



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 15th December 2019



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

If Christ were to come back to earth today would you be pleased or worried? Is the Second Coming something you look forward to or dread? When you join in the psalm and sing *“Come, Lord, and save us”* what exactly do you mean?

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass on Monday will be at 9.15 a.m. in church and we'll be joined by class 6B from English Martyrs school.

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.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all the children who have celebrated their First Reconciliation over the last two weeks. Many thanks to our team of Catechists for preparing them and for their assistance during the six special Services in church.



PIETY STALL Our wonderful group of ladies who run the piety stall have decided it is time for them to 'retire'. They have done an amazing job for many years and we have to say a huge **THANK YOU!!** for all the time and effort that they have given over the years. We need some volunteers to fill their big 'shoes'. The 'job' involves manning the stall after Mass on Sunday. Hopefully if we get a few volunteers it will be just a commitment for one Sunday each month. All stock is priced so it is just a matter of taking money and recording the sale in a book. If you are interested in helping please contact the Parish Office.



IN THE PINK

The purple candles on the Advent Wreath are joined today by a pink one, since the Third Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete' Sunday. In some places the purple vestments are also replaced by rose-coloured ones to heighten this sense of joyfulness. So why is there such emphasis on rejoicing today? We pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ and we sing 'Gaudete', the first word of the old Latin opening song for today's celebration which means 'rejoice':



Rejoice in the Lord always; once more I tell you, rejoice! Let your tolerance be evident to all people, for the Lord is near.

Confirmation for Year 8s

Although many of our year 8's will have already been Confirmed there may be some year 8's who would like to be Confirmed next year.



If there are any year 8's in non-Catholic schools who want to be Confirmed this year, they are invited to a preparation day on 29 February 2020, 10.00am-1.00pm at Lowe House in St Helens at which they will cover the material they will have missed in classroom based sessions.

They should sign up for the day through Eventbrite (search for 'Animate Youth Ministries').

Year 8 pupils in Catholic schools who want to be Confirmed this year will be given the chance to register through a specific Diocesan Confirmation website in the New Year.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 14th December	5.00pm - Sick & Housebound	
Sunday 15th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>		10.30am - Joe Lovelady & Septimus Murphy
Monday 16th December		9.15am - Ashcroft Family
Tuesday 17th December	9.00am - Pauline McGrath	
Wednesday 18th December		
Thursday 19th December	9.00am - Gus Collins	
Friday 20th December		9.00am - Teresa Flynn
Saturday 21st December	5.00 pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 22nd December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>		10.30am - Gerard Tudhope

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2019

Monday 23rd December	12.00 p.m. Mass	English Martyrs
Tuesday 24th December	5.00 p.m. Mass	Queen of Peace
	9.00 p.m. Mass	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.

Christmas by Candlelight in the Lutyens Crypt is taking place on 19th December from 7pm.

We're planning a really special evening of Christmas cheer, and would love you to be a part of it! On the evening we'll be serving up a delicious two-course Christmas supper for all guests. Entertainment will be provided by X-Factor finalist Danny Morris (our very own Micheal Bublé) who will be singing festive favourites, and our amazing Youth Choir will also be making a special appearance. Tickets are priced at £19.50 each. Contact c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk



Nugent Adoption

Over 500 children across the North West are waiting for their new family. Can you help? Information Drop In Session, Thursday, 23 January, 6.00pm-7.30pm and Saturday 25 January, 11.00am-2.00pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Parish Centre, Mayfield Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8PR or ring 01744 613 041 for more details.



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" DECEMBER DRAW

1st	£20	No. 194 S Hunt
2nd	£10	No. 167 M Spofforth
3rd	£10	No. 143 C Maloney
4th	£10	No. 198 P Savage
5th	£10	No. 120 A Davies

Many thanks for your continuous support from which we have donated £1550 this year to the Hospice. Well done and 'Thank you' to all who contribute. There are still spare numbers available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136 or see Bernie in the Parish office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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



The annual CAFOD Fun Run will be held on Friday 27 December at Wavertree Athletics Ground in Liverpool. See the poster at the back of Church or on CAFOD's website for details

CAFOD
Just one world

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.

A meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on **Monday 13th January at 7.30 p.m.** to discuss the current theme and its proposals.

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 4**

Taking place on Monday, 13 January in LACE, Croxteth Drive lecture begins at 7.30pm with refreshments from 7.00pm. Topic – Faith in the Family: What does Scripture teach about Faith and family? What does it mean to call home 'the domestic Church'? What foundations for Faith can be laid in the family?

PARISH WEBSITE!!

We now have a brand new parish website which is now live 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

WHAT'S ON AT THE CATHEDRAL

Sunday 22

December

5.00pm

Festival

Carol



Service. A mix of seasonal music and readings and congregational carols. Refreshments will be served after the Service



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.

THE RIGHT ONE?



John the Baptist has some second thoughts about Jesus in today's gospel. After preaching about the coming of the Messiah for so long, John now finds himself in prison and things don't seem to be working out as he had expected. So he asks, "*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*"

It seems that John thought the Messiah would be much more militant and political than Jesus. It's quite comforting that John can have his ideas on the Messiah turned upside down; if he needs to take a second look then so do we. His ideas of what Jesus was about proved to be out of synch with reality. And ours often are equally wide of the mark.

In fact, John even wondered whether his cousin Jesus was the right one. Yet Jesus replies that John should open his eyes and look around: those who are blind, deaf, lame and lepers are being cured and the Good News is being preached to the poor. All of these things were known to be signs that the Messiah had arrived.

What about us? Are we sure we've got the right idea about Jesus? When he comes again ought we to be worried or should we be joyfully expecting him? Is he coming to bring vengeance or is he 'on our side'. Will he condemn or save?

Having second thoughts about Jesus allows us to get things in perspective. It allows us to see Advent as a joyful season of expectation. It lets us realise that fear is out of place for those who await Christ's coming. It encourages us to actively look forward to the promises that God has made to us through his Son. It permits us to sing 'Come, Lord Jesus' and really mean it. And so Advent invites us to yearn for the coming of that joyful day when our salvation will be fully revealed.



John the Baptist had to have a rethink about Jesus. Advent summons us to do the same. Is Christ's coming something we look forward to or something we secretly dread?

This is your Parish Newsletter. If it's of interest to you, it may be of interest to others. If you have something to share, an event or otherwise, let the Parish Office know and we'll always try and find room to share your news of what's going on in our community.

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*



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
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Litherland
Liverpool
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englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

Parish Office:

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool : Registered Charity 232709

THANK YOU!

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who attended the bingo or bought tickets for the Christmas Raffle.



We made an amazing £560! on both events. The bingo was also a real community event.

It is lovely to all come together, have some fun and raise some funds at the same time. Thank you also to all those who helped with organising. It is very much appreciated!

A list of winners of the raffle is at the back of Church





Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Service

with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon at the
Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on
Thursday 19th December 2019 at 2.00pm



Featuring the students from Great Crosby and Our Lady Star of the Sea
Catholic Primary Schools plus the "Songs We Remember" Choir.

Assistance with wheelchairs and refreshments
provided by students from Bellerive FCJ Catholic College.

**Refreshments will be served afterwards in the
Gibberd Room and everyone is most welcome.**

For further information please contact
the Pastoral Formation Department
0151 522 1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk