



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

Solemnity of The Epiphany of The Lord

Sunday 5th January 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How has an encounter with the Lord led me in a new way?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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



WEEKDAY MASS

Mass times go back to normal from this weekend but please note that there will be NO Mass on Tuesday.

CATHOLIC PIC

The January edition is now available free of charge at back of Church

Liverpool Bach Collective:
Bach Cantata 7:
Sunday 12th January at
6.30pm St Edmund of
Canterbury, Oxford Rd,
Waterloo. Directed by
Philip Duffy

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone for your lovely Christmas cards and many Christmas presents; I am a very lucky priest! They are greatly appreciated and I will remember everyone at my mates in the Holy Land next week.



A new year is also a good opportunity to thank all those people who work so hard in the parish throughout the year. I can't do my job without you and what you do for the sake of the parish family is appreciated by all of us.

May 2020 be a time of blessings and joy for everyone and through the prayers of Our Lady & The English Martyrs may we continue to come closer to God this year.

TAKING THE TREE DOWN

Did you have a Christmas tree? And, if so, how long did you keep it up? Just until Boxing Day or did you leave it for the whole 12 days of Christmas?

Epiphany has become associated with the end of the Christmas season, with vacuuming up all the pine needles from the carpet, carefully storing the lights and decorations back in the loft and finding a safe place for wrapping paper that will come in handy next year.



Yet the feast of Epiphany isn't really about endings. It's about beginnings. The word 'epiphany' is from the Greek word that means 'showing/display/manifestation'. When the wise men arrive from distant parts with their gifts for Jesus, the gospel is letting us know that the glory of God, in the baby, is being acknowledged by people from the ends of the known earth. God's glory is being made manifest.

We can easily fall into the old trap of thinking that this feast is about the past, about events that happened 2,000 years ago. Of course, that's only part of the picture. All feasts are about today, not just the past. But how are we to understand Epiphany?

Quite simply, each of us today is being called to be an 'epiphany' for the world. By celebrating this feast we ask God to unite us with Jesus, as shining examples of Christ's love for the world. We ask that we may be so close to Jesus that we become stars leading others to get to know God's Son.



So the feast of the Epiphany, like all feasts, looks to the future. When the baby was born in Bethlehem, God revealed his eternal plan of salvation and showed us how to live so that we might enjoy everlasting life. Jesus is the light of the world and by following him humanity is able to be refashioned and renewed in God's image. This too is our future. Are we prepared to live in a way that brings light to others? To 'display' the type of God we have? To let people see God's glory?

In a nutshell, are we ready not only to celebrate the Epiphany in church but also to 'be' an epiphany of God in the world?

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	Our Lady Queen of Peace	The English Martyrs
Saturday 4th January	5.00pm - Parishioners	
Sunday 5th January <i>The Epiphany of The Lord</i>		10.30am - John Dunn
Monday 6th January		9.00am - Sick & Housebound
Tuesday 7th January	NO MASS	
Wednesday 8th January		
Thursday 9th January	9.00am - Vera Nilsen	
Friday 10th January		9.00am - Marion Doran 11.00am - Funeral service - Margaret Jackson
Saturday 11th January	5.00pm - Bernard Blundell	
Sunday 12th January <i>Feast of the Baptism of The Lord</i>		10.30am - Harold Buck 12 noon - Baptism - Peter Cunningham

CHRISTIAN NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

1. Spend more time with God, family and friends. Get to know God better and that will increase your appreciation for those he has put into your life to share your days with.
2. Enjoy life more. God created us to know him, love him and serve him. Life is intended to be a joyful experience not a drudge. Knowing God makes us more grateful for all we have been gifted with and it allows us to enjoy every moment as precious.
3. Get rid of a habit that's been holding you back and doing you no good. Whether it's a negative attitude or even some obvious sin, choose something definite to work on during this coming year.
4. Try to learn something new about God each week. Read your bible more to see what God is asking of you. Listen more attentively to sermons and homilies that try to deepen your relationship with God. Find some way of continuing your lifelong religious education.
5. Make a more determined effort to help others. Volunteer for some community task or go out of your way to keep an eye on someone you know needs it. By helping others you are showing them the face of God and are giving proof of your faith.



A handwritten list of five New Year Resolutions enclosed in a hand-drawn rectangular border. The title 'New Year Resolutions' is written in a cursive script at the top. Below it, the five resolutions are listed in a simple, legible script, each preceded by a number. The handwriting is casual and appears to be done with a pen or marker.

New Year Resolutions

1. Spend more time with God, family & friends.
2. Enjoy life more.
3. Get rid of habits.
4. Learn something new.
5. Help others more.

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.

MASS TO CELEBRATE MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

At The Cathedral of Christ the King Sunday 9th February 2020, 11.00am -12. This Mass will give thanks to God for the gift of family and all are welcome to attend whether married, single, divorced, separated or bereaved. We look forward to welcoming you

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.

Fourth Synod Talk: FAITH IN THE FAMILY

Speakers: Dominika Kurek-Chomycz & John Sullivan LACE Conference Centre. Monday 13 January 2020, 7.30pm. Tea and Coffee from 7pm. Please note the change of venue.

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? There will be an opportunity for questions and answers with optional Night Prayer at 9pm.

www.synod2020.co.uk/lectures

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.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Fr Mark received the following message from Fr Issa Hijazeen and the Christian community in Beit Sahour near Bethlehem:



“Dear Fr Mark,
I write on behalf of my parishioners to say thank you to you all for the wonderful gift of Christmas Cards we received just before Christmas. It was a great surprise to us all as we have never had them before now.

As you know well my parish is large so there was not enough cards to be given to every family so we decided to display them in the church and they are all around the nativity scene and many have come just to read them and we feel close to you.

Please thank everyone and especially all the children who bothered to make us very beautiful cards which we love very much.

You know Beit Sahour very well and we loved meeting your parishioners when they visited some months ago.

As you know, every hour from midnight to midnight on Christmas night and day, priests take turns to celebrate Mass on the spot where the baby Jesus was born. I celebrated two Masses and one Mass was for your parish.



Thank you once again dear brother and we wish everyone a merry Christmas from the town of the Shepherds and a very peaceful New Year.”



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



Margaret Jackson

Funeral Service - Friday 10th January
11.00am

William Durney

Funeral Mass - Monday 20th January 10.15am

Mary Dargan

Funeral Mass - Monday 20th January 1.30pm

Augustine Collins

Funeral Mass - Friday 24th January 10.45am

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.



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

Promotion of World Peace

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world. Lord in your mercy....



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Parish Office:

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool : Registered Charity 232709

