



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 23rd August 2020



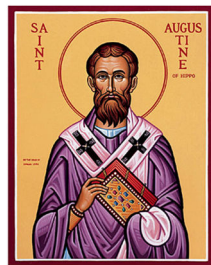
Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## LOVING AND LOSING - ST AUGUSTINE (August 28th)

Despite having a real saint for a mother (St Monica) Augustine was far from a perfect son. Born in the mid fourth century in Tagaste, present-day Algeria, Augustine embarked on a life of wine women and song, fathering at least one child that we know of. In Milan he came under the influence of St Ambrose who was the city's bishop and as a result of listening to him he eventually was baptised. Subsequently he was ordained and became Bishop of Hippo, in his native Algeria. His struggle with his lifestyle and his gratitude when finally he turned over his life to Christ are summed up beautifully in one of his prayers:

*Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.*



### 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 22nd August</b><br><i>Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>  | <b>4.30pm -</b><br>People of the Parish             |
| <b>Sunday 23rd August</b><br><i>Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>    | <b>10.30am -</b><br>John F Madden                   |
| <b>Monday 24th August</b><br><i>St Bartholomew</i>                          | <b>11.00am -</b><br>Funeral Mass - Theresa Hulligan |
| <b>Tuesday 25th August</b>  | <b>10.30am -</b><br>P Leahy                         |
| <b>Wednesday 26th August</b>  | <b>NO MASS</b>                                      |
| <b>Thursday 27th August</b><br><i>St Monica</i>                             | <b>10.30am -</b><br>Thomas Watson                   |
| <b>Friday 28th August</b><br><i>St Augustine</i>                            | <b>10.30am -</b><br>Tony Blackhurst                 |
| <b>Saturday 29th August</b><br><i>Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> | <b>4.30pm -</b><br>Mary Coughlin                    |
| <b>Sunday 30th August</b><br><i>Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>   | <b>10.30am -</b><br>People of the Parish            |



*Congratulations to our children who made their First Holy Communion last week*

## 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:** William Alty, Lacy Catton, Dylan Williams, Tyler Armitage

**Sunday:** Nyla Bradshaw, Joshua Cooke, Ellis Cooke

## **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.

## **FUNERAL MASS**

On Monday we celebrate the Funeral Mass for Theresa Hulligan, a good, faithful and dedicated parishioner. We pray that she is now standing in front of God's throne and being rewarded for the good she did in life. May she rest in peace.



Government COVID-19 rules state that no more than 30 people are allowed at a funeral so there will be no public Mass on Monday as Theresa's Funeral Mass cannot be open for parishioners but only the 30 people invited to attend by the family. Mass has already been offered for Theresa and there will be many more over the coming months.

## **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.



## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

How do I answer the question Jesus asks his disciples: 'Who do you say I am?'

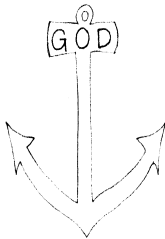
## WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Some of the people who followed Jesus were only there for what they could get out of it. They were happy to think that he might overthrow the Romans because this would give them a chance of an easier life. They were happy to be fed along with the other 5,000 but when he started talking about being food and drink himself they ditched him. How could anyone accept such intolerable language, they said. He was demanding too much. There are people even today who treat religion as an effective form of networking, as a club or a society which it's good to be seen at.



Others seemed to want to be involved but only on their own terms. They asked what they ought to do if they were to be pleasing to God. But in fact all they really wanted was a list of rules to follow. It's easier to have a set of laws than to have a relationship with God, because then all you have to do is keep the laws. You don't have to go the extra mile or show that your love is real. You just have to keep your nose clean. Our century is not short of people for whom obeying the commandments is more important than really knowing God or sharing in Christ's suffering.

There are always people who are just there for the fun of it. They asked him for a sign, for a miracle, for some form of entertainment. Moses gave our ancestors manna; what trick are you going to do for us? And when yesterday's miracle was over and done with they moved off in search of something else to interest them. Sometimes today too we see fickle Christians who are never happy unless they're on a religious high. So they wander from church to church in search of the latest theories, better music, a more original style of preaching, a nicer building or a more charismatic leader. Their lack of staying power betrays a lack of commitment to Jesus.



It's possible to call yourself a Christian but not to have a relationship with Christ. It's possible to come to church but for the wrong reasons.

If you are to work for God, said Jesus, then you must believe in the one he has sent. After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. So why are you here?

## 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...



## PIETY STALL

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

