



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

1st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 10th January 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I bear witness to others to the new life I have in Christ and the Holy Spirit?

PARISH CHRISTMAS CRIB

The crib will remain in place until Tuesday 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We must keep to current COVID regulations when visiting the crib which means only 1 person at any one time. Crib donations this year will be sent to Nugent Care.



CHRISTMAS 2020

Fr Mark wishes to thank everyone for their Christmas gifts, cards, messages and good wishes. He promises to celebrate Mass for your intentions.



Thank you also to those who decorated our church so beautifully for the Christmas Season. In a very different celebration it was nice to see the church looking splendid. God bless you.

WEEKDAY MASS

There will be no Mass on Thursday as Fr Mark has been asked to celebrate a Funeral in another church because the priest is shielding.

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

Life seems to become more and more privatised as the days go by. For whatever reason, we don't see many children playing games together in our streets or our parks. Buses and trains are full of people who don't talk to each other because they sit listening to music on their own personal stereos. Teenagers are said to spend many hours a week by themselves in their bedrooms on the computer. And families claim that life is so frenetic that they have to make a special effort to eat a brand of gravy together once a week.

Of course, there are some people whose religion is exactly the same. It's about them and God, about them getting holy and going to heaven. If others can do the same, all well and good; but they don't actually affect them in any way.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord turns all of this on its head. For it reminds us that at our own baptism we were anointed by the priest. We were anointed with oil so that we could become 'priests, prophets, and kings (or queens).' To be a priest means that we offer every moment of our lives to God that they may become sanctified and profitable. To be a prophet means that by our words and actions we are to speak out to our world as spokesmen and women. We are to say what God wants the world to hear. To be a king or queen means to accept responsibility for our world as well as for the kingdom of God. The world we have been given is on loan to us; we are to watch over it, to protect it and hand it on to the next generation in even better condition.

Our religion is the expression of our baptism. We are baptised into a living, believing community that worships collectively, that publicly makes its stand for the power of God's word in our world and is ready to come to the aid of those whose human dignity is under threat. That's because our baptism calls us to be other Christs in our world. Far from being a private hobby it is a reminder that our vocation is to be part of the ever-advancing People of God. And if we're to be part of a people, then we need others.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 9th January	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th January <i>Baptism of The Lord</i>	Joan Greene
Monday 11th January	Thanksgiving (CS)
Tuesday 12th January <i>St Aelred</i>	Special intention (R&J)
Wednesday 13th January	NO MASS
Thursday 14th January	NO MASS
Friday 15th January	Henry Simpson
Saturday 16th January	Eva Rowan
Sunday 17th January <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish

This is your Parish Newsletter. If it's of interest to you, it may be of interest to others. If you have something to share, let the Parish Office know and we'll always try and find room to share your news .

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JANUARY DRAW

1st	£20	No. 33	L Boyle
2nd	£15	No. 122	J Riding
3rd	£10	No. 85	P Johnson
4th	£10	No. 65	J Donaldson

Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136 or see Bernie in the Parish office. Please let Myra have your payment for the coming year if not already done so. Thanks for your continuing support

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. New members are
always welcome to join.

POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

Human fraternity

May the Lord give
us the grace to live
in full fellowship
with our brothers
and sisters of other
religions, praying
for one another, open to all.
Lord in your mercy...



MAY HE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.



Joseph Crowley

Funeral Service Friday 15th January 1.45pm

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Entrance exam Friday, 29th January 2021. Register now for
September 2021 admissions at www.stmarys.ac or ring 924 3926.



LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

As we've entered our 3rd national lockdown we are asked to remind ourselves of restrictions affecting places of worship:

You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship but you must follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship. If you are vulnerable or feel unwell, covid related or not, you must not come to church.

Face masks must be worn properly - over mouth & nose. Anyone who cannot wear a face mask should not come to church.

You must not mingle with anyone outside of your household when attending a place of worship.

You must minimise the amount of time spent in church. When you arrive in church, you must give your contact details for track & trace proposes, get your hands sanitised and you must move straight into church, sitting where the Parish Steward asks you to sit. You cannot stand around the church porch to talk to people.

Candles can be lit but only before Mass and not after Holy Communion.

Please wait in your bench until you are asked to come forward by a Parish Steward to receive Holy Communion. Holy Communion to be given on the hand. Please hold out your hands with flat palms. You must leave church, via the side aisles, immediately after receiving Holy Communion.

You cannot wait in the porch or the church grounds for anyone but must do so outside the church gates. You cannot stand around the church porch or grounds to talk to people.

Mass and all liturgical services will be shorter with certain parts omitted at this time.

If you pick up Parish Newsletters or Mass Sheets, you must take them home and not leave them anywhere in church.

Any priest who needs to shield or isolate should do so and this means that Mass cannot take place publicly and may have to be cancelled without any notice.

It is very important to encourage all who attend our churches to abide by these covid-19 security restrictions and to protect themselves and those around them.

THANK YOU

Fr Mark received the following email from the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in the Holy Land.

Dearest Fr Mark, on behalf of the whole community here in Beit Jala, I wish to express my deepest and heartfelt gratitude to our dear friends in Litherland for the beautiful Christmas cards sent to us. We received them just a few days before the Christmas Eve, but we waited until the morning of Christmas Eve before we all opened them together. You do not know how much we love them and the thought that your people do not forget us.

You are an important member of this community and you know well how these past few weeks have been difficult because we all tested positive for covid but thanks God he has looked after us and all is better now. These Christmas Cards lifted our spirits, put smiles on our faces and warmth in our hearts.

You also know that Christmas Eve and Christmas morning is spent at the place of the birth of Jesus. Opening the cards on Christmas Eve meant that all those who sent the cards were in our thoughts and prayers during those special days. We prayed for you all and myself and the other priests who said Mass in the Grotto of the Nativity offered them for all our friends in Litherland.

Dear brother, one of the worst parts of this pandemic has meant that we have not seen you for a year and we wait for the day when you can be back with us. 2021 is of course a very special year for us as we give both thanks to God for 25 years of being his priests. I pray that we can celebrate together this our special year.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as I promise that we will keep you and your lovely parishioners in ours.

Your brother

Fr Yacoub

Seminary Rector



EPIPHANY BLESSING

It is a powerful blessing that lasts the whole year.



Each year around the feast of the Epiphany many parishes throughout the world participate in an annual blessing of chalk. It is an ancient tradition that not only places God at the entrance of your home, it places your entire family under his protection.

The Epiphany blessing of chalk and homes is a centuries old tradition where priests would visit each home in their parish after the Feast of the Epiphany. Over time it became more difficult to accomplish such a feat as parishes became larger and larger and priests were stretched thin. For this reason it became an accepted tradition that a member of the household is able to lead this blessing in place of the priest.

The blessing has biblical roots, deeply tied to the Passover in the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt ... "take some of the blood [of the lamb], and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it ... The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." (cf. Exodus 12:1-13)

It is no coincidence that the Epiphany blessing is traditionally written on the lintel of the main doorway and even some of the prayers echo God's words of protection that he gave to Moses.

There is no need to bless chalk these days and you are welcome to take the Epiphany Blessing and place it near the front door of your home for the whole year. Take some for your families and friends.

What does the Epiphany Blessing mean?

20 ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠ 21
Christus Mansionem Benedicat
(May Christ bless this house)

The current Year - 2021

The **four crosses** symbolise Jesus in everything we do this year. The initials **C M B** represent the Latin - 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' translated as - 'May Christ bless this house'.

But the letters **C M B** also represent the initials of the names of the Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar - hence why it's an Epiphany Blessing.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Aelred (January 12th)

St Aelred, the son of a Hexham priest, was born in Northumbria in 1110 and ended his days as a monk of Rievaulx, north Yorkshire, in 1167. He is probably best known for the book he wrote entitled 'Spiritual Friendship'. In some ways controversial, Aelred fought against the idea that a monk should not enjoy friendship with particular individuals, although this was the thought of the time. It seems so obvious to us in our century but in his day Aelred had to argue that God created men and women for friendship and that to live without friendship was to live like a beast and not a caring human being. He pointed to the importance of Lazarus, Martha and Mary in Jesus' own life and he pointed out that the spiritual basis of friendship allows a person to come closer to God as well as bringing all the benefits and consolations that intimacy with another entails.



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

SOUTH SEFTON FOOD BANK

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.



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.

