

their palms and feet by people dressed as Roman centurions and nailed to a cross. They are only taken down from the cross once they feel atoned of their sins. The practice, which is believed to date to the 1950s, also sees other penitents flagellate themselves using bamboo sticks tied to a rope. As you might expect from a tropical island, for example Bermuda, Easter is much more relaxed and a whole lot warmer than it is for us in Europe. Fittingly then, Bermudians of all ages like to celebrate Good Friday on the beach, where they fly both special homemade and store-bought kites. The kites represent Christ's resurrection, and come in all manner of shapes, colours and sizes. Some are so big they require several people to get them airborne. Along with kite-flying, Bermudians also enjoy eating fish cakes and hot cross buns at this time of year.

-Bernard Kellett

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 4: 8-12

Responsorial Psalm: 117 Response: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Easter Around the World (3)

Across central and Eastern Europe an ancient tradition exists which sees people try to drench each other with

buckets of water, usually men soaking the women on Easter Monday. Known as Smigus-dyngus (Wet Monday) in Poland, Watering Monday in Ukraine, Watering in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and Sprinkling in Hungary, the ritual is supposedly based around women's fertility, with the water having a cleansing effect in an effort to make them healthy for the upcoming spring. In Hungary participants will often dress up in folk costumes and the men will douse the women with buckets of water or perfume. In Poland, traditionally the women get soaked, but today it has become more of a country-wide water fight. After the soaking, usually the women then provide the men with food and alcohol. Another Easter tradition exists in these countries in which men whip women with a special handmade whip made from willow and decorated with ribbons. Not intended to be painful, it supposedly helps women keep their youth, health and fertility throughout the year.

In a centuries-old folk ritual that looks remarkably similar to Halloween, children in both Finland and Sweden dress up as Easter witches (påskkärring) and go door-to-door in their neighbourhoods in the hope of receiving chocolate. The youngsters wear decorated headscarves, paint their faces and carry bunches of decorated willow twigs, paintings and drawings which they exchange for sweet treats. Devout Catholics in the Philippines will volunteer to be "crucified" on Good Friday to reenact Jesus' suffering, in a particularly gruesome practice that has been condemned by the church. Thousands watch the reenactment, known as the San Pedro Cutud Lenten Rites, in the province of Pampanga, in which believers are nailed to crosses to atone for their sins or pray for others.

Penitents volunteer to have nails measuring two inches long hammered into



**St Pius X Church, Stamford Road,
Alderley Edge, SK9 7NS, Cheshire**

Clergy: Fr Mathew

☎ 01625 582386



✉ stpiusalderley@gmail.com

🌐 stpiusalderley.com

21-April-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

Fourth Sunday of Easter

R.C DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY REG. CHARITY No.234025

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Gerald Ramsden
Sunday 8.30am	Parishioners
10:00am	Jack & Carmel Byrne
11.30am	Baptism: Baby Oliver
Monday 10.00am	
Tuesday 9.30am	St George (Patron of England)
Wednesday 9.30am	Tony Fay
Thursday 9.30am	St Mark
Friday 9.30am	
Saturday 11.30am	Diana & John Hamilton (<i>Golden Wedding</i>)
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Michael Scaife
Sunday 8.30am	Parishioners
10.00am	Fifth Sunday of Easter William and Isobel (Intentions)

Sacrament of reconciliation (Confessions) and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Saturday at 11.00am

Introduction Mass for the First Communion Candidates: Sunday 21st April during the 10am Mass. **First Holy Communion 2024:** Sunday 05th May during the 10.00am Mass. Please keep our young candidates and their families in your prayers.

Introduction Mass for the Confirmation candidates: Sunday 28th April during the 10.00am Mass. Confirmation Mass- 2024: At St Vincent's, Knutsford on Sunday 12th May at 3.00pm. Please keep our young candidates and their families in your prayers.

March Finances

Offertory Envelopes	Standing Orders	Loose Plate	Total
£1,125.00	£1,186.0	£1,846.30	£4,157.80

Congratulations to William Poyser & Isobel Snelson. William's marriage to Isobel will be blessed on Saturday 27th April in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich. William served the parish as a member of the parish choir in the past. Please remember them in your prayers.

A new Vicar General for the Diocese: Bishop Mark has appointed Canon Jonathan Brandon as a new Vicar General for the Diocese to serve alongside Canon Michael Gannon VG.

Church Offertory and Gift Aid Explained: If you pay tax and are not in the Gift Aid Scheme you could help the parish by enrolling. For every £1.00 you donate HMRC gives the parish 25p. All that it involves is giving your name and address on a Gift Aid declaration form. No other details are required. There is no minimum amount or fixed amount, you don't have to give every week and you can stop or start as you like. The only stipulation is that the money has to be placed in a Gift Aid envelope or, preferably to save the volunteer counters' time, paid by standing order or cheque. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, please contact Father Mathew or Louise Jones.

Diocesan Mass for the celebration of Marriage 2024: 'This year's Diocesan Mass for Marriage will take place on Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If any of our parishioners are celebrating a special anniversary in 2024 and wish to receive an invitation please provide the following details: -Names, Address, which anniversary they are celebrating - (this would usually be – 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or a 1st wedding anniversary) to Fr Mathew. Please submit any requests for an invitation through the parish office to avoid private emails ending up in the SPAM folder!'

Director of Schools: The Diocese is seeking to recruit a Director of Schools/ applications are now open. <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730> (Please visit for details)

Bilingual Mass for Members of the Chinese Community: Bishop Mark will celebrate a bilingual Mass for all members of the Chinese Catholic community on Sunday 28th April at 2.30pm, at St Hugh's & St John's, Timperley. Father Bruno Lepeu , chaplain to the Chinese community will concelebrate the Mass.

Alderley Edge Musical Festival: Wednesday 1st May to Saturday 4th May. The church will be used for the festival above dates.