



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 16th August 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The feast of the Assumption celebrates two Marian features: the departure of Mary from this life and the assumption of her body into heaven. At the end of her life on earth Mary was assumed, body and soul, into the glory of the angels and saints. She was taken up into heaven by God.



This feast has been celebrated in the Church since the early centuries but it was only last century that the Church sought to define it formally 'ex cathedra' (as a dogma). In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared that Mary *'after the completion of her earthly life...was assumed body and soul into the glory of Heaven'*. Her body was not allowed to become corrupt or to remain in a tomb.

In the early Christian centuries relics of saints and martyrs were jealously guarded and highly prized. Many cities claim the mortal remains of saints, both famous and little known. But, despite the temptation, there are no records of Mary's bodily remains being venerated anywhere on this earth. This too points to the ancient foundation of belief in her Assumption.

*'In the plan of your wisdom she who bore Christ in her womb was raised body and soul to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless life and praise.'*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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



## LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2021



It's time to order the Archdiocesan Directory for 2021. This is an annual publication which gives details of all the parishes, clergy, departments and activities taking place in the Liverpool Archdiocese. The ring bound directory is £4.00 and the standard directory is £3.50. Place your order at the Parish office by Monday 14th September.

## MASS TIMES

Please note the revised Mass times which will hopefully allow more people to attend Mass during the week:

**10.30 a.m.** Monday - Friday & Sunday.

(No Mass on Wednesday)

**4.30 p.m.** on Saturday.

All Masses at English Martyrs.

## A CAUTIOUS REOPENING OF CHURCH

*In order to reopen our church it's important that the many guidelines laid down by the Bishops and the Government are kept to ensure the safety of everyone who comes to church:*

1. The vulnerable should carefully consider the wisdom of returning to Mass too soon. They are not obliged to do so.
2. The Sunday obligation to attend Mass has not been re-instated.
3. Those who are able might be encouraged to come to Mass on a weekday rather than a Saturday evening or Sunday, to release the pressure on weekend Masses.
4. Each church is limited to how many people they can safely hold at any one gathering. Only one church in a parish may be used.
5. All people MUST wear a face mask. Hands must be sanitised as people arrive and leave church.
6. Social distancing guidelines are still in force.
7. Parish stewards must show people to the church benches, filling from the front and working backwards.
8. Church doors and windows should be left open.
9. Single use newsletters or other papers may be used but must be taken home.
10. Collections should be in a basket on the way in and the way out.
11. People MUST leave church immediately after they have received Holy Communion
12. Lingering clusters of conversation in the porch or outside the church must be avoided and outside the church gates.
13. Toilet facilities are not in use. Piety Shops are to remain closed.
14. The church is to be cleaned and sanitised after each Mass or Service.

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	ENGLISH MARTYRS
<b>Saturday 15th August</b> <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<b>4.30pm -</b> Bridget McDermott
<b>Sunday 16th August</b> <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<b>10.30am -</b> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 17th August</b>	<b>10.30am -</b> Jacqui & Anne Marie Morley
<b>Tuesday 18th August</b>	<b>10.30am -</b> D Leahy
<b>Wednesday 19th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 20th August</b>	<b>10.30am -</b> Theresa Hulligan
<b>Friday 21st August</b>	<b>10.30am -</b> John Vondy
<b>Saturday 22nd August</b> <i>Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	<b>4.30pm -</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 23rd August</b> <i>Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	<b>10.30am -</b> John F Madden

## WITH YOU ALWAYS 2021

Registration forms are now available for the celebration of First Holy Communion & Reconciliation in 2021. This is open to children who return to school after the summer holiday in Year 4 or upwards. Forms have been distributed in school and any child not in one of our schools can collect a form from the Parish Office. Forms need to be returned to the Parish office by the end of August.

Please keep the children and families in your prayers.



## THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST



### The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Lord, in your mercy...

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what concrete ways can I bear Christ to those in need: the hungry, the lowly, those in need

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

A casualty of the lockdown was that we were not allowed to celebrate First Holy Communion with the children and their families in April/May, but thankfully we now have the go-ahead for the children to receive Jesus for the first time in this special sacrament whilst keeping to the conditions and restrictions in church.

Sadly we can't celebrate in the way we usually do, but it's good that the children can at last receive Holy Communion and share the occasion with their closest family members. Thank you for your understanding.



This weekend we congratulate the following children as they receive Holy Communion for the first time:



**Saturday:** Abigail James

**Sunday:** Erin Turner; Sadie Morrison

Libby Mulholland; Amelia Welsh

Elsa Craney; Amelia McCole

## TRACK & TRACE

In order to support the NHS Test and Trace programme, we are taking contact details (name and telephone number) for all people coming to church.

In line with guidance issued by the Department for Health and Social Care, we will keep your details safely and in compliance with GDPR legislation for 21 days before securely disposing of or deleting them. We will only share your details with NHS Test and Trace, if asked, in the event that it is needed to help stop the spread of coronavirus. We will not use your details for any other purposes or pass them on to anyone else.

Thank you for your understanding.

Parish Administrator (Admin & Finance)  
required by St Catherine of Siena, All Saints  
and St Lewis Parishes (Based at All Saints Presbytery,  
High Street, Golborne, Warrington WA3 3BG)  
20 hours per week Salary £10,816.00 per annum (equivalent  
to £10.40 per hour) 5 weeks holiday and Pension scheme are  
available. Apply to [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/jobs](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/jobs) or  
0151 522 1102 Closing date 21 August 2020



"Lord, I don't want much.  
But just make sure it's  
really good quality."

## PIETY STALL

Our parish piety stall  
remains closed but you can  
still buy Mass Cards or  
Guild Cards from the  
sacristy or the presbytery.



## CATHOLIC PIC

The August edition is available to view  
on the parish website you can also  
access the Pic online at:  
[www.catholicpic.co.uk](http://www.catholicpic.co.uk) The main  
feature reports on churches slowly  
reopening after lockdown  
and the various  
challenges that has  
brought to parish  
communities.



**PARISH WEBSITE** Don't forget  
to keep checking the parish website  
for the latest news and updates:  
[www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk)

## FOREIGNERS?

When we first start to read the pages of the bible we get the impression that God is dealing simply with the Hebrew nation. The early accounts tell us about the history of the Jews and how they were God's promised people, living in a land given them when they were led from slavery. Not many other nations get much of a good press.

WE  
believe in  
ONE GOD

But the middle section of the Book of Isaiah, written much later by a distant pupil of the original prophet, (and sometimes called Deutero or Second Isaiah) starts to show a realisation that God has other plans. In the book of Isaiah we hear very plainly that foreigners will be able to offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord. This was revolutionary and revolting to some Jewish ears.

The idea that God does not limit his promises to just certain categories of people is known as Universalism and we see it in the Gospels on many occasions when Jesus speaks to people who many see as 'foreigners' or 'outsiders'. It's not where they come from that matters, nationality is irrelevant. Jesus praises many of these people for the quality of their faith.

Nowhere in scripture can we find any evidence of God turning his back on someone just because they didn't fit the bill. There is no support for a God who leaves people wanting when they call on him in good faith. In fact God exudes inclusiveness. God is a gatherer rather than a scatterer, an integrator rather than an excluder.

Usually on Sundays, when we're not in the middle of a pandemic, we profess our faith during the Creed in a Church that is '*one, holy, catholic and apostolic*'. We may be a migrant community; we may be a settled suburban group worshipping in a parish that has been established for years and years; we may be multi-racial; we may be all one colour or a rainbow of faces.

But what unites us is that we are baptised members of a 'catholic' Church. And catholic means nothing more than universal. The opposite of catholic is not Protestant. The opposite of catholic is exclusive. So if we're ever tempted to feel that our congregations are becoming too varied, or to hive ourselves off into some sort of sub-group then we have lost a grip on our catholicity.



*'I want 'foreigners' to come and place their gift on the altar', says God through the prophet Isaiah. And, of course, we are somebody else's foreigner!*

