



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 20th December 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I bear witness to my faith? How can the world see that the Lord is with me?

PARISH CHRISTMAS CRIB

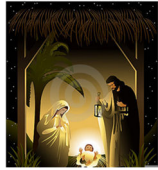
Our church crib is taking shape and will be finished by Christmas Eve.

Sadly this year we cannot use the stable and so it will look a little different. Crib donations this year will be sent to Nugent Care.

Thank you to all those who have decorated the church so beautifully for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TICKETS

Tickets for Christmas Eve & Christmas morning are still available from the church door or parish office.



PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will close from Tuesday and re-open on Monday 4th January. A huge thank you to Bernie and Nigel the Housekeeper for their work and dedication this year. This will be the last Parish Newsletter for a few weeks. Mass Intentions will be posted in church and on the parish website.

THANK YOU

Once again, Fr Mark wishes to thank our team of Parish Stewards for their important work over the last 5 months. Without you we cannot open our church for Mass and your dedication is greatly appreciated. It looks like we need our Stewards a bit longer to ensure our church is kept safe. New members are always welcome to join.



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,



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The promises God made are fulfilled in Christ Jesus. God promised David, *'I will preserve the offspring of your body after you . . . I will be a father to him and he a son to me'* (2 Sam 7:12–14). That promise is fulfilled when the Blessed Virgin Mary, betrothed to Joseph of the house of David, accepts her role as the woman who will bear the Son of God. In turn, Jesus fulfils the promise that St.vPaul calls *'the mystery kept secret for endless ages'* (Rom 16:25), the salvation of the whole world. Jesus is the full revelation of God's promise of redemption. Jesus, through his birth, shows the world God's love for his people.

Quite reasonably, Mary questioned the angel Gabriel *'How can this come about?'* Luke 1:34 when he first told her the incredible news. But once she learned of her cousin's unlikely pregnancy, she agreed to bear the Son of God. The angel had assured her - and demonstrated to her - that *'nothing is impossible for God'* Luke 1:37. Let these words reassure us when we face those times in our lives when despair and hopelessness seem unavoidable. For the God whose Son was born into this world, who raised him up from the dead, who offers salvation to the whole of humanity, **truly nothing is impossible for God.**

Twice in today's readings we hear the words *'The Lord is with you.'* Nathan says it to David, then Gabriel says it to Mary. Quite clearly, the Lord was with both of them. Likewise with us, when these same words are addressed to us frequently during Mass, *'The Lord be with you.'* The presence of the Lord is within and among us all as we worship God together. The presence of the Lord is with us as He was with Nathan, David & Mary. When we accept the word of God and commit ourselves to living it out, the Lord is with us. The Lord is with us when we find ourselves in a tricky situation. The Lord is with us throughout our lives but do we recognise Him? Do we feel ourselves part of this divine promise that our God is a God of love who will always be with us until the end of days?

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 19th December	Peter White
Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	People of the Parish Baptism - Joshua Lawler
Monday 21st December	Stephen McQuade
Tuesday 22nd December	Bob Stam
Wednesday 23rd December	NO MASS
Thursday 24th December	5.00pm - Private intention 9.00pm - People of the Parish
Friday 25th December <i>The Nativity of The Lord</i>	People of the Parish
Saturday 26th December <i>Feast of St Stephen</i>	Joseph & Kathleen Willis
Sunday 27th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	People of the Parish



Masses & Services for week commencing 26 December

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 26th December <i>Feast of St Stephen</i>	Joseph & Kathleen Willis
Sunday 27th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 28th December <i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i>	Christine McCormack
Tuesday 29th December <i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	John Vondy
Wednesday 30th December	NO MASS 1.30pm Funeral service - John Ashcroft
Thursday 31st December	James Corcoran
Friday 1st January <i>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</i>	For Peace
Saturday 2nd January	Catherine & John Trevaskiss
Sunday 3rd January <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i>	People of the Parish



Masses & Services for week commencing 2 January 2021

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 2nd January	Catherine & John Trevaskiss
Sunday 3rd January <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 4th January	Mary Coughlin
Tuesday 5th January	10.00am - John Dunn 6.00pm - Theresa Hulligan
Wednesday 6th January <i>Solemnity of The Epiphany of The Lord</i>	12 noon - People of the Parish
Thursday 7th January	Mark Graham
Friday 8th January	Siobhan Clinton
Saturday 9th January	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th January <i>Baptism of The Lord</i>	Joan Greene Baptism - Nahla & Lavanah Cooper



CHRISTMAS 2020

Christmas is not cancelled this year but the way we celebrate this special time of year is of course different, both at home and in church. At the heart of our celebration is of course the fact that a "Child is born for us"; no virus can destroy that fact!

Please remember that Masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day are ticket only. You must arrive in church 5 minutes before the start of Mass otherwise your place may be given to someone who arrives without a ticket.

Face masks must be worn correctly over the mouth and nose.

Please sit where the Steward asks you to sit.

Please stay in your bench until the Steward asks you to move.

Sadly, Government regulations state that we cannot sing in church but Fr Mark will play Christmas Carols for us to listen to. Your offertory donations can be placed in the basket at the back of church.

The Feast of Christmas lasts for twelve days and you are encouraged to come to Mass anytime during that time.



SYNOD2020

The Parish Members of Synod2020 wish to thank the 14 parishioners who submitted their choices of affirmations & propositions. Gavin, Sara & Fr Mark have now submitted these choices and we will find out in a few months which ones the people of the Archdiocese have chosen for the Synod in June.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to all those who sent Christmas Cards to the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in the Holy Land. It was very short notice but we have sent 60 cards to the students, priests and staff. Our guest from Bethlehem took them home on Tuesday and he will deliver them to the Seminary this weekend.



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

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...



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

We wish our two primary schools a safe and happy Christmas holiday. The children at English Martyrs celebrated their Christmas Assemblies on Friday and you can watch it online:
<https://youtube/BwvpoKMakmA>



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





Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve	5.00 p.m.	Vigil of Christmas	Ticket only
	9.00 p.m.	First Mass of Christmas	Ticket only

Friday 25th December

Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day	Ticket only
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Saturday 26th December

Feast of St. Stephen	12noon	Mass
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Sunday 27th December

Feast of the Holy Family	10.30 a.m.	Mass
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Weekday Masses from Monday 28th December - Friday 1st January will be at 12noon (No Mass Wednesday 30th December), Masses from Saturday 2nd January will go back as normal.

Wednesday 6th January is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord:

Tuesday 5th January

10.00 a.m.	Mass
6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass of the Epiphany

Wednesday 6th January

12noon	Mass of the Epiphany
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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.



**marriage
care**

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

SATURDAY 26th DECEMBER

The Archbishop has asked that no Saturday evening Masses take place in the Archdiocese on 26th December. This is to allow clergy and parish stewards some time to rest.



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