



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

3rd Sunday of Lent
Sunday 24th March 2019



Parish Priest: Fr Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How am I like the fig tree that has not borne fruit? How can I bear fruit in the year ahead?

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

Friday 7pm at English Martyrs.



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" MARCH DRAW

1st	£20	No. 184	B Morrin
2nd	£10	No. 55	E McCoy
3rd	£10	No. 82	T Campbell
4th	£10	No. 94	V Kavanagh
5th	£10	No. 47	B Warner

Many thanks for your continuous support. Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

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 has been formally elected 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 in 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.

THE MASS OF CHRISM

The annual Chrism Mass in the Metropolitan Cathedral will take place on Wednesday 17th April, 7.30 p.m. This is the highpoint of the Diocesan year when priests, deacons and faithful from across the Archdiocese gather with Archbishop Malcolm who will bless the three oils to be used in our parishes in 2019. During the Mass the priests also renew their priestly promises.

We will be providing transport and if you would like to attend please write your name on the list at the back of church.



FEAST OF THE WEEK ANNUNCIATION (March 25th)

If God is to become one of us then it is inevitable that one of us had to be chosen for the privileged role of being his mother. That role fell to Mary

Together with Jesus, Mary is the graced link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God and she shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to

become. As the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God, she manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.



The Annunciation invites us to make Mary's response our own whenever we stand before God in prayer: 'Yes, Lord, let what you have said be done to me!'

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 23rd March	5pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 24th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>		10.30am - Elizabeth & Samuel Williams 12 noon - Baptism - Skye McGregor
Monday 25th March <i>Feast of the Annunciation</i>		9.00am - Special intention (RJH)
Tuesday 26th March	9.00 am - Sick & Housebound	12.15pm - Funeral service - Phyllis Smith
Wednesday 27th March		
Thursday 28th March	9.00am - Kathleen McDonagh	
Friday 29th March		9.00am - Peggy Fleming
Saturday 30th March	5pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 31st March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>		10.30am - Margaret & Septimus Murphy 12 noon - Baptism - Alfie Watkins

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 **Skye Louisa McGregor**

Baptised Sunday 24th 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)

Fr Anthony Fleming—28th March (died 2011)

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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2019

Please note the times of Masses & Services for this most important time of the year. We **MUST** make every effort to participate.

Monday 15th April

11:40 a.m. Midday Prayer
12noon Mass

Holy Monday

English Martyrs
English Martyrs

Tuesday 16th April

11:40 a.m. Midday Prayer
12noon Mass

Holy Tuesday

Queen of Peace
Queen of Peace

Wednesday 17th April

11:40 a.m. Midday Prayer
12noon Mass
7.30 p.m. Chrism Mass

Holy Wednesday

English Martyrs
English Martyrs
Metropolitan Cathedral

Thursday 18th April

7.00 p.m. Mass of the
Lord's Supper
10:30 p.m. Night Prayer

Holy Thursday

English Martyrs
English Martyrs

Friday 19th April

3.00 p.m. Celebration of
the Passion of
the Lord

Good Friday

English Martyrs

Saturday 20th April

9.00 p.m. Easter Vigil &
1st Mass of Easter

Holy Saturday

English Martyrs

Sunday 21st April

10.30 a.m. Mass

Easter Day

English Martyrs

There will be a Syro-Malabar Mass at Queen of Peace at 9.30 a.m. to which you are welcome to attend.



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.

NUGENT CARE

There will be a retiring collection next week for the Nugent Care Society, our official Archdiocesan caring service. Our appeal this year ***"In Your Name"*** focuses on our core Caritas projects serving children and adults with learning disabilities, people who live in poverty and people who are vulnerable and isolated. These services receive little or no statutory funding and are entirely reliant on the good will and generosity of our supporters. Thank you for supporting the appeal last year which raised £19, 000 from parishes across the Archdiocese.



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.

WHAT A FOOL!

Have you noticed how the media, particularly the television and cinema, treat the clergy of the Christian Churches? Actually, they treat them like fools. The Anglican is parodied as a harmless fop (think of the vicar in Dad's Army), the Catholic portrayed often as an alcoholic (as in Father Ted) and the Methodist or Free Church minister derided as a fun-hating misery.



By caricaturing the clergy like this you caricature the religion. And why do it? Because what Christians believe appears stupid. It doesn't make sense to anyone else. In fact, it seems sheer foolishness. That's why it frightens others and invites mockery.

Who in their right mind would believe in a God who is the creator and life-force of all that exists? Surely we all know that science has done away with the need for God?

Who apart from a madman or woman would believe that the baby born into the world two thousand years ago is actually the embodiment on earth of the divine being?

Only a fool would accept the teaching that says we have to die in order really to enjoy life. It's an idiot's creed to put others' needs before your own. Surely you need a feeble mind to see victory in the public and humiliating execution of your leader?

How can there be any mileage in following a man who turns the accepted values of society on their head, calling for the first to be the last, the leader to be a servant, for people to put relative store in what they enjoy here on earth because they're promised something even greater in an afterlife?

We need a Lenten reality check to realise that we are fools to many in our society. The teaching of Christ does not seek to be respectable but radical and it alienates just as much as it endears. St Paul gets to the heart of it saying, 'Here we are preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.'



Don't be fooled into thinking that your faith is seen as respectable. Most people think it's stupid.

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.

