



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 8th December 2019



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 [englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can I do to bring peace and harmony to my family, neighbourhood, the world?

### WEEKDAY MASS

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

### CMS

The next CMS meeting will take place on Monday 9th December at 7.30 in the church hall. New members always wel-



### 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

In preparation for their First Holy Communion next May the remaining children will be making their First Reconciliation next week.

Please keep them in your prayers.



### 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.

## 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
<b>Saturday 7th December</b>	<b>5.00pm -</b> Alan Parker	
<b>Sunday 8th December</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>		<b>10.30am -</b> Mary Hoban  <b>12 noon -</b> Baptisms - Thomas Seddon Roman Bailey
<b>Monday 9th December</b>		<b>9.15am -</b> Norma & John Owens
<b>Tuesday 10th December</b>	<b>9.00am -</b> Joan Greene	
<b>Wednesday 11th December</b>		
<b>Thursday 12th December</b>	<b>9.00am -</b> Special intention	
<b>Friday 13th December</b>		<b>9.00am -</b> Andrew Hetherington
<b>Saturday 14th December</b>	<b>5.00 pm -</b> Sick & Housebound	
<b>Sunday 15th December</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>		<b>10.30am -</b> Joe Lovelady & Septimus Murphy

## 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.

**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](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk)



## 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 are on sale at the back of Church. Prizes include a luxury food hamper and Christmas Drinks hamper ! Get your tickets to be in with a chance!

### 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](http://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 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](http://www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk)

## FEAST OF THE WEEK THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 9th)



The angel Gabriel addressed Mary as 'full of grace' (or 'highly favoured'). This means that Mary received the divine help necessary for her task. The Church was led by the Spirit to realise that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the incarnation called for the special involvement of God in her whole life. The Church taught that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. This great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus, and the incomparable holiness of Mary shows the incomparable goodness of God. This day is a solemnity and Mass will be celebrated on Monday at 9.15 a.m. All are welcome.



## 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 GENERAL ELECTION

The Catholic Bishops' of England & Wales have issued a statement on the General Election which takes place on Thursday. They are encouraging all Catholics to vote as it is our duty as good citizens to do so.

The statement concentrates on key issues - not parties or manifestos - offering a series of points which we need to reflect upon when deciding who we should vote for. The Bishops highlight the duty of all citizens - not just Catholics - to help shape politics that are **"rooted in the service of human rights and peace"**.

In making judgements about how to vote, the Bishops ask that the following are carefully considered:

- \* The innate dignity of every human being; defending both the child in the womb, the good of the mother and an understanding of the immeasurable good of a child not yet born.
- \* The dignified care for those who are terminally ill and dying which resisting the false compassion of assisted suicide and euthanasia.
- \* The needs of those who are frequently discarded by society such as people with disabilities, travellers, older people, the homeless, prisoners and those trapped in modern slavery.
- \* The process of integration of migrants and refugees who have made their home here, challenging the global rise of xenophobia and racism that is so radically incompatible with our faith.
- \* The rights of those who "can see no end to the tunnel of extreme poverty", providing them with assistance and confronting the structural injustices that compound their suffering.
- \* Care for our common home and tackle the climate emergency which threatens the future of our entire human family.
- \* Freedom of religion and belief, ensuring that everyone has the right to exercise their conscience and practice their creed freely without fear.
- \* The cherishing of marriage, recognising the essential place of the family in the service of life and of society.
- \* The rights of parents to educate their children in accordance with their faith and support the work of Catholic schools in their contribution to society and their promotion of the common good.



## WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

**Thomas John David Seddon  
Roman Kade Bailey**

Baptised Sunday 8 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](mailto:s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk)



### Second 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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Liverpool

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[englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk)

Parish Office:

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool : Registered Charity 232709

## HALF MEASURES?

There are some people for whom half measures just aren't good enough.



We all know of people who put us to shame by their indefatigable commitment to the cause they have espoused. It might be someone who has been cured of cancer and now spends all their time raising funds for research. Perhaps it's a politician risking their life by opposing corruption in their country, or someone campaigning tirelessly for the voiceless. Maybe it's just an ordinary person who spends their entire life looking after a bed-ridden family member. Whatever they do, they put all their energy into it.

John the Baptist was such a person. He was no quiet preacher, not content to give his message in an unobtrusive way nor unconcerned by those who rejected it or failed to hear it. He was a disturbing character. Living on the edge of the desert, wearing strange clothes and eating a weird diet, his message struck panic into people, causing vast crowds to repent and to come and be baptised in the Jordan. That the kingdom of heaven is close at hand was his rally call.

FULL AHEAD  
STOP  
Reverse

When the Pharisees and Sadducees claimed to have repented he turned on them. Produce the evidence. If you really knew what this kingdom of heaven was all about then you wouldn't be so self-satisfied. They had learnt how to practise their religion half-heartedly while seeming to keep all the rules.

So what about us? As Advent begins do we feel any sense of urgency about our need for continual repentance, or do we think of it as just another milestone in the calendar? Will the word of God this Advent make any difference to our attitude? Will it affect the way we behave towards God and each other? Do we most resemble the Jewish leaders taking their religion in their stride or the crowds who heard John's message and realised that there can be no half measures when it comes to changing the way we live? Advent is the time for making our choice.



## **Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Service**

with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon at the  
Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:m.knight@rcaol.co.uk)