



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 31st January 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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A MESSAGE FROM FR MARK

Since the Prime Minister announced the current lockdown I continued to celebrate Mass in English Martyrs.

However the Archbishop, in his New Year letter to priests, has written this: *Although I have circulated the recent government advice on the opening of churches, I want to emphasise that the final decision in this regard is yours. Only you know your people, their age profile and the risks that they are likely to be exposed to and present to others. You have to consider your volunteers and stewards. You also have yourself to consider and I would not want you to expose yourself unnecessarily to infection from the virus.*

So, after consultation with other priests and health professionals I have decided that we will suspend the celebration of public Mass until further notice.

There are several reasons for this:

- The number of cases in Liverpool is very high (nearly 1000 cases per 100,000 at the time of writing).
 - The new strain is more virulent than previously.
 - The majority of people who come to our Mass are over 70. Even though there is no obligation, attending Mass is a further risk.
 - It is important to ensure the safety of our stewards.
- Our thanks goes to them for all the work they have done over the months.

Even though our churches are Covid secure, it is still a gathering of people for 30 minutes with the attendant risk of spreading the virus. The situation will be reviewed at the end of January.

Baptisms are also suspended until further notice. Funeral Masses and Funeral Services will take place in church but they must keep to restriction guidelines and no more than 30 people can attend.

Some Masses in the Archdiocese are streamed live and list of all those Masses are available via the Archdiocesan website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What unclean spirits need to be driven out of my life? How can Jesus, within me and among us, defeat them?

CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION

It is excellent news that the vaccination programme is well underway and we pray for its success so that we can get back to normal life. In relation to any moral concerns that anyone may have regarding the vaccines, Archbishop Malcolm recently wrote to the priests assuring everyone that there is no moral reason not to have the vaccines.....
"I must state most strongly that it is morally permissible to receive any of these vaccines.....I insist that the guidance you give your parishioners and that you follow yourself is in accordance with the Note of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith 21 December 2020. Pope Francis has endorsed this note, and therefore comes from the highest authority." (7th Jan 2021)

REST IN PEACE

We celebrate a number of funerals this week:
Barbara Grant, Funeral Mass on Thursday.
Francis Porter, Funeral Mass on Friday. Eileen Neill, Funeral Service on Friday. May they all rest in the peace and joy of Christ.



CATHOLIC PIC: The current edition is now available. Copies are available from the parish office.

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,



FR GERARD BRITT

We regret to inform you of the death last Wednesday of Fr Britt, a much loved former parish priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace. His Funeral Mass will take place next Saturday in Ince Blundell. Due to COVID restrictions, the Funeral will be private for just family and invited guests only.

James Gerard Britt was born in Liverpool on 1st April 1922, the son of James and Helen Britt and he was baptised shortly afterwards at St Philip Neri, Catharine Street. He received his early education at the Notre Dame Demonstration School and at St Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool. Aged 12, he entered the seminary at Upholland in September 1934 and was ordained priest by Bishop Joseph Halsall in the college chapel on 22nd May 1948.

Following ordination he was appointed as assistant priest at St George's, Maghull until February 1955. He then moved to the Pro-Cathedral to assist Canon Gregory Doyle, the long-serving Administrator, who was to be major influence on his priestly ministry. In October 1961 he was asked to move to St Mary's, Blackbrook, St Helens, and he remained there until June 1967. He then returned to Liverpool and became assistant to Mgr. Thomas Adamson, the former Vicar General. At St Clare's he dedicated himself particularly to the chaplaincy work both at Sefton General Hospital and at the Lourdes Hospital. He is remembered by one of his fellow curates of the time as being particularly helpful to a recently-ordained priest, having a great sense of humour and often quoting Latin tags learned from Canon Paddy Hanrahan at Upholland.

In February 1975 he received his first appointment as parish priest, when he was asked to succeed Fr John Moynihan at Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Litherland. He dedicated himself for fifteen years to the service of the people there. By now in his late sixties, he moved to the quieter parish of Holy Family, Ince Blundell, for his final parochial appointment in August 1990. He retired from active ministry in September 2001, moving initially to Formby. In 2003 he took up residence at the St Marie's House, Southport.

He died on Wednesday 20th January 2021 aged 98 years and in the 73rd year of his priesthood. With his death the Archdiocese of Liverpool lost its last surviving priest ordained in the 1940s.

May he rest in peace.



MASS ON THE PHONE

For those who have no access to the internet, you can still listen to the Mass in full on your phone. The Mass is provided free of charge, except for the local phone charge. It comes from Middlesborough Cathedral every Sunday.

Phone: 01642 130 120 and you are connected to the Mass for that week. You can listen at any time of day or night.

POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings

considered and heeded
Lord in your mercy...



ECHOES OF GOD

A 7 week look at Old and New Testament Scripture on Mondays at 7-8pm on Zoom starting on 18 January. Using David McLoughlin's scripture sessions that start with Exodus and end with St Paul's Letters, an opportunity to read, reflect and share. Registration and materials (free) at www.thegodwhospeaks2020.org.uk

Have a look on CAFOD website to support the 'Walk for Water' campaign and sign up!



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The annual Archdiocesan Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes will be held online on Thursday 11th February, 7.00 p.m. You will be able to watch using the Facebook link (no Facebook account is needed). www.facebook.com/Archdiocese-of-Liverpool-Feast-of-Our-Lady-of-Lourdes-Mass

FEAST OF THE WEEK

CHRISTMAS ENDS - OFFICIAL (February 2nd)

For most of us, Christmas is now a distant memory, apart from maybe having to pay off the credit card bills! But for the Church it's February 2nd, the Presentation of the Lord, that officially closes the season 40 days after the feast itself.



The Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas. In the liturgy of the day Christians recognise Jesus as the light that came into the world to enlighten all the nations and guide them on their way to God. It is the epilogue to Christmas and as we carry our candles the liturgy invites us to seek that light and be that light for our world today.

Archbishop Malcolm invites us to pray together with him through these times:



God Our Father,
each person is precious to You.

You are the Giver of life.

Have mercy on us and protect us at this time, as the coronavirus threatens health and life.

You are an ever-present Helper in time of trouble.

Watch over those who are suffering, give strength to those who are aiding the sick and give courage to all in this time of anxiety.

We ask this of you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

At the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

Special offer 3 months :
£25.00

Special offer 12 months :
£99.00

or
Digital copy 12 Months :
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SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The Lord promised Moses a prophet *'from among your own brothers'* (Deuteronomy 18:15). This certainly can be interpreted to mean one of the Chosen People, or later, a descendant of King David. But more than that, it is someone who is kin to all humanity. Someone fully divine, but also fully human, born of a woman, born in a humble state, not of lofty status. Not of a world above us, but in the middle of this messy, sinful world. Jesus Christ, our brother, is our kin.

The man in the grip of a demon sounds like someone we might hear and dismiss as being seriously mentally ill. But many of us may feel that we're in the grip of something over which we seem to have no control. It may be personal, like addiction or illness. It may be something larger, like poverty or racism. It is God's will that this grip be broken, that we be liberated from these states. Jesus has the power to break the grip of these demons upon us. His living word continues to rescue us.

Dead centre in Mark's Gospel comes the key question Mark seeks to answer, which Jesus addresses to his closest friends, *'Who do you say that I am?'* (Mark 8:29). The unclean spirit gives one of the first attempts at an answer: *'I know who you are: the Holy One of God'* (1:24). Human nature often leads us to turn to God only when we're in distress. Ditto with this unclean spirit! It knew its very existence inside a human host was threatened. It tried to gain power over Jesus by naming him, the way an opposing spirit can usually be defeated. But it had no hold over the master healer. Nor does it now. Jesus, within us and among us, still has the power to drive out our demons.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Stay Safe