



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

1st Sunday of Lent
Sunday 21st February 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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CHURCH RE-OPENING

The priests have received a message from the Archbishop with details about the re-opening of churches. He says: *"On the 22 February the Prime Minister is due to give a statement updating the country about the pandemic situation and possible "unlocking". It seems wise to wait until after he has spoken. It may then be appropriate to re-open around the same time as the schools re-open. (At present that looks like being 8 March). All the previous guidelines will need to be in place. Of course some parts of the archdiocese may not be as far along the road to reduction of levels of infection as others so local decisions may need to be made"*.

With this in mind, we hope to re-open our church on **Sunday 14th March**, Mass at 10.30 a.m. As the Archbishop says, this depends on Government statements and local rates of infection.

Fr Mark has also taken the decision that for the time being there will be no 4.30 p.m. Saturday Mass. Recent numbers for this Mass have not been high and we can easily accommodate everyone in the one Sunday Mass. The Saturday Vigil Mass will resume once we get back to normality.

Baptisms etc are still suspended until we get further information from the Archdiocese.

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.

CATHOLIC PIC:

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

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of Anne O'Toole - her Funeral Mass is on Monday. We also pray for Elizabeth Walker whose Funeral Service will be celebrated at Thornton Crematorium on Tuesday. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What cross have I been avoiding that I should accept during this time in the Lenten desert

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Pope Francis has given clear encouragement for us to place care for creation at the heart of our vision for a world that moves beyond the pandemic. One way in which we might do this is by enabling people to constructively engage with our MPs. Hope for the Future is a charity that seeks to enable and equip constructive engagement with MPs on climate issues. Their approach is based on seeking to identify and explore common interests as a means of enabling effective change. They are partnering with us to offer a workshop that offers practical advice and help on how build an effective relationship with your MP.

A training workshop is being offered on Saturday 6th March 10am - 2pm. See the flyer on the back page for further details and how to book a place.

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



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,



Jesuits in Britain



We are pleased to announce the sign up for our Lent online retreat, organised by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow, and would be very grateful if you could promote this among the clergy in England and Wales or pass onto any other appropriate contacts. This year BBC Radio 4's Daily Service and Sunday Worship will be taking readings and themes of our retreat. Details below: Knowing Jesus: Lent Online Retreat 2021

Walk with us through Lent and Easter and really come to understand and love Jesus. We will ponder Gospel stories, reflect on their meaning and see how startlingly relevant Jesus is to living a truly human life in the 21st Century. Follow the retreat online, and sign up to an online group (places limited): <https://www.onlineprayer.net/>

Sign up to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources:

www.eepurl.com/hnIXAn

NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th- 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10-12 March), at 7.30pm, Saturday, 13 March at 10am, Sunday, 14 March at 11.00am, Monday –Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet

You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10. Have a look at the videos on the front page of the website for more details



Bernie Coxon is also walking alongside Abdella this Lent by challenging herself to walk 10,000 steps, every day, for 40 days. You can sponsor her at www.justgiving.com/bernies-walk

MOTHER ELIZABETH PROUT

Recently, the Holy See declared Mother Elizabeth Prout, foundress of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, to be Venerable. The Holy Father in an audience with the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints authorised the same Congregation to promulgate a decree recognising the heroic virtues of this Servant of God. Mother Elizabeth Prout is buried in the archdiocese and it was in the archdiocese that her sainthood cause was opened in 1994.



Elizabeth
Prout
1820-1864

Archbishop Malcolm writes: *"I am delighted that the Holy See has further recognised the holiness of Mother Elizabeth Prout. She made a significant contribution to the Church and the people of England and further afield in education and healthcare, and the Sisters of the Congregation that she founded continue to show the care of the Catholic Church for those in need. This will be joyful news for the Cross and Passion family, and I am sure that our prayers as an archdiocese are with them as Mother Elizabeth Prout is recognised in this way. Let's pray also that the Shrine at Sutton, near St. Helens, will be a place of prayer for her eventual canonisation."*

Venerable Elizabeth Prout is buried alongside Blessed Dominic Barberi and we continue to pray for his canonisation.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals has launched an emergency appeal for aid for Tigray in Ethiopia, where millions have been forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict there which has been ongoing since November. The UN has described it as a very severe situation with around 4.5 million people without food and basic supplies and many children separated from their families, living in refugee camps on the borders. Fortunately, Mary's Meals are already established in Ethiopia and were previously feeding 24,230 children in schools every day. This means that Mary's meals have an established and trusted partner agency in the area and are therefore able to get help to those who need it most. In other words, we are already giving aid and saving lives!



To make a donation please go to: https://giving.marysmeals.org/en_gb/donate-to-ethiopia.

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...

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 :
£55.00

With You Always Preparation

Registration for children in year 4 and above wishing to make their First Communion this year is still possible. Due to Covid 19 and the restrictions and guidelines in place, preparation cannot begin. Completing the form, available from the Parish Office, will ensure we know how many children have registered and allow us to plan once we have permission to begin preparation. We will use the email address on the form to contact you at a later date. No dates for First Communion Masses have been arranged.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The problem with temptation is that we only recognise it after it's over. When we are actually being tempted we see what's on offer as completely normal. That's why the smoker really believes that this little after-dinner light-up will not get them hooked once more, why the gambler is convinced that this bet on the cert means he'll never need to worry about money again, and the woman passing the pub is confident that she can enjoy this tippie without stepping onto the downward spiral.

When the Spirit led Jesus out into the desert he was tempted by the devil. It's reassuring to know that even Jesus was tempted. But how was he able to resist the temptations? He could do it because he wasn't there alone; he was living in the Spirit. It was this close link with the Spirit that allowed him to refuse to give in.

Our society is hooked on the idea that we can improve ourselves by our own merits. Buy a self-help book and you'll be able to levitate, speak Yiddish in three days and cook gourmet meals while composing your latest harpsichord sonata. All you have to do is pull yourself together and make the effort.

Sometimes Christians are guilty of borrowing this flawed attitude and applying it to the way we relate to God and the way we deal with the spiritual challenges of our lives. So we end up thinking that when it comes to temptation the only solution is to be firm, to exercise our willpower and everything will fall into place. This is usually referred to as the 'muscular Christian' syndrome.

But however many little victories we may win by using this method, the only way to defeat temptation permanently is recognise that we need God's help, God's grace, the life of his Spirit. We cannot save ourselves; only Jesus Christ can. We cannot flex our spiritual muscles and overcome sin; only God's grace can do that for us. If it were otherwise, then there would have been no need for Christ to die on the cross.

As this Lent begins we are reminded that temptation is part of daily life. But we are offered another forty days to seek out God's Spirit, to look for his life, to find the grace to resist temptation. And when we see others who have fallen at the hurdles of temptation, we become aware that there but for the grace of God go I.

Training Workshop: Building Effective Relationships with your MP on Climate Change



Hope for the Future is a climate charity which works to equip communities, groups and individuals across the country to communicate the urgency of climate change with their local politicians. Based on first-hand experience, gathered since our creation in 2013, our approach draws on communications research, counselling techniques and advice from politicians themselves. We can help you build effective partnerships with decision makers and build a more hopeful future.

In collaboration with the Liverpool Archdiocese, we're holding a training workshop over Zoom on **Saturday 6th March 10am-12.**

What we'll cover:

- The practicalities of setting up a meeting with your MP
- Overcoming MP and campaigner 'defensive' behaviours
- Working with MPs of different political persuasions
- Finding common ground between MPs and campaigners
- Framing your 'ask' for a positive response
- Maintaining a thriving relationship with your MP.



What then?

Our team at Hope for the Future is on hand to support you every step of the way in writing to or arranging to meet with your MP. We can provide tailored research, draft letters to your MP, advice and guidance and we can even accompany you to meet with your MP!

"The key to advocacy is building a good working relationship with an MP. Hope for the Future's training is a step by step practice guide - and it's the best I've seen"

- John Battle, former Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs

Sign up via Eventbrite. Click Below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-build-an-effective-relationship-with-your-mp-tickets-141455791079>

You can find more information at:

www.hftf.org.uk