



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December 2019



CHRISTMASTIME

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is my mission? What is God calling me to do?
How can I fulfil my mission?



"They say they are three kings."

PARISH NEWSLETTER

No newsletter next weekend but you will find Mass intentions for two weeks in this edition and on the parish website.

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



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.



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.



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.

Fr Mark will spend a couple of nights in the New Year with his family so there will be NO Mass on the 2nd/3rd January.

Usual Mass times will resume from Saturday 4th January.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 21st December	5.00pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 22nd December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>		10.30am - Gerard Tudhope
Monday 23rd December		12 noon - Joan Niblock
Tuesday 24th December	5.00pm - Parishioners	9.00pm - Parishioners
Wednesday 25th December <i>The Nativity of The Lord</i>		10.30am - Private intention
Thursday 26th December <i>Feast of St Stephen</i>	NO MASS	
Friday 27th December <i>Feast of St John, Apostle</i>		12.00 noon - Joseph & Kathleen Willis
Saturday 28th December <i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i>		5.00pm - Parishioners
Sunday 29th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>		10.30am - Joan Greene

Masses & Services for the week commencing 28th December

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 28th December <i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i>		5.00pm - Parishioners
Sunday 29th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>		10.30am - Joan Greene
Monday 30th December		12 noon - Edward Taylor
Tuesday 31st December	12.00 noon - James Corcoran	
Wednesday 1st January <i>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</i>		12 noon - Alice Alcock
Thursday 2nd January	NO MASS	
Friday 3rd January		NO MASS 2.15pm —Funeral service Thomas Anthony O'Toole
Saturday 4th January	5.00 pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 5th January <i>The Epiphany of The Lord</i>		10.30am - John Dunn

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.



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.

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 period in which to reflect on the second theme of Synod2020 is now over and you are invited to a meeting with our parish Synod Members to share your thoughts on Monday 13th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



Reflection periods for the next two themes are:

20th Jan -17th Feb: How we pray together

17th Feb -17th March: Building Community, nurturing belonging

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 OFFICE Bernie and the Parish Office will take their Christmas break from Monday 23rd December - Thursday 2nd January.

	<p>MAY HE REST IN PEACE</p> <p>Thomas Anthony O'Toole</p> <p>Funeral Service - Friday 3rd January</p> <p>2.15pm</p>	
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Christmas Message of the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool.

‘The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.’ This is St John’s description of the birth of Jesus which is read in churches on Christmas morning. He also speaks of the nativity as, ‘the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it’. Jesus is the light of the world, not some artificial light but the true light which can never be overcome by darkness. He comes into the world for us to bring hope to our lives.

They must have been dark days for Mary and Joseph. They lived under an occupying power and then Caesar Augustus decreed that there should be a census and everyone, irrespective of their situation or personal difficulties, had to go to their own town to be registered. So, Mary and Joseph had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem, a long and difficult journey. When they eventually arrived, there was no welcome for them. They were refugees, forced to stay in a stable, but everything was about to change for them.

With the birth of Jesus an angel and a heavenly host appeared to shepherds on a nearby hillside. Blinding light piercing the darkness and leaving them shaken and afraid. ‘Fear not!’ ‘Do not be afraid’ said the angel and that is the message of Jesus for us today. As God chose shepherds to bring ‘news of great joy’ so too he chooses us today to be his messengers and says to us ‘do not be afraid’.

As the feast of Christmas comes near people have many hopes and expectations, there are pressures created by the clamour of modern life; created by a ‘must have’ society, by fear of what the future may hold, or by memories of Christmas past. Yet in the birth of Jesus there is only simplicity: a child lying in a manger, yet the Son of God among us.

Amid the consumerism of Christmas there are many acts of human kindness, as minds and hearts turn to the needs of others. We welcome the stranger and the refugee; we buy gifts for people we don’t even know, and we give our time to those who are in need. In all the uncertainties of life we have hope which is a sign of love – God’s love for us in sending his Son into the world. Our celebrations too are a sign of God’s love.

2,000 years ago there was a child born for us, a turning point in history which we still rejoice in today, which says that each one of us is loved by God and which takes away fear and gives us hope for the future. We must open our hearts to the welcome offered by our Saviour and let him bring his peace to our lives and to our world.

May this Christmas be a time of peace for us all so that we may know the love of God in our lives.

The Most Reverend Malcolm
McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

December 2019



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



THE PARISH CRIB

The parish crib will be blessed by Fr Mark at 9.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. It is traditional to visit the crib during the Christmas season and to make an offering of money which will go to charity. This year we will be collecting for

St Martha's House in Bethlehem. We visited these lovely ladies when we were on our pilgrimage this year.



There is no welfare state, social benefits or care for the elderly in Palestine and families are expected to fully support their elderly members. Many people, especially Christians, are leaving their homeland and emigrating to other countries because of the political and economic situation, leaving their elderly relatives at home.

'St. Martha's House' was founded ten years ago and is a very small Day Care Centre where Christian elderly women of Bethlehem can spend two days a week at the Centre. They are collected from their homes in time for breakfast, they pray the rosary together, play bingo, sing, dance and chat. Once a week the staff make sure they have a bath and are given clean clothes. On the days that they are not visiting the Centre, staff visit the ladies in their homes and any jobs that need to be done for them are carried out.

The Centre is very much a life-line for these ladies and would not survive without this care and love. There is a waiting list for ladies to join but the premises is very small that only a certain number a day can be catered for. In the future we are hoping a permanent residence will be built so we can offer this service to more people.

Please give as generously as you can and we will ensure that the funds go straight to support these wonderful ladies.



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 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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englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

Parish Office:

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool : Registered Charity 232709

Happy Christmas!

May the peace and light which only the
Child of Bethlehem can bring, fill your
hearts this Christmas and in the New Year.

Fr. Mark

