



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

2nd Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 6th December 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 [englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk)

[www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What concrete action can I take this week to prepare myself for Jesus' coming?

### 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.

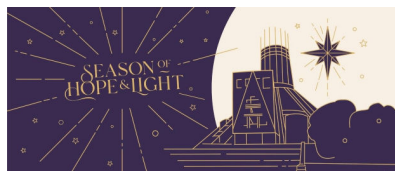
All other rules and regulations regarding the wearing of face masks, hand sanitising and how Mass is celebrated remain unchanged.

### DIRECTORY 2021

The 2021 Archdiocese of Liverpool Directory is now available for those who have ordered them. They can be collected from the Parish Office. We have a couple of extra copies for sale priced at £3 or ring bound at £4.



**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.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.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, Gaetano Scappaticci, Peter Maloney, Olive & Eric Forest,



## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The prophet Isaiah's poetic language gives us the framework to prepare for Jesus coming into our lives, whether as an infant at Christmas, in glory at the end of time, or subtly into our hearts when we least expect. What wastelands take up entirely too much of our time and attention? What valleys of neglect need to be filled in? What aspects of ourselves have we built up like mountains that need to be made low? What rugged obstacles have we put in the way so that we don't have to think about how our faith should be guiding us? What parts of ourselves are rough and unfinished? Levelling these bumps and hindrances will prepare us for Jesus' arrival.

Last week we heard Jesus say, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come" (Mark 13:33). Today we are counselled "with the Lord "a day" can mean a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day" (2 Peter 3:8). In other words, Jesus' return could come at any time and our perception of time is far different from his. This was a big problem for the early Christian communities who believed that the 2nd coming of Jesus was any day soon and so they lived with that imminent hope and were disappointed when they realised that Jesus' arrival wasn't so soon. 'Any day' could be tomorrow or it could be another thousand years. Or a million years. We are

cautioned against applying human perspective to divine plans.

God is on our side, the author of the Second Letter of Peter in the 2nd readings this weekend insists. If it feels like the end of the world is delayed, it is because God wishes that no one perish, that everyone come to repentance. Let this not inspire complacency, but instead comfort and hope as we try to live good, holy and decent lives.



## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 5th December</b>	Baptism - Theo Moran Ben Moss
<b>Sunday 6th December</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	People of the Parish Baptism - Isabelle North
<b>Monday 7th December</b> <i>St. Ambrose</i>	Tim McCarthy
<b>Tuesday 8th December</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Wilf & Marg Murphy Funeral Service - Ronald Halliwell
<b>Wednesday 9th December</b> <i>St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 10th December</b>	Dannie Lovett & Family
<b>Friday 11th December</b>	Pat Morton
<b>Saturday 12th December</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 13th December</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	Special Intention L&P Baptism - Max & Theo James

## MASS TIMES

Please note the changes to Mass times which take effect from this week:

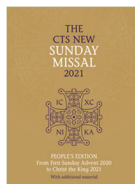
Saturday: 4.30 p.m.  
Sunday: 10.30 a.m.  
Weekday: 10.00 a.m.

**REST IN PEACE** We celebrate the Funeral Service for the late Ronald Halliwell on Tuesday 8th December. May he rest in peace. We also keep in our prayers Fr Michael Youell who died last weekend. May they both rest in peace.

*Requiescat  
in pace.*

## THE SUNDAY MISSAL 2021

Copies of the 2021 CTS Missal are now ready to collect from the Parish Office for those who have ordered them and Fr Mark has ordered a few more if you would like to buy one, £7.95. The Missal began last weekend and will end in November 2021. It contains all the Sunday and holiday readings and the order of Mass in English & Latin.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)  
Cardinal Fitzgerald lives here in Liverpool.

**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](http://www.premierchristianradio.com) or [www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org](http://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](http://www.synod2020.co.uk)

These leaflets highlight the many proposals submitted for consideration and if you like any of them please let us know by the beginning of December. 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.

## SAFE SPACES

Safe Spaces is a new, free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

From Tuesday 29 September 2020, a telephone helpline and live chat facility is available from Monday – Saturday from 10am – 6pm, apart from Thursdays when the service is open 12 – 8pm. **Telephone** 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times)

### Email

[safespaes@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaes@victimsupport.org.uk)

## 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/](http://www.wearenugent.org/fundraising/christmas-cards-2020/) They also have some older designs available at a lower price of £2 per pack.



## **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.

## **CATHOLIC PIC**

The December issue is available from church or online:  
[www.catholicpic.co.uk](http://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



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Tuesday we celebrate the beautiful Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The doctrine of the immaculate Conception is the teaching that the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin.

★ hail Mary ★  
★ full of grace ★  
★ ★ ★

The angel Gabriel addressed Mary as “full of grace” (or “highly favoured”). This means that Mary received the divine help necessary for her task. The Church was led by the Spirit to realise that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to Jesus. Or rather, Mary’s intimate association with her Son called for the special involvement of God in her whole life. The Church taught that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. This great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus, and the incomparable holiness of Mary shows the incomparable goodness of God.

This teaching was almost universally believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Because it is so old, it is one of the teachings that even Islam shares with the Catholic Church, though of course the theological details are different.

## GRIEF AWARENESS WEEK

**Wednesday, 2nd - Tuesday, 8th December**

An opportunity for us to show our love and support to those who mourn and have been grieving during this very difficult time.

For help and advice:  
[www.nationalgriefawarenessweek.org](http://www.nationalgriefawarenessweek.org)



## 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](mailto:www.liverpool@cafod.org.uk)

## **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](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)



## **THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS**

The Irenaeus Team have arranged online Advent Reflections on the Prophet Isaiah taking place on zoom on the 3rd & 10th December, 10.30 a.m. - 12noon (zoom link will open at 10:00) To book your place you are asked to email Jenny: [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)



## **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](http://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](http://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](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)***