



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 30th August 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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GREGORY THE GREAT (September 3rd)

Religion was something of a family business for Gregory. His great-great-grandfather was Pope Felix III, his father worked for the Church in Rome, three of his aunts were nuns and his mother was a saint! (St Silvia).



He became Pope Gregory I in 590 and was renowned as a holy man who was an impressive reformer and administrator as well as having a missionary vision that was responsible for the growth of the Church in many lands and a keen interest in liturgical practice. Many of his sermons and writings survive to this day. After his death in 604 he became known as Gregory 'the Great', the only other receiving such a title being Pope Leo the Great. Perhaps he is most famous in Britain for sending Augustine to England to 'convert' the tribes who lived there at the time. Augustine, of course, became Archbishop of Canterbury.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Looking at the way I lead my life, what aspect do I need to deny myself and in what way can I take up my cross and follow him

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
Saturday 29th August <i>Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	4.30pm - Mary Coughlin
Sunday 30th August <i>Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am - People of the Parish
Monday 31st August	10.30am - Bob Stam
Tuesday 1st September	10.30am - Amelia Wales
Wednesday 2nd September	NO MASS
Thursday 3rd September <i>St Gregory</i>	10.30am - Debbie Rice
Friday 4th September	10.30am - Fr Bob Starkey
Saturday 5th September <i>Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	4.30pm - Michael McDermott
Sunday 6th September <i>Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am - Margaret Young



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



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

Saturday: Oliver Gillon, Lottie Brockett,
Ava Middleman, Joseph Morley, Jobe Mushrow
Phoebe Mushrow

Sunday: Faith Balshaw, Jessica Hutchinson, Louie Pruden,
Joshua Lawes, Thomas Lawes-Robinson

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.



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.

Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live." See CAFOD website for a lovely Novena to St Francis



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.



WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome back to our school communities who return this week after their Summer break. For some children this will be their first time back in school since March. We pray for a good, safe and healthy term.



BETTER THAN LIFE ITSELF?

Psalm 62, one of my favourites psalms, used in our liturgy today, is a prayer of a person who desperately longs to know God and to feel God's presence in their lives. In fact, without God they feel like dry, weary, waterless soil. And although they don't always feel God close to them they sit and gaze at the sanctuary to sense God's strength and glory.



We have so many distractions in our lives. Many of them are necessary: we have to work in order to be able to live; our lives with each other inevitably throw up problems and difficulties; and in all the process of getting and having we can end up missing the real point of why we're here on earth.

But it doesn't matter how much we are considered successful by others, in our heart of hearts we know that we will always feel empty if we have not found a place for God in our lives.

Jeremiah says as much in our first reading. God is so important to him that he experiences a fire in his belly that he must tell people about even though he suffers ridicule. And Jesus goes even further in the gospel today. What's the point of possessing the whole world, money, riches, status, power, if it means that you never enjoy the real purpose of life? He reminds us that the only way to enjoy life to the full is to renounce self, to put aside selfish interest, in order to follow him. In other words, if we let anything get between us and God then we become cut off from what can really satisfy our needs.

One of the lines of psalm 62 is quite extraordinary. It simply says, '*Your love is better than life*'. Better than life? The psalmist is saying that if our life is not centred on what is really important then it's not worth having. If we have found God then we realise that our lives are very short indeed yet the only thing that ultimately matters is that we possess God for eternity.



The temptation is to live only half a life, to conform to what our world tells us living is really about. Yet with all its superficial glitter and gloss we know that this sort of shimmering existence can never meet our real needs and aspirations. And those who have found God's love have no need of this tinsel. For, as the psalmist says, '*Your love is better than life*.' Makes you think, doesn't it?

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

Respect for the Planet's Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner **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.

