



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 10TH May 2025 – Saturday after the Third Sunday of Easter

9.00am	Morning Mass	People of the Parish
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10.00am	Confessions	
6.00pm	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish

Sunday 11TH May 2025 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

9.00am	Mass	Robert Albert Clay RIP
11.00am	Mass	People of the Parish
5.00pm	Holy Hour	

Tuesday 13TH May 2025 – St Erconwald, Bp

7.00pm	Novena to St. Anthony	
7.30pm	Evening Mass	Benedict and Ethel Doyle RIP

Wednesday 14TH May 2025 – ST MATTHIAS, Ap

9.00am	Morning Mass	Henry Hernandez RIP
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am – 5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

Thursday 15TH May 2025 – Thursday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00am	Morning Mass	People of the Parish
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am – 4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

Friday 16TH May 2025 – Friday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am	Morning Mass	Winnie Sherperd Recovery Intentions
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am – 5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

Saturday 17TH May 2025 – Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00am	Morning Mass	
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10.00am	Confessions	
6.00pm	Vigil Mass	

Sunday 18TH May 2025 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

9.00am	Mass	
11.00am	Mass	
5.00pm	Holy Hour	



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

61 London Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AW ~ Tel 01268 733219

Website: www.wickfordcatholic.com ~ Email: wickford@brcdt.org

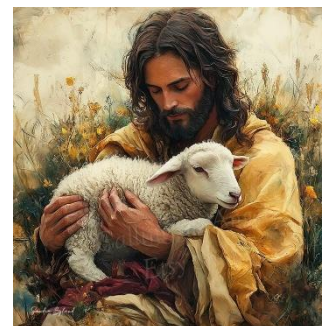
Hall Bookings: email: wickfordcatholicalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

11TH May 2025

Good Shepherd Sunday & World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates Good Shepherd Sunday, a beautiful and comforting image drawn from Jesus' own words in the Gospel of John (10:27–30). In this brief but profound passage, Jesus tells us that He knows His sheep, they hear His voice, and they follow Him—and that no one can take them from His hand.

These words remind us of the deeply personal relationship Jesus desires to have with each of us. He is not a distant leader, but a loving shepherd—one who

knows each sheep by name, who walks beside us through joys and trials, who lays down His life so we may live.

The image of the shepherd would have been familiar and powerful to Jesus' audience. Shepherds lived among their flocks, cared for their needs, protected them from danger, and searched tirelessly for any that were lost. This is the image Jesus uses to reveal the depth of His love and care for us. He speaks to us through Scripture, prayer, and the voice of the Church—and He invites us to listen, to trust, and to follow.

Today is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, a day the universal Church sets aside each year to pray for those whom God is calling to serve in a special way—as priests, deacons, and religious sisters and brothers. On this day, we are reminded that the Church continues to need shepherds after the heart of Christ—men and women willing to say “yes” to God's call and to guide His people with compassion, wisdom, and courage.

Let us pray for those already living out their vocation, especially our parish clergy and religious, and for those discerning the voice of the Good Shepherd in their hearts. May we, too, reflect His love by offering support, encouragement, and prayers for vocations—especially from within our own families and community.

As we celebrate this Sunday, may we each be renewed in our trust in Christ the Good Shepherd. May we listen for His voice, confident that no matter the path ahead, He walks with us, leads us, and will never let us be taken from His hand.



If you wish to make an offering online, this QR code can be scanned using the camera on your phone, directly to the Parish bank account, for your offering to be transferred each time. Please note Gift Aid cannot be used when donating through the QR Codes.

If you wish to set up a Standing order for weekly offerings, kindly use the details below:

Account Name: Catholic Church Wickford Our Lady of Good Counsel
Sort Code: 40-13-22
Account No: 71026216
Reference: (your surname followed by Weekly Offering)

1. PARISH NEWS



We rejoice with the global Church in celebrating the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. Formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, he is the first American-born pope in the history of the Catholic Church. Born in Chicago in 1955, Pope Leo XIV is a member of the Order of Saint Augustine and has dedicated much of his ministry to serving communities in Peru, where he also holds citizenship. His pastoral work reflects a deep commitment to social justice, unity, and compassion. Fluent in multiple languages, he brings a global perspective to the papacy. In his first address, he emphasized peace and dialogue, setting a hopeful tone for his pontificate. Let us keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers as he begins his ministry as the Vicar of Christ on Earth.



The Pope as an Augustinian Friar has a filial devotion to Mary, Mother of Good Counsel. So, we as a Parish rejoice as we bear the name of Our Lady of Good Counsel too!

RED BOX APPEAL

The Red Box Appeal is a vital part of our parish's mission to support the Mill Hill Missionaries and their work in spreading the Gospel worldwide. We are grateful for the generosity of those who participate in this important initiative.



To further support the appeal, we are delighted to welcome **Fr. Paul Boagey MHM**, who is visiting our parish **this weekend (10th and 11th May)**. Fr. Paul will be sharing more about the mission of the Mill Hill Missionaries and the impact of your contributions.

100 CLUB – INVITATION TO JOIN OR REJOIN

Thank you to everyone who responded to Gerry's appeal last weekend, we now have over one hundred members in the '100 Club'. There is still time if anyone else wishes to join. The first two draws will be made on **Tuesday 27th May** at Mandy's tea & chat.

To join or renew for April 2025–March 2026, please make a £25 payment to:

Account: Catholic Church Wickford Our Lady of Good Counsel

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Number: 71026216

Reference: Your Name 100 (e.g. O'Doherty 100)

After payment, please email gerrydoherty01@gmail.com for admin purposes.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2025-26 AVAILABLE NOW

The new Gift Aid envelopes for the 2025–26 tax year are now ready to be collected from the church porch.

If you can't find your named box, please speak to Talitha at the Parish Office, or get in touch using the parish contact details provided above in the newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

THE PARISH BAKE OFF

The Parish Bake Off – Postponed

Due to the funeral of Pope Francis taking place on Saturday 26th April 2025, *The Parish Bake Off* has been postponed out of respect and to allow parishioners to join in prayer and remembrance.

A new date will be announced shortly.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to enjoying your bakes at a later time!

TEAS AND COFFEES

Join us for teas and coffee after the 9:00am Mass this **Sunday 11th May**. It's a lovely opportunity to catch up with fellow parishioners and enjoy some friendly conversation. All are very welcome!

YOUTH MASS

The next Youth Mass will take place this **Sunday 11th May 2025, at 11 AM**.

We invite all young parishioners—from primary school to university—to get involved, whether it's reading, bringing the bread and wine to the altar, or helping with offertory collections.

Please sign up on the board in the porch, including your school year and a parent's contact information.

We can't wait to see you there!

MASS OF THANKSGIVING AND FAMILY LIFE

Bishop Alan will celebrate the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life at Brentwood Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June at 3:00pm**, followed by a reception in the Cathedral Hall.

Our parish has been allocated five invitations for this special occasion. These are intended for couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, those recently married, couples preparing for marriage, or those involved in supporting marriage preparation.

If you would like to attend, please contact the parish office as soon as possible to request an invitation.

VISITING MAUREEN SULLIVAN AT CHERRY WOOD GRANGE CARE

Parishioner Maureen Sullivan is currently residing at Cherry Wood Grange Care Home, located on Writtle Road in Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0FZ (for Sat Nav use CM2 0AR). She would greatly appreciate visits from fellow parishioners. Your presence would bring her much joy and comfort.

Please consider reaching out to the care home in advance to confirm visiting hours or any current visitor guidelines. Even a short visit can be a meaningful way to share the love and care of our parish community.

THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a lovely selection of items for sale including Holy Communion, Confirmation gifts and cards and the new Sunday Missals.. The shop is open after all the weekend masses, & some weekday masses, & by appointment. Please contact Kathleen (761195), & Sheila (767064), for details.

Both Cash & Card payments are available.

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES –

Please pray for Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Gabrielle & Ralphie Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, Carol Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Maria Weedon, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams, Gomez, Patricia McEvoy, Maureen Sullivan, Susan Freeman, Jane Davenport, Nathalie Ah-key, Amparo Thorogood, George O'Boyle, Pat McEvoy, Ann Parkinson, Nelly Prada, Michael Fitzgerald, May and Chris Carey, Doreen Green, Conrad Gomes, Peter Turner, Sr. Sior Cosgrave Una, Clairin Molloy, Patricia Graves and Keith Bottjer, Robert Turner, Patricia Price, George Ross, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon, Peter Griggs, Joan Fitzgerald, Sandra Fitzgerald, Clifford Foxwell, Pat Kent, Antoniette Ambrose .

Anniversaries We pray for Fr. Augustine Davidson, MGR. John Howell, Fr. John Boyle, Fr. Stanley Joynes, Patrick Joseph Garvey, Albert O'Brien, Marjorie Abb Brownley, Elizabeth Emily Jessop, Michael Fenton, Sharon Deal, Emily Mary Austin Clepiry, Pauline Strode, Michael Linnane, Emily Hazell, John Dalton, Arthur Rufus Wilton, Margaret Bradley, Antonette Gonsalves, William McDonnell, Jan Zygmunt Kazimierz Ostrowski, Margaret Johnson, Fr. John Hawes, Maria Glavin, Beatrice Blanche Ann Harty.

2. DIOCESAN NEWS

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) -Discerning God's Call in your life 23rd - 25th May, Liverpool.

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). **Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.**

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

To register: <https://bit.ly/FCJVocationWeekend>

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall on Tuesday evenings till the **3rd of June**. Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own '*Holy Door*' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly.

CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY

This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on **Saturday 7th June 2025** from 11am until 2 pm at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on www.whatgoodnews.org No prior booking necessary for this free event. A recording will be available subsequently on the website.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025

Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from **Friday 18 to Friday 25 July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 25/26

Applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people, then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

3. Programmes:

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website www.whatgoodnews.org The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or to register your interest please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ELECTION

An edited recording of the talks given recently at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, by Raymond Friel, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, is now available to view. Simply go to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org and click on the link.

4. Appeals:

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

5. Job adverts:

Cleaner, Chingford - Our Lady of Grace

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Cleaner at Our Lady of Grace, Chingford. The post will be part-time (9 hours per week – with a flexible working agreement to be agreed)

The hourly rate of pay is £13.85 to start as soon as possible.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV and cover letter by email to chingfordolgsta@brcdt.org.



This week's Article:

ROBERT FRANCIS PREVOST ELECTED FIRST AMERICAN



Article By Gerard O'Connell (America Magazine)

May 08, 2025

Pope Leo XIV appears on the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica after being chosen the 267th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, at the Vatican, Thursday, May 8, 2025. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

Habemus papam! We have a pope.

At 7.14 p.m. Rome time, an hour after white smoke had issued forth, the cardinal proto-deacon, Dominique Mamberti, 73, came to the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to announce to the world the name of the new pope. He made the announcement in Latin: "Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: Habemus papam!" ("I announce to you a great joy: We have a pope!"). Then, breaking the suspense, he continued in Latin the name of the cardinal who is now pope:

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A.

Next he announced the name the new pope has chosen: Leo XIV.

The first American-born pope, Leo XIV came onto the balcony at 7:23 p.m. Rome time to roars from the crowd. His first words as Holy Father were in Italian: "Peace be with all of you!"

Cardinal Robert Prevost, O.S.A., a former prior general of the Augustinians and longtime missionary in Peru, did not enter the conclave as a favourite to succeed Pope Francis. His reputation as a trusted, steady figure who was known for his humility, discretion and balanced judgment—as well as his service for the last two years as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, where he oversaw the selection and supervision of Latin-rite bishops from around the world—may have raised him to the fore. He referenced his background in his initial address to those gathered in St. Peter's Square: "I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian. He said, 'With you I am a Christian, for you a bishop.' So may we all walk together towards that homeland that God has prepared for us."

Born in Chicago, the 69-year-old new pontiff was appointed by Pope Francis in 2023 to lead the Dicastery for Bishops, one of the most influential roles in the church, where he oversaw the selection of bishops worldwide. Before his time in Rome, he served as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, and played a key role in strengthening church leadership across Latin America.

Like the previous two conclaves that elected Pope Francis and Pope Benedict, this, too, lasted only two days. As the cardinals returned to the Sistine Chapel to vote for the fourth time shortly after 6 p.m. this Thursday, an air of great expectation was building in the crowd in St. Peter's Square. Already last evening, 45,000 had gathered in the square to see the first sign of smoke, and now that number has grown and it was expected to reach about 250,000 in the area inside the square and the adjoining streets as people rush to receive the first blessing of the new pope.

A longtime missionary in Peru, the 69-year-old pope holds both U.S. and Peruvian citizenship.

La Repubblica, the major Italian daily, described him on April 25 as "cosmopolitan and shy," but also said he was "appreciated by conservatives and progressives. He has global visibility in a conclave in which few [cardinals] know each other."

That visibility comes from the fact that as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops for the past two years, he was instrumental in helping Pope Francis choose bishops for many Latin-rite dioceses, he met hundreds of bishops during their “ad limina” visits to Rome and was called to assist the world’s Latin-rite bishops “in all matters concerning the correct and fruitful exercise of the pastoral office entrusted to them.”

The new pope was serving as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, when Pope Francis called him to the Vatican in January 2023.

During a talk at St. Jude Parish in Chicago in August, the then-cardinal said Pope Francis nominated him “specifically because he did not want someone from the Roman Curia to take on this role. He wanted a missionary; he wanted someone from outside; he wanted someone who would come in with a different perspective.”

In a March 2024 interview with Catholic News Service, he said Pope Francis’ decision in 2022 to name three women as full members of the dicastery, giving them input on the selection of bishops “contributes significantly to the process of discernment in looking for who we hope are the best candidates to serve the church in episcopal ministry.”

To deter attitudes of clericalism among bishops, he said, “it’s important to find men who are truly interested in serving, in preaching the Gospel, not just with eloquent words, but rather with the example and witness they give.”

In fact, the cardinal said, Pope Francis’ “most effective and important” bulwark against clericalism was his being “a pastor who preaches by gesture.”

In an interview in 2023 with Vatican News, then-Cardinal Prevost spoke about the essential leadership quality of a bishop.

“Pope Francis has spoken of four types of closeness: closeness to God, to brother bishops, to priests and to all God’s people,” he said. “One must not give in to the temptation to live isolated, separated in a palace, satisfied with a certain social level or a certain level within the church.”

“And we must not hide behind an idea of authority that no longer makes sense today,” he said. “The authority we have is to serve, to accompany priests, to be pastors and teachers.”

As prefect of the dicastery, then-Cardinal Prevost also served as president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, where nearly 40 percent of the world’s Catholics reside.

Soon after coming to Rome to head the dicastery, he told Vatican News that bishops have a special mission of promoting the unity of the church.

“The lack of unity is a wound that the church suffers, a very painful one,” he said in May 2023. “Divisions and polemics in the church do not help anything. We bishops especially must accelerate this movement toward unity, toward communion in the church.”

In September, a television program in Peru reported on the allegations of three women who said that then-Bishop Prevost failed to act against a priest who sexually abused them as minors. The diocese strongly denied the accusation, pointing out that he personally met with the victims in April 2022, removed the priest from his parish, suspended him from ministry and conducted a local investigation that was then forwarded to the Vatican. The Vatican said there was insufficient evidence to proceed, as did the local prosecutor’s office.

Pope Leo XIV was born Sept. 14, 1955, in Chicago, Ill. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the Augustinian-run Villanova University in Pennsylvania and joined the order in 1977, making his solemn vows in 1981. He holds a degree in theology from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a doctorate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

He joined the Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985 and largely worked in the country until 1999, when he was elected head of the Augustinians’ Chicago-based province. From 2001 to 2013, he served as prior general of the worldwide order. In 2014, Pope Francis named him bishop of Chiclayo, in northern Peru, and the pope asked him also to be apostolic administrator of Callao, Peru, from April 2020 to May 2021.

The new pope speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese and can read Latin and German.