



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 7th February 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 does it mean to be a disciple? How do I serve God and serve others?

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 pray for the repose of the soul of Mary McNicholas, a good parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Peace and we will celebrate her Funeral Mass on Tuesday. We also pray for Eileen Neill whose Funeral Service was celebrated last Friday. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



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,



FEAST OF THE WEEK

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK (February 11th)

The World Day of the Sick is sponsored by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care and has been celebrated since 1992 on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This celebration is a reminder to pray for all those who are sick and to recognise and honour those who work in healthcare and those who serve as caregivers.

Tender, compassionate God, fill us so that we may receive all who are ill with your love... Life-giving God, fill us so that our faith will assure those who are suffering, that their pain will blossom into life... Strength-giving God, pour into all who care for the sick the embracing, enduring love of Jesus... Source of love, fill us with vision and courage to pursue research that will bear fruit in healing... Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to you... Righteous God, empower us to struggle against the injustices of the present health care systems... We make these and all our prayers through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY 2021

We don't yet know if church will re-open in time for Ash Wednesday which this year is on Wednesday 17th February. If Mass is celebrated we will have two Masses at 12noon and 6.00 p.m. If church remains closed Fr Mark will distribute ashes outside church at those times. The distribution of ashes will be slightly different this year in order to keep to current restrictions.



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-106532301406114

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...

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.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thursday, 8 February, is the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who at the age of nine was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She suffered terribly at the hands of her kidnappers so much so that she forgot her birth name. Her kidnappers gave her the name 'Bakhita' which means 'Fortunate'.

*O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion.
Through Christ our Lord.*



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 :
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or

Digital copy 12 Months :
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SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The worst thing you can do to someone who's depressed is to tell them to pull themselves together. They simply can't, because they don't see things the way we do and from their point of view all the positives seem to have vanished.

That's the mood that Job is in today in our scripture reading. He's suffering a restlessness: when it's night he longs for the dawn but when the new day comes he wishes it was night again. He's hopeless and helpless.

It's easy to jump on the bandwagon of depression, although most of us just like a good moan and we occasionally end up feeling sorry for ourselves. We complain about the rise in food prices in the economic downturn but then we still spend our money on things that we don't really need or that don't do us any good. But imagine if you really did lose all hope and the future seemed bleak. Where would you turn? What would be the compass points of your existence that would guide you through the dark days?

In today's gospel we hear that Jesus cured many people of mental illness who were brought to him by their family and friends. When everything else seemed to have failed they knew that he wouldn't let them down. 'Casting out devils' meant healing mental disturbance and this was a large part of the healing ministry of Christ.

Just because we believe in Jesus does not mean that we will never suffer from depression; in fact, depression is sometimes the only way a person can survive an awful experience. It's the mind's way of defending itself for a while. And it's not the case that Christians look at the world with rose-coloured glasses. We don't just see a wonderful world; we go through the same troughs as every other person. But faith gives a purpose to our suffering. It teaches us that whatever we undergo we are not alone. Besides any medical treatment that we might receive, we also know that Jesus himself has already taken on the deepest suffering possible and has overcome it. Being a Christian means being part of a community that cares, a community that sees the hurt of one person as affecting the whole Body of Christ, the Church. Look around you.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Stay Safe