



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 27th September 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What good act can I do this week that I have previously expressed reluctance to do?

CONGRATULATIONS

**Sean Morley &
Joanne Field**

Who were married
on Saturday 26
September



ARCHDIOCESAN RESOURCES

The Archdiocese has collated resources for Family prayer - visit-

www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/family-life for full details. You can also find details of where you can attend a live streamed Mass

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

In the light of the recent message from the Archdiocese about permission to resume taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound they are now running three online sessions to provide the basic formation for Extraordinary Ministers. These will be run on Zoom twice in November:



**as evening sessions, 7.30-8.30pm, on
Wednesdays 4th, 11th and 18th November;**

**and as afternoon sessions, 1.30-2.30pm, on
Tuesdays 10th, 17th and 24th November.**

It would be lovely to have some more Ministers to visit parishioners who are still anxious about attending Church but would welcome Communion at home. If you are interested please speak to the Parish Office



Since the global COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the UK in March 2020, there has been a 49% increase in calls and online requests for help relating to domestic abuse. The National Board of Catholic Women has released a new version of its guide to pastoral care and recognising abuse. It is available online at www.nbcw.co.uk.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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



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 26th September <i>Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	4.30pm - John & Magdalen Rimmer
Sunday 27th September <i>Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am - People of the Parish
Monday 28th September	10.30am - Tom Smartt
Tuesday 29th September <i>Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael</i>	10.30am - 70th Wedding Remembrance
Wednesday 30th September <i>St Jerome</i>	NO MASS
Thursday 1st October <i>St Teresa of the Child Jesus</i>	10.30am - Stephen McQuade
Friday 2nd October <i>Guardian Angels</i>	10.30am - Maureen Brand
Saturday 3rd October <i>Twenty Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	4.30pm - Kathleen Kidd
Sunday 4th October <i>Twenty Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am - People of the Parish

FIXED PENALTY GOD?

All's fair in love and war, they say. But all's not fair when it comes to Christianity. This is because our human concept of fairness does not even come close to understanding God's creative mixture of justice, mercy and grace.

We human beings seem to have an inbuilt sense of justice that is like the old-fashioned shop scales with two buckets. You put the food in one bucket and then balance it with some weights in the other bucket and this tells you the weight that is at stake and the price that must be paid. In fact we regularly depict Justice as a character holding a pair of scales. Whatever goes into one side has to be weighed up and balanced with a penalty of similar cost. In the early period of the Jewish Kingdoms this even led to a culprit's family being punished for his or her crime although the relatives themselves had done nothing wrong. The scales had to balance.



Throughout history God has failed to take any notice of this type of justice. In today's passage from Ezekiel the people are complaining that God is unjust because he allows wrongdoers to live rather than die. Ezekiel points out (speaking on behalf of God) that the weight of punishment should only be exacted against those who stubbornly refuse to admit their sin and to repent. And a similar scene greets us when Jesus discusses with the priests about someone who comes to their senses after behaving badly. They are not to be condemned.

This human view of justice and fairness is too crude for God to commit to it, for it leaves no room for manoeuvre, takes no account of the true circumstances of the person involved, and completely abandons any reference to Christ's redeeming sacrifice for sin and the effects of grace. Faced with our faults, God, who has every reason to be indignant, chooses to be forgiving and calls us to be the same with those who offend against us. Yet we obstinately cling to our appeals for 'justice' when in fact we often are only interested in revenge. We plead fairness when what we really want is graceless reprisal. God hates sin and wrongdoing as much as do our tabloids and politicians yet he always views things from a wider perspective of grace and forgiveness. And God's passion for pardon is so strong that while we clamour for the scales to balance, God clamours for a balanced judgement.

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.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church. **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.



HARVEST & SUKKOT

Sunday is the annual Day of Prayer for Thanksgiving for the Harvest. This weekend the eight-day Jewish festival of Sukkot begins. Sukkot are rickety shacks set up in the fields. Harvesters live in them while bringing in the sheaves. Elaborately ornamented sukkot built in backyards became symbols of one of the richest and most wonderful of the Jewish festivals.



God our Father, you have placed all the powers of nature under the control of humanity and its work. May we bring the spirit of Christ to all our efforts and work with our brothers and sisters at our common task, establishing true love and guiding your creation to perfect fulfilment. Amen.

NHS COVID-19 APP

Have you got the new NHS COVID-19 app on your phone? This app uses contact tracing technology to help protect yourself and others so we can all try and get back to the things we love. The app notices and logs other nearby app users. If any of those users later test positive for coronavirus, you'll receive an alert with advice.

You can also use the app to check-in each time you come to church rather than giving your contact details. Each time you come to church:

Open the NHS COVID-19 app

Click on 'venue check-in'

Hold your phone to the QR code displayed near the front door and you will receive a message to say that you have a 'successful check-in at Our Lady & The English Martyrs'.



You will then be contacted if you have been close to someone who has a positive test result.

ST JEROME! (September 30th)

'What name do you give your child?' asked the priest at the baptism. "*Eusebius Hieronymos Sophronius*" replied the parents. It's not surprising that his friends shortened it to Jerome, or maybe even Jerry!



St Jerome was born in the northern Adriatic around the year 342. After studying in Rome he dedicated himself to the service of the gospel. His own language was Illyrian, but he quickly learnt Greek and Latin and began working on the scriptures. In his day there were two versions of the bible, one in Hebrew and the other in Greek that was called the Septuagint. Jerome translated this Greek version into Latin. Latin was the common (or 'vulgar') language of the day and so his new Latin version of the bible became known as the Vulgate and it is still the 'official' Latin translation of the scriptures. Of course, those who don't like Jerome are quick to point out that he translated the bible without knowing any Hebrew!



Restored Lives

Recovery from Divorce and Separation



“This course is the single most helpful thing I’ve done.”

Archdiocese of Liverpool Marriage and Family Life Department



**Due to COVID-19 the next six week course
will be held on Zoom**

**Starting Monday 12th October 2020 to
Monday 16th November 2020**



Meetings are in small groups and are free, confidential, informative and affirming.

**The course is for any person who is going through,
or who has gone through, a relationship breakdown.**

**Topics will cover: Facing the effects of what's happened; Communication and Conflict Resolution;
Letting Go; Managing other relationships; Legal matters; and Being single and moving forward.**

For details of times and to book a place on the course.

Please email: Maureen m.obrien@rcaol.org.uk