



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday 13th December 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When and where do I recognise the presence of the Lord in the world?

TIER 2 GUIDELINES

From Wednesday 2nd December we fall into Tier 2 of restrictions and this will have an effect on what we do in church:

30 people maximum at a Funeral Mass/Service.

Only 15 people allowed to attend Wedding Mass/Service.

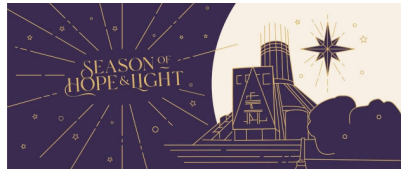
Only 1 household allowed to attend Baptisms. (Godparents will have to be by proxy).

No congregational singing allowed even at Christmas.

All other rules and regulations regarding the wearing of face masks, hand sanitising and how Mass is celebrated remain unchanged.

ADVENT AT THE MET A number of online events are taking place from the Metropolitan Cathedral this Advent including some seasonal music on Sunday evenings. For more information visit

www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk



REST IN PEACE

We celebrate the Funeral for the late Ann Buck on Thursday 17th December. Parishioners will be aware

*Requiescat
in pace.*



of the huge contribution that Ann made to Parish life in English Martyrs. May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

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, Gaetano Scappaticci, Peter Maloney, Olive & Eric Forest,

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The passage from Isaiah we hear today was written during a time of great hope. The Jewish people had been released from exile and could finally return to Jerusalem. Isaiah invokes 'a year of favour,' a jubilee year in which all property reverted to its original owner (Isaiah 61:2). In the truest sense, the original owner of all worldly goods is God, who then distributes them generously and equitably. The Messiah is the fulfilment of this promised year of favour, bringing glad tidings, liberty, justice, and praise. Moreover, because he is with us always, every year is a year of favour. What in Isaiah's day was an emancipation from exile and a hope in a return to the holy city has with Jesus become emancipation from sin and hope in life everlasting.



'Who are you?' John the Baptist is asked repeatedly, to which at first he only responds with who he is not. He is not the Messiah who has been promised, Elijah whose eventual return many anticipated, nor a prophet like Moses raised up from among their kin. No, he is the messenger, the one to prepare the way of the Lord. Just as Isaiah prepared the road to the holy city, John prepares the road into our hearts.



John the Baptist tells the religious leaders that 'there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me (John 1:26). Throughout all of Jesus' public ministry, many of these same leaders failed to recognise him. It is our challenge now to recognise him. Do we recognise him in the least of our brothers and sisters? Do we recognise him in our community, when two or three are gathered in his name? Do we recognise him in the Eucharist, his body and blood poured out for us? Do we recognise him in times of difficulty and uncertainty?.

WELCOME

We welcome this weekend George Kreitem, a Christian from Beit Jala near Bethlehem but is studying in a film school in London. This is his first visit to Liverpool and we warmly welcome him to our parish.



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 12th December	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Special Intention L&P Baptism - Max & Theo James
Monday 14th December	Paul Turner
Tuesday 15th December	Brian Moorcroft
Wednesday 16th December	NO MASS
Thursday 17th December	Joe Lovelady & Septimus Murphy 1pm - Funeral Mass - Ann Buck
Friday 18th December	Maroun Mourani
Saturday 19th December	Peter White
Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	People of the Parish Baptism - Joshua Lawler

CHRISTMAS TICKETS

Tickets for Christmas Eve & Christmas morning are going well so don't delay in getting yours from the church door or the Parish Office. Please remember that you need to bring it with you so please keep it safe. You must be in church 5 minutes before the Mass begins otherwise your seat may be given to anyone who arrives without a ticket.

SOUTH SEFTON FOOD BANK



We are fast approaching a time in the year when families need our help more than any other time. The food bank provides a great service for those families who are struggling. If you can help please leave any donations at the back of either church and we will ensure that they are given to those who need help.

ADVENT IN THE LIGHT OF

FRATELLI TUTTI The Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission is hosting a series of online talks given by His Eminence Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald to help us reflect on the Season of Advent and the Pope's latest encyclical letter. Monday 7th, 14th & 21st December starting at 7.00 p.m. To register: www.jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk Cardinal Fitzgerald lives here in Liverpool.

FIRST COMMUNION 2021

Registration forms are available for children in year 4 and above. Due to Covid 19 and the restrictions and guidelines in place, we cannot start preparation for 2021 and we will do so once we are told we can begin the Programme. Anyone who needs a form can collect one from the Parish Office and we will contact them once Fr Mark receives further details from the Archdiocese.



CAFOD FUN RUN 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic may have stopped many things this year, but it won't stop our annual CAFOD Fun Run! This year's CAFOD Fun Run will go ahead on Sunday 27th December 2020, but with a twist...! After the success of the Great North Run, the London Marathon, and CAFOD in Lancaster's Summer of Hope 5k, this year's CAFOD Fun Run will be a virtual event! For more details please contact www.liverpool@cafod.org.uk



CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP We can't sing Christmas Carols in church this year but we can sing them on our doorstep!



Sunday, 20 December at 5.30pm join a national carol sing on your doorstep with your neighbours, it's so easy to join in. Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from www.premierchristianradio.com or www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org Pop them through your neighbours' doors inviting them to join you.

5.30pm on 20 December tune your radio to Premier Radio or Freeview 725 or download the Premier Radio app on your phone, then sign along to the carols played

Why not wear your festive jumpers too and even bring out something to shake or rattle?

SYNOD2020



You can find the four Synod2020 leaflets on the parish website or the Synod2020 website which gives further information:

www.synod2020.co.uk

These leaflets highlight the many proposals submitted for consideration and if you like any of them please let us know **THIS WEEKEND**. You will find the Synod box in the church porch. Please continue to pray for the success of the Synod which takes place in June 2021.

CATHOLIC PIC

The December issue is available from church or online: www.catholicpic.co.uk

POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For a life of prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer



Lord in your mercy...

CHRISTMAS 2020

The way in which we will celebrate Christmas this year will be very different and the Archbishop has asked all parishes to follow the same set of guidelines.

Masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day will be ticket-only and this is to ensure that we keep to the maximum number of 80 people allowed in church.

Two types of ticket will be available: a single ticket which admits one person or a family ticket which admits upto four people living in the same household.

Tickets cannot be reserved to be collected at a later date but they must be collected as you request them.

Times of Christmas Masses are:

Christmas Eve:	5.00 p.m.	The Vigil of Christmas
	9.00 p.m.	The First Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day:	10.30 a.m.	

Fr Mark will arrange another Christmas morning Mass if all tickets are distributed and there is need for more Masses. All Masses at English Martyrs.

You must be seated in church **5 minutes before the start of Mass** as your place may be given to anyone who arrives without a ticket.

This arrangement for ticket only Masses applies to all parishes within the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop has also decided that there will be **NO** Saturday evening Masses on 26th December within the Archdiocese to allow the priests and parish stewards some rest time. There will be midday Mass on 26th December.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays is still not reinstated. The week between Christmas Day - New Years Day is the Christmas octave which means that you can come to Mass anytime that week which fulfils your Christmas Mass.

Tickets can be obtained from the church door before or after Mass or the Parish Office.



NUGENT CARE

The Epsom Street Community Centre Service in Kirkdale, would gratefully receive any festive food hampers and items of mince pies, chocolates, Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes, crisps, biscuits, selection boxes etc so they can arrange Christmas hampers to be distributed. Donations need to be delivered direct to the centre, either on a Monday (during office hours) or a Tuesday afternoon, which can be arranged with Nugent. The deadline **Monday 14 December**.

Buying Nugent cards will help support local families in crisis, as part of their wider appeal during the festive period. Once again, Nugent have produced some beautiful designs for Christmas cards and they are offering a 10% discount on orders over 50, they can also arrange collection/delivery rather than sending by post. Designs and full information regarding the cards here www.wearenugent.org/fundraising/christmas-cards-2020/ They also have some older designs available at a lower price of £2 per pack.



IN THE PINK

The purple candles on the Advent Wreath are joined today by a pink one, since the Third Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete' Sunday.



In some places the purple vestments are also replaced by rose-coloured ones to heighten this sense of joyfulness. So why is there such emphasis on rejoicing today? We pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ and we sing 'Gaudete', the first word of the old Latin opening song for today's celebration which means 'rejoice':

Rejoice in the Lord always; once more I tell you, rejoice! Let your tolerance be evident to all people, for the Lord is near.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB” RESULTS

SEPTEMBER

1st £20 No. 59 K Lovelady
2nd £15 No. 207 J McCambridge
3rd £10 No. 166 M Dickinson
4th £10 No. 31 I Oakes

OCTOBER

1st £20 No. 190 K Jones
2nd £10 No. 85 P Johnson
3rd £10 No. 70 C Maloney
4th £10 No. 38 S Hall

NOVEMBER

1st £20 No. 165 S McQuade
2nd £15 No. 108 J Sinnott
3rd £10 No. 187 B Morrin
4th £10 No. 169 L McMahan

DECEMBER

1st £20 No. 178 M Maloney
2nd £10 No. 162 P Stanley
3rd £10 No. 219 B Warner
4th £10 No. 34 M O'Hare

Many thanks for your continuous support from which we have donated £1400 this year to the Hospice. Well done and 'Thank you' to all who contribute. There are still spare numbers available as we have lost a few members this year. Anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136 or see Bernie in the Parish office.



THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2021 to be a special year dedicated to St Joseph, starting 8th December 2020 - 8th December 2021.



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.

Pope Francis urges us all to make praying to St Joseph part of our regular prayer life especially in times of difficulties and trials.

A MESSAGE FROM MARRIAGE CARE –

At Marriage Care we believe that men and women from all walks of life catch a glimpse of something beautiful, hopeful and divine, in the possibilities of marriage and family life. It is a place where the Lord can strengthen the couple's lives.



Our marriage preparation and support service enable couples to nurture faithful and fruitful marriages that last, as we draw on Catholic teaching and contemporary research to help couples focus on the quality of their relationship with each other.

Through our relationship counselling service (now available via webcam), we accompany, with compassion and practical wisdom, couples who find themselves in need of support on their journey. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we know that increases in family stress and the impending threat of relationship breakdown will plunge many more into financial difficulties. We are unique in asking couples who come to us for counselling only to pay what they can afford, reflecting our commitment to support those most in need. For more information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk

MUSIC AT FUNERALS

The Archbishop has informed the priests that following a request for clarification on the issue of secular/non-religious music at funerals, it has been agreed by him and Archbishop's Council that there should be a policy in the archdiocese of no secular music in either a Funeral Mass or Service in church. This follows the Church's general principle of only sacred music within the liturgy.



THE YEAR OF MARK

2021 is the year when St Mark will be our guide when we listen to his Gospel at Sunday Mass. More information and resources about the Year

of Mark can be found at www.godwhospeaks.uk

On the website two items which are of particular interest are the day-by-day reading plan for St Mark's Gospel and also a resource for the lighting of candles on a home advent wreath.

SYNOD 2020 DIOCESAN PRAYER



Father, we thank you

for the love you have shown us in the gift of Jesus, your Son.

We thank you for the gift of the Church, through which you show us that you are always with us

and are always at work in our lives.

As we journey together to Synod 2020 help us to become the Church that you are calling us to be.

May your Holy Spirit be powerfully at work among us.

Strengthen each of us and guide Francis, our Pope and Malcolm, our Archbishop.

Help us to respond to the challenges of our times in new ways to bring your love to all our sisters and brothers.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM MARY'S MEALS

So much can be asked of us at this time of year. It may be hard to always say yes. Mary said yes to being the Mother of Jesus and as a young, unmarried girl this must have been a terrifying moment for her. Yet her 'yes' brought Jesus into the world and changed lives forever. Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters, Mary's Meals has continued to say yes to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education.



Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide 43,000 hungry children in Bong County, Liberia, with a life-changing meal at school. From 2 November until 31 January 2021, donations made to our 'Double The Love Campaign' will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please consider setting a place at our **Big Family Christmas dinner table** or buying a Christmas gift card on our website.

More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove.

CAROL SERVICE

BY ZOOM

MONDAY

21ST DECEMBER

**FROM
7.00 PM**

THE LINK WILL OPEN AT 6.30 PM



No charge but any donation gratefully received.

To book your place

email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk