



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 4th October 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What one specific thing can I do with my time and talents this week to show God's love in the world this week?

**WE WELCOME
WITH GREAT JOY**



**Theo James
Wright**

Baptised Saturday 3rd
October 2020

MASS SHEETS & NEWSLETTERS

You will notice that we now have new Mass Sheets available for you to use. Government COVID-19 Guidelines state *"single use sheets can be provided as long as they are removed and disposed of by the worshipper."* They cannot be left in church and you must take them home and put them in the bin. You cannot take Newsletters or Mass Sheets to anyone else like friends, neighbours etc.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

The feast of St Francis of Assisi this year falls today, Sunday 4th October. It is both the feast day of Pope Francis and its also a customary day to bless animals. Pope John Paul II named St Francis patron of those who work for the earth's environment.



Did you know that there is a Catholic charity devoted to animal welfare? Catholic Concern for Animals tries to advance Christian respect and responsibility for animals with reference to Catholic teaching and beliefs and Archbishop Malcolm is President of the charity. www.catholic-animals.com

Do you have a pet? Say this prayer of blessing over them:

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

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 and contact details provided.
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.

WEEKDAY MASS

There will be **NO Mass** on Thursday as Fr Mark has meetings all day.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	ENGLISH MARTYRS
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
Monday 5th October	10.30am - Joseph Lee Young
Tuesday 6th October	10.30am - John Fairclough
Wednesday 7th October <i>Our Lady of The Rosary</i>	NO MASS
Thursday 8th October	NO MASS
Friday 9th October	10.30am - Michael Long
Saturday 10th October <i>Twenty Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	4.30pm - Sarah McCormack
Sunday 11th October <i>Twenty Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am - People of the Parish

LOSING THE PLOT?

As Christians we walk a delicate tightrope. On the one hand we can fall into the trap of thinking that everything depends on us, that by our own efforts we can achieve salvation. On the other hand we can become so intent on the fact that only God's grace can bring salvation that we end up sitting back and letting God get on with it without lending a hand.

People who think everything depends on them tend to be great activists. They are the people of petitions, badges, protests and placards. In religious terms they are usually convinced that they have to do more and more before they are worthy to approach God. In the past they were the people who said lots of rosaries, recited numerous litanies and were always found at the nearest religious gathering. They were also first to volunteer for the soup kitchen, the Justice Group and the parish amenities committee.

There's nothing wrong with any of this, of course, but the supposition was that their own effort could build up some form of good-standing with God. The more prayers you said and the more you were seen to be active in good works the better person you were.



At the other end of the scale are those people who may well pray a lot but are slow to take up any sort of active Christian role within their community. Maybe they too are seen at church on Sundays and at diocesan gatherings of prayer. But their main concern is making themselves holy by putting practical issues in second place so that they can contemplate God who will save them.

Isaiah and Matthew both recount a similar story today about a vineyard. In Isaiah the owner (God) of the vineyard (his people Israel) plants fine vines and does everything possible to grow good grapes but the plot only produces sour grapes. So the owner threatens to turn it into scrubland. In Matthew we hear Jesus saying that the tenants who aren't producing fruit from the land will be evicted from it.

Nothing you can ever do will get you into heaven. Only Christ can get you there. But if you just sit back and pray while watching others doing the work then you've already lost the plot. And the grapes.

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

Justice & Peace Commission - Prepare the Future: Taking the Common Good Seriously. You are invited to join Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD who will be giving a talk on Zoom on Saturday 10 October, 2020 at 10:00am – 12 noon including small group discussions to identify local actions. Registration to receive the link is on the Liverpool J&P website jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

FRANCIS OF ASSISI (October 4th)

Most of us know Francis' prayer about being a channel of peace (although it is not certain whether he actually wrote that prayer or whether it might be quite a recent one attributed to him). Others will be aware of his Canticle of Creation where he praises God for the sun, moon etc. But there is a little-known prayer that he wrote in praise of the Mother of Jesus. Its language is a bit old-fashioned in places but its sentiments are absolutely right for our age:



Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen, Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin. You were chosen by the most high Father in heaven, and consecrated by him and by his most holy beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. On you descended and still remains all the fullness of grace and every good. Hail, his Palace. Hail, his Tabernacle. Hail, his Robe. Hail, his Handmaid. Hail, his Mother and hail, all holy Virtues which, by grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that from their faithless state, they may be made faithful servants of God through you. Amen.

CAFOD HARVEST COLLECTION

Please be generous with the collection this weekend for the annual CAFOD Harvest Fast Collection. This is a Harvest like no other as many families face chronic food shortages, malnutrition and poverty as the result of coronavirus. With your support, we can help people all over the world rebuild their lives. This organisation deserves our wholehearted support. Its richly informative website can be dipped into for information. CAFOD is not just about overseas aid. The Live Simply campaign is something we should all lend our support to, as the future of the human depends on how well we learn to be stewards of creation. Fr Mark had agreed for our Parish to work towards the prestigious Live Simply award and this special year for us was due to start this weekend. We'll look at it again in 2021.



CATHOLIC PIC

The October edition is now available at the back of church, free of charge. The main features this month include the new school building for St. Cuthbert's Primary in Kensington, Synod 2020 and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

We resume First Communion Masses which will be celebrated over the next three weekends. Some Masses will be celebrated with the children and their immediate families on Saturday mornings with one or two taking place at Mass on Sundays. Please keep them in your prayers



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.



The Archbishop has asked that all churches make use of the app and the QR code which you will find at the front door. He highlights six benefits to the app which will help users:

Trace: For contact tracing, the app detects and logs other nearby app users using random unique IDs. If any of those users later test positive for coronavirus, you will receive an exposure alert with advice on what to do.

Alert: When you first register for the app you will be asked for the first half of your postcode. You can check the app every day to see whether where you live has become a high-risk area for coronavirus. If it is, you will also receive a notification to let you know. This will help you make daily decisions to protect yourself and others.

Check-in: The app allows you to record when you visit a venue by "checking-in" when you arrive, using the venue's QR code. The app records the time you spend at the venue without recording any personal information. You will receive an alert, if you have recently visited a venue where you have come into contact with coronavirus.

Symptoms: If you feel unwell, you can use the app to check if your symptoms could be related to coronavirus. The app will give you a list of potential symptoms and you can then choose the ones that apply to you. It will then tell you if your symptoms suggest you have coronavirus.

- **Test:** If you have coronavirus symptoms, the app will take you to a website where you can book a test to see if you have coronavirus or not.

- **Isolate:** If you have been advised by the app to self-isolate, the app provides a countdown timer so that you can keep track of how long you need to self-isolate. When you reach the end of your self-isolation period, the app will send you a notification reminder with a link to the latest advice for you. If a person using the app tests positive for Covid-19 at some stage, they are given instructions about how to share the information through the system, so that those who have been in contact with them can be notified via the app.



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