



St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church - Newsletter

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 23 APRIL 2023 - YEAR A

Ransomed

Throughout Eastertide this year our second readings come from the First Letter of St Peter (which is actually less a 'letter' than an extended reflection on baptism and the Christian life that flows from it). This Sunday we hear a striking term: 'ransom' (1 Pet 1.17-21). In the ancient world, being taken hostage was probably one of the commonplace risks of travel. Likewise, in a slave-owning culture some people literally had a price on their head. Today the word 'ransom' probably brings different issues to mind: stories of criminal gangs imprisoning someone until family and friends (or corporations and governments) pay the asking price. Or maybe we think of 'rogue states' holding foreign nationals as bargaining counters for use in their dealings with more powerful neighbours. But to whom is Jesus supposed have 'paid the price': God, the devil or the world?

We can tie ourselves in knots trying to create neat theories about precisely how Jesus 'ransomed' us (using fancy theological names like 'propitiation', 'satisfaction' or 'vicarious substitution'). But the metaphor of Christ 'ransoming' us works at a more basic level than that. Certainly, it expresses the truth that he paid a heavy 'price' for his life of love. This is something that Jesus himself said: "The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mk 10.45) This is something we saw on Good Friday. But the key point of the image of 'ransoming' is the distinction between the 'before' and the 'after'. The real contrast is between 'unfreedom' and 'freedom' – and that is something which we all have experience of. It's the difference between compulsive living and serenity; between addiction and sobriety; between a life of resentment and peace of heart.

Peter speaks of "the useless way of life your ancestors handed down" but perhaps we should look to the present rather than to the past for the danger of 'useless' living. The motor of a consumer economy is dissatisfaction, advertisers constantly inserting in our minds the notion that 'stuff' will fix our lives; that possessions will give us the emotional security that we all crave; that pleasure equates with happiness. We shoot for the moon ... and instead end up chasing our tail – and destroying our planet. However, suppose it's true that Jesus Christ paid the 'ransom' that could free us from our insatiable appetite for treats, compensations and reassurances? How would that feel? What would such a liberated life look like? Because that, says St. Peter, is why Christ came and why God raised him from the dead and gave him glory – "so that you would have faith and hope in God."

Fr. Rob

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

By setting aside the fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church responds to Jesus' command to "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest" (Mt. 9:38, Lk. 10:2). This day reminds the faithful of our need for shepherds, such that we turn to the Lord to pray for more of them, and to pray that those being called be open and persevere in their vocations. While not discounting other vocations, the Church focuses this day on vocations to the priesthood, religious and consecrated life, as well as to a sense of mission among all peoples.

Easyfundraising: Please join and support our parish via #easyfundraising; you'll raise FREE donations with your everyday shopping via M&S, Sainsbury's, Amazon and so many more. It's quick and easy to sign up! Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! Sign up now: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=25EYUB&char=252616&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_source=referral-2023. To date twenty parishioners have signed up and have raised £649.62 for our parish funds. Thank you to them all!

Parish Gift Aid: If you use Gift Aid envelopes or donate using Standing Orders for your Offertory donations, the statements for 2022/2023 will be available for collection after all Masses over the weekend of the **29/30 April**. If you would like further information about how Gift Aid benefits the Parish by allowing it to claim an additional 25% from the Inland Revenue for your offertory donations, from the tax you pay, please come and see us after Mass as we distribute the statements.

Thursday morning Rosary

A warm and welcoming group of CAFOD volunteers gather to pray together, reflecting on the mysteries of the rosary, **every Thursday at 9am**, on Zoom. As a community of prayer, we believe we can make a real difference to our world today. If you would like to join us [please register for the Zoom link](#)

From Cafod: Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now."

People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you.

To read Shukla's story, go to cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill

Voices from East Africa

Exploring Humanitarian Crises and Solutions with CAFOD Tuesday, May 2, 2023 7pm

Join us for an exclusive series of CAFOD online events, where we'll be putting the spotlight on East Africa and the humanitarian crises facing communities in Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. We're thrilled that we'll be joined by special guests from these countries and will explore three key themes: food security, emergencies, and water and sanitation programmes. [Click here for more info and to register.](#)

WOKING FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE - Volunteers Needed

Do you have what it takes to support children and families in your local community? Woking Family Contact Centre offers a safe, friendly, and neutral environment where children of separated families can spend time with the parent that they no longer live with, and sometimes with other family members too. The Centre is open on the first and the third Saturday afternoon of each month and is based at Woking United Reformed Church on the corner of White Rose Lane and Heathside Road. A team of about 20 volunteers operates on a rota system, typically working one session every 8 weeks between 1 – 4.30 pm. The aim is to make sure that the children and the "non-resident parent" enjoy their time together because parenting shouldn't end when relationships do. Volunteers need to be at least 18, and will need a DBS certificate. Training is provided to ensure that our volunteers provide the best quality service to the families we support. For more information, visit: wokingfamilycontactcentre.org.uk or email us at enquiries@wokingfamilycontactcentre.org.uk

Confirmation Group meeting

St Hugh's Confirmation Group meets next Saturday **29 April at 4.15pm**

Induction of Mrs Catherine Grace as Head of School.

Next Sunday, **30 April at 9.30am** Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard.

Fr Nick is away this Monday to Friday, **24-28 April** for his post-Easter break.

Protect Your Vote: Did you know that in order to vote in local elections in May you need to have photo-ID? If you don't have a passport, a driving-licence or certain other types of government-recognised photo-card you will be deprived of your vote unless you apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at [Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\)](#) by **April 25**. If you know anyone who is likely not to have photo-ID (especially the young or the poor), please encourage them to register.

NBCW Women in the Church Online Book Club, 26 April 7.30pm - 9pm.

The book club explores its third book - The Four Steps of Love by Fiona Gardner (up to p.46).

All are welcome to join the discussion as we seek inspiration and guidance on our spiritual journey. Contact the [NBCW diocesan link Sue Petritz](#) for the Zoom link.

'Reaching Out' with Henri Nouwen, a retreat at The House of Prayer in East Molesey,

led by Maria Manuela Silva, **29 April 10am-4pm**, online and in person (cost: £30).

Set aside a day to reflect, with the help of Henri Nouwen, on what it means to live a life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Find out more and book [here](#).

Liturgy of the Word with Children - Saturday 13 May 2023 9.30am-1.00pm

The St Philip Howard Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley.

Training for liturgy leaders. Book your place through the diocesan website. If you wish to discuss your engagement with this training please email E: Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Confirmation Celebrations at Arundel

This year all parish confirmation celebrations are taking place at Arundel Cathedral as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of this beautiful church. The celebration for both St Dunstan's and St Hugh's parish is on **Saturday, May 13 at 11.30am** and we are assembling a choir to lead our worship.

If you are interested in being part of this e-mail claire@dane-online.org or call 07802 980165

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May – your street needs you!!

Volunteers needed to deliver envelopes in their streets and to hold a collecting tin for an hour or so outside Waitrose on 13 May. If you can help, please contact Roger, St Hugh's co-ordinator, at rogandmad.furnell@btinternet.com asap.

Encountering the Love and Mercy of God, a retreat at The House of Prayer, East Molesey,

led by Sr Helen Costigane, **27 May, 10am-4pm**, online and in person, (cost: £30). We often hear it said that 'God loves and forgives us', but what might get in the way of truly experiencing His love and mercy?

This day includes input, reflection, and prayer. Book your place [here](#).

Applications to this year's diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage are open: The pilgrimage takes place **28 July to 3 August** for those travelling by air, or **27 July to 4 August** for those travelling by coach or jumbulance. You can find out more by visiting the [Lourdes section](#) of the diocesan website.

To make your application please [click here](#).

The Franciscan Centre, Ladywell - Set in the heart of beautiful Surrey, we offer retreats, quiet days, spiritual direction and programmes, both residential and non-residential. 'Come away and rest for a while' (Mark 6.31). For more information visit www.franciscancentre.org.uk.

Retiring Collection Next Sunday is for
World Day of Prayer for Vocations of The Education of Future Priests (Gift Aid).

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.*

Mass Times and Intentions - St HUGH OF LINCOLN CHURCH

Sunday Masses will be livestreamed via the Parish YouTube channel.

Confessions on Saturdays - 5.15pm to 5.45pm

Saturday 22 April - Saturday after the Second Sunday of Easter

6.00pm Vigil Mass Dulcie Edmonds RIP

***SUNDAY 23 APRIL - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER* - YEAR A**

9.30am Holy Mass People of the parish

Monday 24 April - St George, Martyr, Patron of England

No Mass

Tuesday 25 April - St Mark, Evangelist

No Mass

Wednesday 26 April - Wednesday after the Third Sunday of Easter

No Mass

Thursday 27 April - Thursday after the Third Sunday of Easter

10.00am Holy Mass Pat Evans RIP
2.30pm Requiem Mass Samantha Watkins RIP

Friday 28 April - St Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

No Mass

Saturday 29 April - St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor, Patron of Europe

6.00pm Vigil Mass John O' Donnell RIP

***SUNDAY 30 APRIL - FOURTH 'GOOD SHEPHERD' SUNDAY OF EASTER* - YEAR A**

9.30am Holy Mass People of the parish

Last Week's Offertory Collection: Baskets - £318.04, Contactless - £52.00
and average weekly Standing Orders - £588.33, which were Gift Aided. Total - £958.37. Many thanks.

Weekday Mass Times - ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

Weekend Mass Times - visit www.st-dunstans.org

Monday	24 April	10.00am	
Tuesday	25 April	10.30am	
Wednesday	26 April	No Mass	
Thursday	27 April	No Mass	
Friday	28 April	10.00am	School Mass (Year 4)



The month of April is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament

We will adore for eternity in the most Holy Sacrament.

Pray the Anima Christi and ask Jesus to fill you completely.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds, conceal me. Do not permit me to be parted from you.

From the evil foe, protect me. At the hour of my death, call me.

And bid me come to you, to praise you with all your saints.

For ever and ever. Amen.