



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

2nd Sunday of Lent
Sunday 28th February 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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CHURCH RE-OPENING

We received some good news from the Prime Minister this past week when he published the roadmap to come out of lockdown. Hopefully we now have some light at the end of the tunnel and we will get back to some normality in the Summer months.

This means we can soon re-open our church and it is hoped that we will have our first public Mass on Sunday 14th March, 10.30 a.m. This is not yet finalised as we must work with all the parishes within the Deanery. Further information will be given next week.

Fr Mark has taken the decision not to reinstate the Saturday evening Mass for the time being as the number of people coming to that Mass was low. The Saturday Mass will begin again as soon as we get back to normality.

Priests have not yet received permission to resume Baptisms.

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



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,



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I transfigure my life this Lent? What will I do to show the transfiguration Jesus has made in me?

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.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of Renee Jackson whose Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday. May she rest in peace.



WHAT WOULD POPE FRANCIS DO?

To mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' election, the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre is hosting a number of prominent Catholic voices exploring the teachings of Pope Francis each Tuesday in Lent at 7.30pm.

Pope Francis on:

Refugees & Migration, Sr Imelda Poole, 2nd March

LGBTQ+ Ministry, Fr James Martin, 9th March

Church Hierarchy, Christopher Lamb, 16th March

The Environment, Dr Lorna Gold, 23rd March

Women in the Church, Sr Gemma Simmonds, 30th March

Zoom Login Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814>

Meeting iD: 236 509 2814

Join live via Facebook

For more information contact edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk

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/hnlXAn

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.

FATHER IGNATIUS SPENCER

We recently reported the news that Mother Elizabeth Prout who is buried near St Helens has been declared Venerable and is a step closer to Sainthood. Pope Francis has also approved the heroic virtues of Fr Ignatius of Saint Paul who will also have the title Venerable. He is buried next to Mother Elizabeth at Sutton Manor and is also one step closer to Canonisation.

Fr Ignatius of Saint Paul, an English Passionist priest, was born George Spencer on 21 December 1799 in London, a son of the 2nd Earl Spencer. He is a relative of Diana, Princess of Wales, as well as the great uncle of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Spencer family, mostly members of the Church of England, were the fifth wealthiest family in England at the time.

Father Spencer converted to Roman Catholicism in 1830, in Rome, at the age of 31, scandalising some in the Victorian society. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1832 and entered the Passionist Order in 1847.

On the death in 1849 of Blessed Dominic Barberi, also buried at Sutton Manor, Father Ignatius became Provincial of the Passionist Congregation in England and Belgium.

Father Ignatius spent much of his life working for the conversion of England to the Catholic faith. He was also known for his work with the poor, particularly Irish immigrants, and once said that he wished he could die like Jesus – *“in a ditch, unseen and unknown.”* He also had a life-long love of cricket.

He died in Carstairs, Scotland, on 1 October 1864, and was buried in the Church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic in St Helens, Merseyside.

The authorisation of this decree by Pope Francis was one of eight presented to him by the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints on Saturday 20 February 2021.

In order to be canonised and declared a saint, two miracles must be attributed to Ignatius of Saint Paul. The first will see him beatified and declared ‘Blessed’. A second miracle will pave the way to sainthood.

This wonderful news means that we could have 3 new English saints all buried within our Archdiocese.

For now, we say:

Blessed Dominic Barberi - Pray for us.

Venerable Ignatius of Saint Paul – Pray for us.

Venerable Mother Elizabeth Prout - Pray for us.

HOLY WEEK VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND

Poems and reflections for Lent and Easter



This 160 page fully illustrated book brings together 15 poems written by a parish priest in a Catholic London parish during the lockdown of Holy Week 2020, with 15 reflections written by today's Christian voices from the Holy Land. It is designed for private prayer and it follows Jesus in his final days leading to his Passion, Death, Resurrection and his journey to Emmaus. With a foreword by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, this book is also a practical support to Holy Land Christians through Friends of the Holy Land. You can buy either a soft-back or an e-book version, both at £7.99 from the FHL Shop: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/lenten-book

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.

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

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)

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 PIC

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

CENSUS 2021

Despite the backdrop of a pandemic, lockdowns, home schooling, furloughs and post Brexit planning, the 10 year Census is to take place on 21st March this year.

Completing the Census is critical as the data is used to plan services such as community organisations, doctors' surgeries, hospitals, schools, faith, community and cultural groups and transport routes. The information is also used by charities for funding purposes.

It is a criminal offence not to take part in the Census with a fine of £1,000.

The Census has been carried out every decade since 1908, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first done predominantly online, with every household receiving a unique code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on computers, phone or tablets. Paper copies will be made available for those who require them. Once the relevant information is passed on for planning and projects, it is then locked away untouched for 100 years.

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...

Nugent Appeal - closing the digital divide

6,373 children and young people in Liverpool do not have access to a digital device at home. If you can help, there are a number of ways you can get involved by donating digital packages particularly sim cards, portable hotspots and dongles, new devices such as laptops, used devices which will be wiped and repurposed for our young people, used smart phones which will be wiped and sold to raise funds for their charitable endeavours or simply make a financial donation to enable the purchase of digital kit bundles. Contact Fay Purves at Nugent for more info on 07776 515 762 or email fay.purves@wearenugent.org.

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



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

In the midst of all the doom and gloom we're experiencing at the moment, our news programmes try to find the occasional thing to cheer us up. So after yet another High Street name has gone bankrupt we are treated to a story about a monkey that can knit or an octogenarian who has just gone over Niagara Falls in a barrel. It helps us to see that there is light at the end of the tunnel. But of course it doesn't take the current difficulties away.

The disciples had their moments of gloom too. Just before today's gospel account of the Transfiguration Jesus had been talking to them about taking up their cross and suffering, about losing their lives for the sake of the gospel. That can't have cheered them up much. But the Transfiguration had the opposite effect on them. They were privileged to see Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah, to see his appearance changed before their very eyes and to hear the voice of God coming from the cloud.

It was a boost to their faith, to put it mildly. Such an experience would keep them going strong through all sorts of setbacks that lay in store for them. That's why Peter wanted to set up three tents, so that he could keep going back and savouring the moment again. If the temptations of Jesus last week represent him as human, then this week's Transfiguration shows his divine side. The three disciples caught a glimpse of his glory, a glory that is normally hidden from view in this life.

What keeps you going in your life of faith? In the ups and downs of daily life there are times when we wonder if it is all worthwhile and yet there are other moments when the presence of God breaks through loud and clear and we feel that we could almost reach out and touch God's presence.

Lent is a time for taking stock. Perhaps one thing we could take stock of is how we come across God in our daily lives. If you had three tents and could put something in each of them that would speak to you about the close presence of God, about those moments when you can almost smell God, what would you put in each one of them? You can have anything you want, except a monkey that knits!



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