**ST PETER APOSTLE CHURCH, RUSHDEN**

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churchRushden

**11th MAY 2025 – YEAR C**

 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

**PREFACE:** Easter 4

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**: Number 2

**MYSTERY OF FAITH:** When we eat this Bread…

**Sat:** 6:30pm - Philomena Varghese RIP

**Sun:** 10:00am - People of St Peter’s living and deceased

**Tue:** 10:00am - Foundation Mass

**Wed:**  7:00pm - Foundation Mass

**Thu:** 10:00am - Gemma (Sick intention)

**Fri:** 12 noon - Special Intention

**Sat:** 6:30pm - People of St Peter’s living and deceased

**Sun:** 10:00am - Pray for Survivors of Abuse

Rosary: Wednesday 6:30pm

Holy Hour, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and

Confession Friday 11am

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** S. McCabe, Peter Gavin, Pauline Martin, Bridget Doheny, Margaret Kinch, Beatrice Measures, Mary Houlihan, Richard Connelly, John Preston, Philip Hart, Patrick Bermingham, Mary Parker, Teresa McKenzie, Mycaelo Kniazewycz, Bridget Buckingham, Patrick Butterly, Margaret Cuddihy, James Spallin, James McDonald, Agnes Göse, Fr Roger Edmunds, Malcolm Humphreys, Catherine Mann and Eileen Flynn.

**Please Remember in Prayer:** Nick, Alan, Ray, Ireneo, Gabriel, Francine, Amanda, Nora and Jenny, Peter, John, Alejandre & Neneta Sanogal, the Collett family, the Boothby family and Gary, Jessica, the Richards family, Betty Close, Marléne, Bruce, Sophie, Neil, Fiona, Jemma, Pat Cole, Abi, Saju, Merin, Isobel, Soly, Vithu, Eileen Bishop, Amber, Emma, Eva, Olivia, Linda, Kathryn, Chris Carey, Jenny, Ann, Edda, Elio, Lits the Cudone family, Gemma, Dylan & family, Alan, Nick, Ray, Jeff, Samantha, Yvonne, Nathan, Lewis, Sophie, Kele, Luna, Pat, Rose and Chris Ann Mather.

**OFFERTORY:** Last week’s collection amounted to £624.85. Thank you very much.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This weekend is for the Priests’ Training Fund.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Next weekend is for the Diocesan Bishop’s Fund.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY:** Is available to all children aged 5-11 years old at the 10am Mass. We invite the children to come out to the hall/lounge after the entrance hymn and we return them at the Offertory.

**YOUR SYMPATHY:** Is requested for the family and friends of Rose Ward who died on May 4th and whose funeral will take place in Church at 12 noon on Friday June 6th followed by burial at Higham Ferrers Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM DEACON PETER:** I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and best wishes during my absence, they are very much appreciated. I am still having treatment and would appreciate it if you could continue holding me in your prayers but please do not ask me how I am. May God bless you all.

**UCM NEWS:** Spring issue is now available at the back of Church.

**CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING:** You are all invited to the Coffee Morning at the Salvation Army Café on Saturday May 17th from 10am to 12 noon. See poster on noticeboard.

**FOODBANK DONATIONS:** There is a comprehensive list of requested items at the back of Church (including tinned foods & household goods). Please keep the donations coming, as stocks are running low and demand is increasing more and more. Thanks to everyone for all the donations, both of goods and money!

**VACANCY:** The Church has a vacancy for a handyman/woman to help with the maintenance of the Church and Presbytery utilities plus Health & Safety. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help. Training will be available.

**SUMMER CELEBRATION OF ST JUDE:** In Faversham, Kent, Saturday May 31st. See poster on noticeboard.

**HABEMUS PAPAM!** We pray that our new shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, be blessed with the wisdom and compassion needed to guide the Church. May he, in communion with his fellow bishops, serve us all with dedication and joy, deep compassion, and profound faith, hope and charity, so that the light of the Risen Christ will continue to dispel the darkness of this World.

**Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel**

1. To fully understand today’s short Gospel (Jn. 10:27-30) it’s important to know how sheep were raised in olden times in the Middle East. They were raised mainly for the wool they produced and had therefore the prospect of a longer life-span than sheep in Europe. The shepherd got to know his sheep roaming on the open terrain. So intimate was the relationship of shepherd and flock that they would recognise the voice of the shepherd calling them by name. Those who keep pet sheep know all about this. When Jesus claimed a similar relationship with those who believed in him, his listeners had experience of what he meant.

2. The essence of the Christian life is to become attuned to Jesus’ voice, gently drawing us towards becoming loving persons. We are aware that today there’s the Evil One also tugging at our heart strings with a view to making us selfish, self-centred and less loving. Today’s Gospel reading urges us to distinguish between these two discorded voices – the more we choose to listen to the voice of our Shepherd, the gift of eternal life will never be stolen from us.