



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

2nd Sunday of Lent
Sunday 17th March 2019



Parish Priest: Fr Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I be a witness to God's grace and love in my life?

SATURDAY 30th MARCH

Advanced notice that the Saturday evening Mass on this day will be at English Martyrs church and NOT at Our Lady Queen of Peace. The Syro-Malabar community are holding their annual retreat and they will be using the church that Saturday evening.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be NO Stations this coming Friday.

The Catholic Men's Society group who met in February have agreed to continue the discussion on: "The Mass - what do we get out of it?"

This will be held as part of the groups next meeting which is on Monday 18th March 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm in the parish hall. Any men interested in joining the discussion are more than welcome - come along!



Further information is available at the back of Church.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES The Medjugorje Irish Centre are offering pilgrimages to the shrine between April - October 2019. 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service for 279 euros (approx £240) sharing a twin room. Book any flight - any time and they will provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. For more information please call: 020 3239 8662 or reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Street and Prayer Pastors:

Liverpool City Centre is currently recruiting for new Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors. On Sat 6th April there will be an information morning from 10am to 12noon at St. Aiden's Centre, 20 St James Road, L1 7BY. For more info Contact Mark Latham on 07729 001 331

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Please keep Norma Owens in your prayers as she was formally elected last Sunday to be a Candidate for Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and will be Confirmed by Fr Mark and will receive First Communion on Easter Sunday. Do you know of anyone who would like to follow Norma's example and join the Catholic Church? We would love to hear from people who would like to take this step and assist them in preparation. have a word with Fr Mark or the Parish Office.



PARISH RETREAT

Fr Mark has invited the Irenaeus Team to visit our parish in June to lead us a week-long retreat. Irenaeus, led by Fr Chris Thomas, have brought together a team of people from around the Diocese who are willing to give of their time and their skill to help others grow in and share their faith. This special week we will help us to strengthen our faith and understand more the image of God. It will be a spirit-filled week where we will grow as individuals and as a parish family. We need your support to make this a success! The date is Monday 10th June - Friday 14th June 2019. Put it in your diary and more details will follow soon.

PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

A meeting for those interested in starting a Parish Bereavement Group will take place on Friday 3rd May 10:00 in the parish hall. It's important that we support those who are bereaved within our community and to pray for those who have died. We need a good number of people who can get involved in many different ways, the more people the better. Come along to find out more. If you cannot make this meeting but want to get involved please let the Parish Office know.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES Gift

Aid Envelopes for the new tax year are now at the back of both churches. Please collect your box and start using them as from 6 April. If you contribute regularly and are a taxpayer can we PLEASE ask you to complete a gift aid form if you have not already done so. It does not cost you anything more but the Parish receives an extra 20% tax refund on top of your donation. Please see Jack Willcox or Yvonne May for forms.

HOLY LAND SEMINARIANS It is hoped that two Seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Holy Land will spend the month of July in our parish. Nadeem Giacaman from Bethlehem & Wajdi Sahawneh from Jordan will stay with Fr Mark and will be involved in the parish and will visit some other parts of the UK. Fr Mark and the Seminary are now beginning the difficult process of applying for visas and we ask for your prayers that this will be successful.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note the Parish Office is closed next Tuesday (19th) and Thursday (21st)

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 16th March	5pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 17th March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>		10.30am - Tony Elsworth 12 noon - Baptism - Karolina Augustaitis
Monday 18th March <i>Feast of St Joseph</i>		9.00am - Private intention (BW)
Tuesday 19th March	9.00 am - Frank Roach	
Wednesday 20th March		
Thursday 21st March	9.00am - Sick & housebound	
Friday 22nd March		9.00am - Luke Bell
Saturday 23rd March	5pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 24th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>		10.30am - Elizabeth & Samuel Williams 12 noon - Baptism - Skye McGregor

SYNOD2020

Members of the Diocesan Synod in 2020 were formally commissioned recently by the Archbishop in the Metropolitan Cathedral and the next stage of the journey towards 2020 has begun. Discussions will take place, which will begin from the fact that we are not only about managing decline, but we are trying to catch a vision that will move us forward towards missionary discipleship, so that we do not simply follow Jesus but we take the Gospel message to others.

The four Synod Questions that will inform and inspire our project of listening over the coming months have been published. They are:

- 1 Where in your everyday life do you experience love, truth, goodness, hope, and joy?
- 2 When you reflect on your life now, and as you look to the future, what causes you concern or worry?
- 3 What is the purpose of the Catholic Church in the world today?
- 4 Having reflected on these things, what are the topics you would like to see on the agenda of Synod 2020?

These questions begin from the truth that God speaks to us in our everyday lives and, as we reflect on our lives, we encounter Christ (c.f. Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 8). We are then invited to think about what the Catholic Church is for. This will allow the Spirit of God to open our hearts so that, finally, we can reflect on the questions, issues, and topics that our Synod should make recommendations on.

We are all invited to reflect deeply and respond to these four Synod Questions. Listening will be done through our online survey, focus groups facilitated by Fr Peter McGrail at Liverpool Hope University, and by Synod Members in our local communities. It is through this great project of listening that we will begin to discern the Church God is calling us to be.

If you would like to answer those four Synod Questions, please write your thoughts down, place them in an envelope and hand it to Fr Mark or the Parish Office. Your responses will be given to Gavin Williams our parish Synod member. You can also complete the online questionnaire: www.synod2020.co.uk and click on 'resources'.





WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY Karolina Augustaitis

Baptised Sunday 10th March 2019



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Marie O'Neil, Martin Hook,
Karen Ormsby, Bernadette Clark,
Emma Kelly, Eileen Monaghan, Colin
O'Donnell, Terry Kelly, Marjorie
Cramp, Roisin Dooley, Brenda
Wallace, Pat Goulby, Joan Johnson,
Thomas Niblock, Vera Ryan, Alice
Manning, Patricia Vina, Mary Wilson,
Flo Johnson, Fiona Barlow, Margaret
Strong, Cheryl Green, Julie Wolfarth,
Paul O'Farrell, Francis Clare, Joan
Brewer, Elizabeth Cannon, Martin
Hook, Mary Cassidy, Mary Patten,
Jill Lyster, Tommy Hesse, Ann
Rawlings, Jack Mahon, Catherine Potts,
Mary Cleary, Olive Forrest, Margaret
Kay, Derek Forrest, Susan Green,
James Halpin Joan Niblock,
Al Jackson, Norah Wright,
Hannah Mahon, Alice Power,
Betty White Catherine Madden,
Mary Spofforth, Eileen Hannon
Cornelius Powell



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH



Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities

That Christian communities, especially those
who are persecuted, feel that they are close
to Christ and have their rights respected

Lord in your mercy.....

Our Lady & The English Martyrs
School Lane
Litherland
Liverpool
L21 7LX
0151 928 3471
englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

Parish Office:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Archdiocese of Liverpool : Registered Charity 232709

LENTEN ALMS

Lent is the ideal time to do a little bit more in remembering the needy. The call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on **"almsgiving,"** which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says is, *a witness to fraternal charity*" and *"a work of justice pleasing to God."*

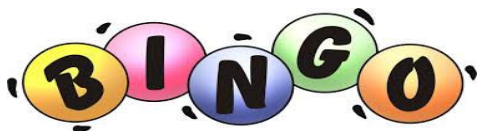
A box for financial donations will be available at all Masses during Lent for you to make a contribution. This money is sent to the Diocese and the Archbishop decides on a cause for this to be sent as a Diocesan donation.

You can also help in donating items for our local Food Bank which we regularly support and will be greatly appreciated. Items for food can be left at the back of church.

EASTER BINGO!

Please come and join us on
Wednesday 10 April in English
Martyrs Hall for our Easter Bingo.
Doors open at 7pm and 'eyes down' is at
7.30pm. Entry is £1 and tickets will be sold at
the back of Churches from this weekend or you
can pay on the door

We are also holding a grand Easter Raffle.
Tickets available at the back of both Churches
from this weekend.



South Sefton
Foodbank are
consistently short of
the following food
Items:

Tinned Rice Pudding
Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Fish
Chicken Noodles and
snacks
Tinned Potatoes
Instant Mash
UHT Juice
UHT Milk
Coffee
Jam



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

This time of year we remember some of the priests who have faithfully served our parish community and whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:

Fr Bob Starkey - 3rd March (died 2004).

Canon Michael Culhane - 23rd March (died 2010)

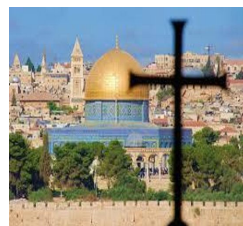
Canon Bill O'Sullivan - 23rd March (died 2013).

May they be rewarded for their faithful service and rest in peace.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been arranged from 3rd - 14th October 2019. Flights from Manchester to Tel Aviv with Easyjet. We will stay in the Manger Square Hotel Bethlehem, 2 minute walk from where Jesus was born and the Ron Beach Hotel Tiberius which is situated on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.



We will visit the major sites associated with Jesus, Mary and the apostles in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee & Nazareth. Other highlights include: Sunday Mass in a local parish so we can meet the local Christian community, a visit to the Christian ladies of St. Martha's House, a meeting with Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and dinner with the Rector, staff and seminarians in the local Seminary.

Mass will be celebrated every day in some memorable and unforgettable places such as the Church of the Nativity, The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Nazareth and an outdoor Mass on the shores of the Sea of Galilee

The total cost of the pilgrimage, including flights, is now confirmed as £1,887. This includes 12 days full board, tips and gratuities, full guided tour and staying in 2 excellent hotels. Single room supplement is £400

If you would like to go, please call to the Parish Office to complete a booking form. You also need to pay your deposit of £450, cheques made payable to 'Leisure Time Travel'.

Fr Mark will hold various meetings throughout 2019 to help us prepare for the pilgrimage.

FEAST OF THE WEEK ST JOSEPH (March 19th)

New York, New York, so good they named it twice. So goes the song. Well, there is actually a well-known saint who's so good that he gets two feast days every year. On May 1st we celebrate Joseph the Worker. But on March 19th it's the fact that he is husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus that gets him his second feast. What do we know about him?



We know he was a working man, a carpenter and that he was poor, because instead of a lamb he could only afford two doves in sacrifice at the Temple. But nevertheless we know that Joseph came from a noble background years ago because one of his ancestors was King David. We know that he was a compassionate and kind man because he could have left Mary when she became pregnant but he chose to stand by her.



We know he was a man of faith and an obedient one because despite all the conflict he trusted what God told him in a dream and he obeyed, taking his wife and child to Egypt.

Everything we know about Joseph comes from scripture. We might not know what he looked like, where he was born and where and how he died but we do know all that we need to know about him when we read the five most important words that sum him up: '*He was a just man*' (Matthew 1:18).

FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

The next outing for the Theatre Group has been arranged for Wednesday 23 October. We are going to the Liverpool Empire to see *Les Miserables*. Apologies for the



extremely early notice but tickets were going fast and we booked early to ensure we have a group of seats. The total cost including transport is £64. Please give your name to the office if you wish to join us. Tickets are limited

and will be on 'first come/first served' basis. Payment needs to be made by end of June.

Preparing our Young People for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The moving of the Sacrament of Confirmation back to the teenage years will see the Archbishop confirming the first group of such young people next year.

In seeking to help our young people to prepare for the sacrament work has been going on to develop an approach that might enable us to draw on the strengths of our parishes, pastoral areas, schools and diocese.

At the heart of this approach is the recognition that a key element in nurturing the faith of our young people is the opportunity to connect with other such young people, as seen in the appeal of Flame, Lourdes, Faith in Action, etc.

Further information will follow, but in order to explore the scheme any interested parishioners, would be very welcome to come to any of the following gatherings:

7.00pm-8.30pm, Wednesday, 27 March at St Anne's, Ormskirk.

11.00am-12.30pm, Saturday, 30 March at LACE.

Please let Fr Mark know if you would like to come to one of these. The local priests will be exploring ways how our parishes can work together to prepare and celebrate this important Sacrament.



CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY 2019

This annual day took place on Friday 15th and your support is greatly appreciated. This Lent, your generosity will give vital support to the communities that CAFOD work with around the world. Mahinur, her disabled husband and 12-year-old son, are an example of a family that CAFOD hope to reach thanks to the Lent appeal. Mahinur's family live in Bangladesh, where floods, droughts, and cyclones have damaged crops, homes, health and income. Mahinur usually catches fish to sell but since the local river dried up in May 2018, there are no fish to catch. Mahinur told us: "There should be fish in the river now. It's the right time of year. But there's nothing." Mahinur cooks and cleans in neighbours' homes for a bit of cash but it's never enough. There are days the family have nothing to eat. by supporting our Lent appeal and enable us to reach out to more families in desperate need of help.

A retiring collection for CAFOD will be taken this weekend.

St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Formby, L37 1PH

Come and learn more about

**'Raising
Awareness of
Human
Trafficking and
Combating
Modern Slavery
in the UK Today'**

on Tuesday, 9
April,
10.30am- 3.30pm,
donation £20
includes lunch. For
more info call
01704 875850.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS

We're not told in today's gospel what the name of the mountain was that the Transfiguration took place on. Tradition says it was Mount Tabor, but it doesn't really matter. In fact, whenever a mountain features in the bible we can be pretty sure that God is about to appear in some form or other and tell us something significant. That's what happened to Moses on Mount Sinai and to Elijah on Mount Carmel. Mountains are a sort of scriptural code for an appearance of God.



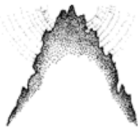
In our run-up to Easter we can be forgiven for thinking that mountains don't matter.

But we all need them. Mountain moments are those in which we seem to catch something of God's presence amid the humdrum of our daily routines. Out of the blue we see something or hear something that makes us realise that there is more to life than meets the eye. Mountains are what bring us our spiritual experiences. It could be something natural like a sunset; it could be the birth of a child, the success of a friend, the embrace of two lovers. Whatever it is, it takes our spirit beyond our bodies and lets us have a glimpse of something that is greater than the merely human.

Because primitive peoples thought that God lived in the sky they went up mountains to be closer to him. But we have lots of mountain experiences down here on the ground. These moments of breakthrough sustain us through all the days when God's presence can seem a bit more distant from us, when like the people of Exodus we wonder whether God is with us or not. They act as a booster to our faith.

Today we see Peter, James and John. They have been given some bad news that Jesus is destined to be put to death and they are feeling low.

Yet the Transfiguration is a flash of God's glory visible in Jesus. The Transfiguration is a defining moment for them. From being fearful they are strengthened. As we journey through Lent on our way to Easter God will offer us our own moments of Transfiguration. He'll let us see his glory and, just as on the mountain top, he'll tell us *'This is my Son. Listen to what he's got to say.'* So, wherever we bump into our own mountains, we need to keep our eyes and ears open.



Due to a cancellation there are 2 seats available for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Departing **Easter Sunday** 21 April to Thursday 25 April in a twin room. Manchester – Toulouse Full board Accommodation Transfers in France to Lourdes Free checked in luggage for the Hold 20kg NOW ONLY £499 Contact Leisure Time Travel 0151 287 8000

THE APOSTLES CREED

During Lent & Easter, the Church recommends we pray the Apostles Creed at Mass rather than the Nicene Creed, the version usually prayed at Mass. The reason this option is recommended particularly for Lent/Easter Time is because of its close relationship with baptism. The Apostles' Creed is the basis for the baptismal promises made by the elect before they are baptised. It is also used for the renewal of baptismal promises at Easter and by parents and godparents when bringing a child for baptism.

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

