men being formed as priests. Unfortunately, due to the current situation this isn't possible so instead, I thought I would share with you an idea of what goes on in the seminary.

On average it takes 7 seven years for a man to be formed for the priesthood. We follow academic year structures the vast majority of the day is filled with academic studies. A whole range of subjects, not just Philosophy and Theology, languages ancient and modern, sciences, history, safeguarding, and many others.

Alongside academics, seminarians are formed by contemplating their humanity, what makes them tick, their strengths and weaknesses, as well as getting to grips with being men of prayer, being able to rely on prayer to sustain their life of ministry.

That's what I'd really like to get you to reflect on this morning. Seminaries are not training centres, they are seed-beds, where growth in holiness through love of Christ takes place in a fairly intense way. Seminarians have usually left successful careers and lives behind and come to seminary where the Church considers the man. The Church spends time with him and decides whether he is truly pulled to be her spouse in the priesthood.

In St John's gospel, Jesus likens himself to a shepherd, one totally dedicated to his flock. Jesus is willing to do whatever the flock needs. We saw that on Good Friday, where he gave up his own life to win us freedom. The role of the priest is to do exactly what Jesus did, to be close to the flock, to do anything for the flock.

There is another gospel passage where Jesus likens the priest to a Shepherd. In the exchange between Jesus and Peter in the gospel of John where Jesus asks three times. "Peter, do you really love me above all other people and things? Do you truly love me?" And each time, Peter answers, "Yes. Lord you know that love you?"

When we hear this exchange in the English translation, something key is missing. In the original Greek, Jesus and Peter use different words for love. In the Greek, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you αγαπάς με" (agapē me) in reply Peter says, "Yes Lord, you know I φιλιώ σε" (philia you). We have Christ asking for total love (agapē) that gives everything unconditionally, and Peter responding with (philia) friendship, not bad but a bit lukewarm.

In the passion narratives we listened to in Holy Week, a great focus was on Christ's struggle to answer his call to be sacrificed for us, to die for the flock, his love for us is total, unconditional, all giving. We also heard of Peter's abandoning and denial of Christ his 'friendship' wasn't enough.

The role of the seminary, in forming men for ordination is to take the 'friendship or liking' of someone like me, an enthusiasm for Christ and his Church and to set about a journey, where hearts can be opened to the work of the Holy Spirit, to turn the spark into a blazing flame, so that 'philia' is transformed to true 'agapē' to transform enthusiasm for Christ and the Church, in to a love so intense that it is totally self-giving.

Pray for all priests, pray for their endurance, their holiness. Pray also for our seminarians, that their discernment of and response to God's call be good and true.

God's plan for each and everyone one of us is so astonishingly greater than we can think of for ourselves, so pray also for yourselves, take time to listen to the quiet voice of God who is calling you to a greater depth of love with Him.

*Seminarian Dale*

## HOLY LAND

The proposed parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land has now been confirmed. We shall be departing from Heathrow on 8th November and returning on the 15th. The basic cost is about £1500 - two sharing More details on the website of Tangney Tours.

<http://www.tangney-tours.com>

If you are still interested in joining this trip you are asked to get in touch with Fr Dennis as soon as possible.