



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 1st December 2019



ADVENT

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What am I doing that I would not want seen in the light of day?
What do I need to do to change this?

CATHOLIC PIC

December edition is now available at the back of Church

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass on Monday will be at 9.15 a.m. in church and we'll be joined by class 5B from English

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BOOTLE & LITHERLAND

An Ecumenical Advent Service is taking place on Monday 2nd December at 7.00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Citadel, Stanley Road, Bootle. All are welcome.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This is now celebrated Saturday at English Martyrs 12.30p.m.-1.00 p.m. If the church is locked please knock at the presbytery door.



DONNA POWER

Donna would like to thank everyone who sponsored her on her recent memory walk for the Alzheimers Society. She raised an amazing £537!!

Well done Donna!!



DONATIONS AND HELP PLEASE!

We have a couple of fund raising activities coming up over the next few weeks and are aiming to provide some really nice Christmas prizes. We would be very grateful for any contributions of bottles, groceries or gifts to include in raffles etc.

We have a small team of wonderful helpers but are desperate for more people to help with organising things. If you would be willing to join the fundraising group please contact the parish office



HOLY LAND CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN

This Diocesan campaign sees 100's of Christmas cards being sent to parishes across the Holy Land. Last year we sent cards to the Seminary Community near Bethlehem, this year we will send cards to the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour.

Beit Sahour is a suburb of Bethlehem and it's believed the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus on Christmas night came from the village. We celebrated Sunday Mass with the parishioners during our recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



Beit Sahour, the land of the Shepherds has one of the largest Christian community in the Palestinian Territories. The Parish was established in 1859, with only 80 families. Today, it is one of the most active parishes in the area with pastoral initiatives for various activities and groups: three youth groups, a choir, young couples and scouts.

1. Write a card as you would normally do
2. Don't seal the envelope so we can place an arabic message inside
3. Bring it back to church and place it in the box provided.

Archbishop Malcolm is encouraging parishioners to get involved:
"I wholeheartedly endorse the Diocesan Holy Land Christmas Card campaign and I would encourage our parishes and justice and peace groups to send Christmas cards to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. On my visits to the Holy Land people often remark how supported they feel when they receive a Christmas card from our diocese, and I believe it to be a real sign of our solidarity with those who live there. It's also a promise of our prayers for them at Christmas, and this means so much to them."

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 30th November	5.00pm - Pious List	12 noon - Baptism - Matilda Erskine
Sunday 1st December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>		10.30am - Flo Williams 12 noon - Baptism - Lilly-Mai Vassallo
Monday 2nd December		9.15am - Dorothy Whiston
Tuesday 3rd December	9.00am - Tommy Hesse	10.15am - Funeral service - Teresa Evans
Wednesday 4th December		
Thursday 5th December	9.00am - Shirley Carver	
Friday 6th December		9.00am - Tom O'Looney
Saturday 7th December	5.00 pm - Alan Parker	
Sunday 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>		10.30am - Mary Hoban 12 noon - Baptisms - Thomas Seddon Roman Bailey

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2019

Monday 23rd December	12.00 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Tuesday 24th December	5.00 p.m. Mass 9.00 p.m. Mass	Queen of Peace English Martyrs
Wednesday 25th December	10.30 a.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Thursday 26th December	NO MASS	
Friday 27th December	12.00 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Saturday 28th December	5.00 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Sunday 29th December	10.30 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Monday 30th December	12.00 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Tuesday 31st December	12.00 p.m. Mass	Queen of Peace
Wednesday 1st January	12.00 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs

Please note that Mass on Saturday 28th December will be at English Martyrs and **NOT** at Queen of Peace. This is because the Syro Malabar Community will be using the church all day for a youth event.

ADVENT LITURGY

To mark the beginning of Advent, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Evening Prayer at 4.00 p.m. this Sunday at English Martyrs. Please make every effort to come along and mark this very special time of the year as we focus on Jesus the Light



FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Ambrose (December 7th)



Saints become patrons of all sorts of people and circumstances. St Ambrose's patronage seems to centre on honey, wax and bees. When he was a baby a swarm of bees landed on his face, but instead of stinging him they left a little patch of honey. His father saw this as an omen that he would be able to 'sweet talk' his way in life.

Well, he certainly grew up to be an eloquent man. Ambrose was a Roman citizen born in Germany about 340. He studied law and public speaking, taking up a government position in Milan. He was so popular that when he went to intervene in a dispute about who should become the next bishop, the crowd shouted out that Ambrose should be bishop. He proved a strong opponent of various heresies and of the Roman Emperor's usurping tendencies, was a much loved bishop and died on Holy Saturday 397.

PRAYER LIST

We are always happy to receive names of people who need our prayers which are published in the Newsletter each week. The list has now been wiped clean and you are encouraged to re-submit names to the Parish Office. To keep the Prayer List we must comply with Data Protection rules, so you are asked to keep the following points in mind:

- 1.The person whose name is being submitted **MUST** give their consent and happy for their name to be published in the Parish Newsletter.
- 2.The Prayer List will be published on the new parish website and the person whose name is being submitted **MUST** be made aware of this and give their consent.
- 3.The Parish Office must keep a record of those submitting names so all names to be included in the Parish Newsletter must be done through the Parish Office either in person, by telephone or email.

Names can be submitted now.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

SYNOD 2020



The listening journey that we are on will identify some significant priorities in our Archdiocese. It will also be a journey that Archbishop Malcolm will be sharing with the appropriate authorities in Rome in response to Pope Francis's call to listen.

The next task is to generate the proposals for action within each Theme. These proposals will be taken forward to the Synod day in October 2020 when they will be voted upon. The Themes are:

18th Nov -16th Dec:	Sharing the Mission of Jesus
20th Jan -17th Feb:	How we pray together
17th Feb -17th March:	Building Community, nurturing belonging

We encourage you to visit the Prayer Station in English Martyrs church, take a proposal slip, write a proposal and to place it in the box.

We are now in our period of exploration of our second Synod Theme, *Sharing the mission of Jesus*. You are invited once again to share your Proposals for Action on this Theme as we continue to discern the Church God is calling us to be. There are leaflets at the back of Church to help you.

Keep up to date with everything that's going on with Synod 2020 by logging on to the website synod2020.co.uk, the Catholic Pic has regular updates or speak to our Synod delegates, Gavin Williams & Sara Coxon.

Synod Talk 3

Taking place on Monday, 9 December in Hope Chapel, lecture begins at 7.30pm with refreshments from 7.00pm. Topic – Complex Catholicism: Discovering the reality of young Catholics in England & Wales by Stephen Davies, all welcome.

PARISH WEBSITE!!

We now have a brand new parish website which goes live this weekend and we encourage you to make full use of it. The Parish Newsletter will also be published on the website every Friday. The address is: www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Teresa Evans

Funeral Service - Tuesday 3rd December
10.15am



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation on ‘The Word of the Lord’ and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome’s death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and ‘**The God Who Speaks**’.

During the year, we will be celebrating, living and sharing God’s word with an exciting new Scripture initiative. It’s an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to ‘The God who Speaks’.

Throughout 2020 there will be a range of events, activities and resources to participate in all around the country. To help achieve transformation in our hearts and in our communities there will be three themes of celebrating, living and sharing God’s word. We will have a Bible Study course in the parish during 2020 and further details will be given on this. Other events will be taking place around the Archdiocese.

Treat yourself to a new bible or put one on your Christmas list. Fr Mark will happily advise on the best ones available.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS!!

BARN DANCE - Saturday 7 December

After the success of last year we are again having a Christmas Barn dance on Saturday 7 December. There will be a hot pot supper (including vegetarian option) and the wonderfully patient (!!) caller will again talk us through the dances. Cost of tickets will be £10. Tickets are now on sale. Last year was amazing fun so please get out your checked shirt and boots and join us at the 'Hoe down'



CHRISTMAS BINGO AND RAFFLE - Wednesday 11 December

Join us in the Parish Hall for our annual Christmas Bingo on **WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER** - doors open at 7pm for eyes down at 7.30pm.



We are also having a **GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** which will be drawn at the Bingo. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend. Prizes include a luxury food hamper and Christmas Drinks hamper ! Get your tickets to be in with a chance!

FIRST RECONCILIATION

In preparation for their First Holy Communion next May the children will be making their First Reconciliation over the next couple of weeks. Please keep them in your prayers.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Alice Power
Mary Jennings
Dorothy Frodsham
Gus Collins
Joan Johnson,
Mary Cleary,
Bet Ashcroft,
Rene Jackson,
Eileen Hannon,
Peg Gray,
Nora Wright
Pauline McGrath



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY



Matilda Elizabeth Erskine

Baptised Saturday 30 November 2019

Lilly-Mai Gillian Vassallo

Baptised Sunday 1 December 2019



CONFIRMATIONS 2020

Part of the new Confirmation scheme for 2020 is High School based. If a child:

DOES NOT ATTEND a Catholic School

Is currently in **Year 8**

HAS NOT been Confirmed-

WANTS to be Confirmed in 2020

They are invited to sign up for the Preparation Day which will take place in St. Mary's Lowe House, St Helens on 29th February. They must register via Eventbrite (search for 'Animate Youth Ministries'). Please note: this Preparation Day is **ONLY** for those currently in Year 8 who have not been Confirmed and want to be Confirmed in 2020 and are **NOT** in a Catholic School. Those in Catholic Schools will receive preparation within their High Schools.

For more information please contact Fr Simon Gore on: 01744 740461 or s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER



The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

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

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN?

Christians seem to have lost any sense of expectation that Christ's second coming should feature in their daily lives. The Jews longed for the 'anointed one of God' who would come and lead them into prosperity, but we're detached from any sense of urgency when it comes to Christ, the Messiah, retuning among us.

Is this because we think the odds are stacked against it happening during our lifetime? Is it because we just don't care? Or is it perhaps because we haven't really understood what the coming of Jesus really means?

It's easy to think that Advent is simply a time for contemplating the end of the world. But, of course, it isn't. It's about preparing for the definitive establishing of God's kingdom on earth.



When we celebrate the liturgy of Advent we are not simply recalling the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and vaguely acknowledging that he will come again. This is not true worship. It's simply cosy remembrance of the past and insurance brokering for the future of our souls. It's not worship from the heart.

Our Advent liturgy demands that we take our baptismal promises seriously and that we act. What are we doing to bring Christ into our world? How do we make him present in the little worlds of our existence: family, work, friends etc?

All our Advent prayers and songs are discordant if they do not reflect what's going on in our lives. We can, and must, make Jesus come again by the way we live. Instead of thinking about fanciful scenes in the moon and stars, ought we not to realise that Christ comes again when his kingdom is established? And if we're not wholehearted about being part of this then what value do our prayers and songs have?

We can sing 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' until the cows come home, but it will be empty worship if we are not pledged to co-operate with God's Spirit in ushering in the kingdom by the way we live. Liturgy is about life. And Advent liturgy is about the kingdom coming. Now.

**Our Lady
& The English Martyrs**

**CHRISTMAS BARN
DANCE AND HOT POT
SUPPER**

Featuring 'Hole in the Wall' Barn Dance Band



**Please
come and
join in the
Christmas
Ho Ho Ho
Down!!**



**Saturday 7th
December**

7.30 pm

**English Martyrs
School Hall**

Tickets £10
available
from Parish
Office or at
back of
Church

