

The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, Apostles (29th June 2025)



Dear Parishioners

Every five years or so, bishops from a particular country will make an 'Ad Limina' visit to Rome. This full title of that visit is 'Ad Limina Apostolorum'; literally "To the threshold of the Apostles". In Rome the great Apostles are buried, Peter in the Basilica of St Peter and Paul, in the Basilica of St Paul outside the walls (where I was ordained deacon ten years ago). The visit is a spiritual journey as well as an administrative exercise. The meeting with the Pope is an exercise of the apostolic ministry. This encounter serves to consolidate the unity which exists between the bishop of Rome and the bishops of the local churches. We are members of the universal communion which is the Catholic Church. Today we celebrate the two great Princes of the Apostles.

Peter and Paul were great men. It is common in preaching to hear about Peter's failures — his weaknesses and false steps, which the Gospels make no attempt to hide. And we first meet Paul, of course, when he is persecuting the Church. Peter and Paul were both flawed men, but nonetheless they are great men. In fact, one of the things that makes them both great is that they acknowledge their flaws. Practically the first words out of Simon Peter's mouth in the Gospel of Luke are, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man". In one of his letters, Paul claims to boast in his weakness.

Yet, in the Acts of the Apostles, Peter raises the dead to life. Paul becomes the most remarkable missionary in history. The faithful of Jerusalem bring their sick into the streets just so that Peter's shadow will fall upon them. And in Sunday's Gospel we hear those remarkable words from the mouth of the Lord himself, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The greatness of both Peter and Paul comes from Jesus.

The Lord does the building. He gives Simon the fisherman a new name and a new identity, and he reorients the life of Paul in every way on the road to Damascus. The greatness of these apostles comes not because they took a course in self-help or even because they refined some aspect of their personality. The theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar points out, "Simon the fisherman could have explored every region of his ego prior to his encounter with Christ, but he would not have found 'Peter'". If Simon had taken a Myers-Briggs test, the results most certainly would not have read "Prince of the Apostles." Only encountering Jesus could transform him into the new man he became.

In the dramatic story of Peter's escape from imprisonment in Sunday's first reading, the apostle does not hatch a clever plan to chisel through the wall, like an Escape from Alcatraz. Instead, he follows the promptings of the angel who appears to him, seeming almost dazed as he does so. In Paul's letter to Timothy, the apostle speaks of a kind of self-emptying, of being "poured out like a drink offering." God acts in Peter and Paul, and their greatness comes from the degree to which they are able to let go of themselves — their egos, their fears, their self-will — and cooperate with his plans for them. An article I read shortly after the election of the current successor of Peter, Pope Leo, described our new pope's leadership style with the words John the Baptist used to talk about Christ: "I must decrease so that he may increase."

Peter and Paul were unique in the role they were called to play in the foundation of the Church, but they did not keep their formula for greatness a secret. The Lord invites all of us to the same greatness, whatever the specifics of our mission here on earth may be. We are called to be saints, to let go of ourselves and let Jesus live in us.

I remember around the time of my ordination receiving a card from a good friend who just wrote "2 Corinthins 4: 7-10". When I looked it up, it said

"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies."

The message was "God uses cracked pots and makes good use of them". We see that in today's two saints and if we look carefully, we can see that God can use us, even with all our cracks.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

St Matthew's Church 32 Hallowell Road, Northwood HA6 1DW



You can make a donation to either parish by using the appropriate QR code.



St Joseph's Church 111 Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Peter's Pence

"Take part in the steps of Leo XIV with your donation to Peter's Pence."

With these words, the Vatican is encouraging Catholics to participate in the collection to support the Holy Father in his mission at the service of the universal Church.

At the end of June, most parishes hold the Peter's Pence collection, a financial contribution that the faithful offer to the pontiff as an expression of support for the needs of the Catholic Church around the world and the charitable works it carries out. This weekend on the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul we will have a second collection for Peter's Pence

Hervé Boisson

Hervé is to be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on Saturday 5th July in Westminster Cathedral. He will be ordained by Bishop Paul McAleenan at the 10.30am Mass. (Please note that the Metropolitan line is not running on that Saturday - other options are to get the 282 from Northwood to Northolt, and then pick up the Central Line, trains from Carpenders Park - changing on to the Bakerloo line, or trains from Stanmore) On Sunday 6th July the 6.00pm Mass in St Matthew's will be a special Mass for Hervé which will be followed by a party. Please offer to make a contribution by signing up on the lists at the back of each church. If you would like to contribute to a collection, please put your gift in an envelope marked 'For Hervé' and either place it in the collection plate or hand in to the office.

THERE IS NO SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT ST MATTHEW'S THIS SATURDAY TO ENABLE ALL TO ATTEND THE ORDINATION.

A Message from Hervé

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

As I write these lines, only a few days remain before my ordination on the 5th of July. This marks the end of a 4-year process, which has been rich in blessings, spiritual growth and hard work.

Though the formation has been demanding and thorough, I am keenly aware that there is so much more to learn about active ministry. I therefore humbly ask for your patience and understanding, as I am getting up to speed over the coming months.

The word "deacon" means servant, and they are sent out to be a living sign of Christ's compassion. I receive this role as a daily invitation to serve each of you with humility and love.

Once again, I can only repeat how grateful I am for your support and prayers, and I look forward to getting to meet you as we journey together in faith. Please know I am here to walk with you. If there's anything you'd like to share: a prayer request, a personal story, a question, or a need for a blessing, I'd be glad to hear from you. God bless.

Hervé

Fr John Wiley RIP

Fr John Wiley's funeral rites will take place in St Bede's, Croxley Green. Fr John's mortal remains will be brought to St Bede's, on Monday 30 June at 4.45pm. There will be a Requiem Mass at 7pm.

The Funeral Mass will be at St Bede's on Tuesday 1 July at 12noon followed by burial at Allum Lane Cemetery, Borehamwood. Bishop Jim Curry will preside and give the homily at the Funeral Mass.

We pray for his soul and for the parish of St Bede's as they mourn their parish priest.

Visit of the Relics of St Edmund Campion

On Tuesday 1st July, the Relics of St Edmund Campion will visit St Joseph's as part of their annual tour. There will be a chance to venerate them after Mass.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Caritas Bakhita House

On 30th June at 5.30pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the 10-year anniversary of the opening of Caritas Bakhita House, our safe house supporting women escaping trafficking and exploitation. The Mass will take place at Westminster Cathedral, and all parishioners are warmly invited to attend. You can find out more about Caritas Bakhita House at https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhita-house/

Applications for First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2026

Applications for next years Catechetical Programmes are open. Children have to be in Year 3 or above (from September) for First Holy Communion. To apply for Confirmation, you have to be in Year 9 or above (from September). Please speak with Fr Tom after Mass.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you are not a Catholic and are interested in becoming one, or if you are a baptised Catholic but have not received the other Sacraments of Initiation (Holy Communion and Confirmation) then please speak to Fr Tom after Mass to arrange to meet and talk about things further. The next RCIA Course will begin in September.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd helps your child to develop a deep and authentic relationship with Jesus, our Good Shepherd. This unique approach to nurturing the spiritual life of your child is based on the principles of Montessori education. Children and the catechists work and pray in a prepared space specially created for the children, called an atrium. There are a few places available in our atrium in St Matthew's. Sessions are held after the Sunday 9am Mass, from welcome please 10.15am-11.45am. We children from 3 years old! For further information, email: cgsnorthwood@gmail.com

Planning to get Married?

If you are planning to get married then please speak to Fr Tom. If you are getting married elsewhere, you still need to get permission from the bishop. It is best to have the paperwork done within six months of the wedding. Please don't leave it until a couple of weeks before the wedding!

Diocesan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware & Emmaus Jubilee Youth Festival The pilgrimage on Saturday 12th July and Youth Festival in August have both been cancelled.

Appeal for Church Cleaners at St Matthew's

Our dedicated team of church cleaners are looking for volunteers to join them on Monday mornings after Mass and the rosary. Due to holidays and illness they have become very depleted on some Mondays and have asked for help. They work hard to keep our church looking so beautiful. They are real hidden treasures. Please help if you can.

St Matthew's Parish Library

The parish library in the porch will be closed down from Monday 21st July. Please take home any books you would like to have. The library used to be well used in the past by many parishioners. However, as people refer to more digital resources the books are now no longer being borrowed.

St Joseph's Pre-school

St Joseph's Pre-school are looking for someone to join their team in Early Years, looking towards a management position. The candidate will have to have the relevant qualifications of Level 3 - 6 also SENCo experience, willing to take on board training. The position is term time only 30 hours per week.

Please contact them by email or phone on: Jackie@stjosephspreschool.org.uk or 020 8428 6465

News From Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care

A new CompassionART Café bringing support for those who are lonely due to illness or bereavement is coming to South Oxhey in July. Run by Rennie Grove Peace, in partnership with Three Rivers District Council Healthy Hub, the CompassionART Café launches on 31 July and will take place on the last Thursday of every month at Oxhey Library.

CompassionART Cafés are drop-in sessions that provide a safe space for people to come together and express themselves through art. They are aimed at anyone who might be lonely due to illness or bereavement. The sessions include a guided arts and crafts activity and provide a safe space to chat and connect with others, share memories and create lasting connections over a cup of tea.

If you could use some support, please come along and feel free to bring a family member or friend. If you'd like to find out more, please visit https://renniegrovepeace.org/about-us/news/new-compassionart-cafe-launching-in-oxhey/.

New Priests for Westminster

On Saturday Cardinal Vincent ordained two new priests in Westminster Cathedral. Fr Sean Power (left) who will serve in the parish of St Monica, Palmers Green Fr James Boyle (right) who will serve in the parish of Welwyn Garden City

New Parish Priests Appointed

Two of our neighbouring parishes have sadly lost their parish priests this year. Fr Sean Carroll and Fr Joh Wiley both died unexpectedly.

Fr David Knight has been appointed as Parish Priest of Croxley Green

In Ruislip, two new priests are arriving in the parish. t Fr James McTavish FMVD has been appointed as the new Parish Priest for Ruislip. He will be joined by Fr Victoriano Caritos FMVD as Assistant Priest.

Archbishop John Sherrington

Please pray for Archbishop John as he travels to Rome to receive his Archbishop's Pallium from Pope Leo on this great Feast.





Pray for Pope Leo XIV as Successor to Peter

V. Let us pray for Leo XIV, our Pope.

R. May the Lord preserve him, and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

Our Father. Hail Mary

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Leo XIV, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer Intentions

Pope's Prayer Intention for July For formation in discernment. We pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Lamp Prayer Intentions

(St Matthew's) Blessed Sacrament Those recently ordained as priests (St Joseph's) Blessed Sacrament Donal Leen (Intentions)

Our Lady Anne Clifford RIP (Anniv)
Our Lady Fr John Wiley RIP

Last Week's celebrations.

Last Sunday we had a Precession of the Blessed Sacrament after the 11.00am Mass. A huge thank you goes to our wonderful school who enabled us to finish in the school grounds. It was followed by a wonderful party in the hall at St Joseph's. Lots of positive comments have come in about it and thank you to all who took part in this wonderful act of witness as we took Jesus around the streets of South Oxhey!







Appeal for New Servers.

If you would like to learn how to serve at Mass, then please come along to St Joseph's on Sunday 13th July after the 11.00am Mass. If you would like to serve at St Matthew's, please speak with Fr Tom.

Readings at Vigil Mass

First reading

Acts 3:1-10

In those days: Peter and John were going up to the Temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the Temple, that is called the Beautiful Gate, to ask alms of those entering the Temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the Temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the Temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognised him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 19(18):2-3. 4-5. R5a*

Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands. Day unto day breathes forth a word, and night unto night imparts the knowledge.

Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded; their sound goes forth through all the earth, their message to the utmost bounds of the world.

Their sound goes forth through all the earth

Second reading

Galatians 1:11-20

Brothers and Sisters: I would have you know that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, you know everything;
you know that I love you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

John 21:15-19

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' He said to him a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John,

do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.' (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

The Gospel of The Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading

Acts 12:1-11

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. ₹5*

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad.

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Glorify the Lord with me; together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This lowly one called; the Lord heard, and rescued him from all his distress.

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who fear him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Second reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of The Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us in praying for those who are sick and those who have died:

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

For those who are sick: Helen Jones, Regina Figueiredo, Gilda Kumarathasan, Georgette Gornall, Jim Ferguson, Ann Archer, Kathleen Lynch, Kathleen Andrews, Siobhan Frost, Leslie Caesar, Mary Elizabeth Thomas, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Dave Jessop, Brendan Davern, Shay Murray, Ruby King, John Wildsmith, Cecil Swampillai, Belinda Plummer, Marilyn Theodore, Veronica Savill, Levan Soloman, Patricia Procter, Philip Wilson, Mary Hyde, King Charles, Catherine Princess of Wales, Moira Montgomery, Patricia Lee, Eileen Wildsmith, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mark O'Connor, Marie Marron, Carol-Ann Frost, Ada Barker, Ron Picardo, Kerry Blackburn, James Wilson, Audrey Potts, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

For those who have died recently: Fr John Wiley, Michael O'Brien, Pat Diamond, Donna Jefferies, Elizabeth Ellis, and all who have died as a result of violence, war and conflict or natural disaster.

For those whose anniversary occurs around this time: Ida Caroleo, Joy Hagan, Andrzej Kiersz, Zofia Kier, Tadeusz Kiersz, Teresa Barker, Joan Egan, Kathleen McHeyzer, Dennis Murphy, Doreen O'Gorman, Patrick Casey, Irene Cozzi, Canon Reginald Fellows, Frank Reilly, Margaret Mann, Mary Malone, Peter Walker, Mario Caruso, Thomas Healey, Archie Chisolm, Margaret Lustik, Steven Moss, Mary Gavacan.

Worship this week

(Saturday) **6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday** - Fr Aiden Sharratt RIP (St Joseph's)

Sunday 29th
SS PETER AND
PAUL
9.00am: Mass - Mary Quirk RIP (St Matthew's)
11.00am: Mass - People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)
6.00pm: Mass - Sarath De Sylva RIP (St Matthew's)

Monday 30th
Feria

9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10.00am: Mass - Joe Da Cunha RIP Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's)
5.00pm: Reception of the Body of Michael O'Brien RIP (St Joseph's)

Tuesday 1st 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**

The Dedication of 10.00am: Mass - Esther Bell (Special Intentions) Followed By Rosary (St Joseph's)

the Cathedral 12 noon: Funeral Mass - Michael O'Brien RIP (St Joseph's)

Wednesday 2nd NO PUBLIC MASS

Feria

Thursday 3rd 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

S Thomas 7.00pm: Mass - Birch Family Intentions Followed By Rosary (St Joseph's)

Friday 4th 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 09:40 Morning Prayer

S Elizabeth 10.00am: Mass - Margoirita Truijillo RIP (1st Anniv) Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's)

of Portugal

Saturday 5th No Morning Prayer, Rosary, Mass or Confessions in St Matthew's this morning.

10.30am. Diaconal Ordination of Hervé Boisson (in Westminster Cathedral)

5.30pm -5.50pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions (St Joseph's)

6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)

Sunday 6th

Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

9.00am: Mass - Ingrid Pino (Birthday) (St Matthew's)
11.00am: Mass - Helen Birch (Birthday) (St Joseph's)
6.00pm: Mass - Bruno Jones RIP (St Matthew's)

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to have a Mass intention (or lamp prayer intention) for a particular date.

Parish Directory

Parish Priest: Fr Tom Montgomery *Email*: tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk *Tel*: 01923 840736 *Emergency*: 07576 455450

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