



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

4th Sunday of Lent
Sunday 14th March 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

CHURCH RE-OPENING

Welcome back! It's great news that we can once again open the church doors to welcome you back to church. Hopefully we will see no more closures and we can look forward to the time when restrictions will be lifted.

Please note that for the time being all restrictions are still in place.

Face masks to be worn properly at all times.

You need to give your details for track & trace purposes or use the NHS COVID app on your phone.

Please sit where you are asked to by the Parish Stewards.

Procedures for the reception of Holy Communion are still in place.

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.

If you are vulnerable or show COVID symptoms you must stay at home.

Baptisms can resume after 12th April with only the parents and child present.

First Communion celebrations can be celebrated after 12th April within a parish Mass but only the child's household is allowed to attend.

Taking Holy Communion to the Sick & Housebound cannot resume until the end of June.

Any person in danger of death can receive the Sacrament of the Sick and arrangements can be made by contacting the presbytery.



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 does the undeserved mercy that God shows me inform the way I treat those who have wronged me or those whom I judge to be sinners.

WEEKDAY MASS

With the two Funeral Masses taking place this week there will be **NO** parish Mass on Monday & Tuesday. The next weekday Mass will be on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

With restrictions still in place regarding how many people can attend funerals there will be occasions when a funeral Mass will replace the parish Mass at 10:00 a.m. Parishioners cannot attend funeral Masses unless invited to do so by the family.

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of Derek Jenkins and Thomas Willis as we celebrate their Funeral Masses on Monday & Tuesday. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.



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:

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/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.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 13th March	No Mass
Sunday 14th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 15th March	10.15am Funeral Mass - Derek Jenkins
Tuesday 16th March	10.00am Funeral Mass - Thomas Willis
Wednesday 17th March	NO MASS
Thursday 18th March	10.00am John & Magdalen Rimmer
Friday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	10.00am Bob & Nicola Lambert
Saturday 20th March	No Mass
Sunday 21st March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

We wish all mums a very happy Mothering Sunday with a day full of blessings and joy.



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



POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Lord in your mercy...



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The Archdiocese is looking to recruit a new Director of Education. The Archdiocese provides a network of almost 230 schools and colleges across eight local education authorities and the Isle of Man. This includes nursery, infant, junior, primary and secondary schools plus sixth form colleges. In all, Catholic education serves almost 90,000 pupils.

The Education Department is staffed by a professional team providing support and advice to headteachers, governing bodies and clergy and assisting the Archbishop and trustees to carry out responsibilities in canon, civil and charity law on a wide variety of matters.



An application form including a job description and person specification can be downloaded from www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/jobs The closing date for applications is 12noon on 30th March 2021.

ST. PATRICK (March 17th)

Someone once said that if there were a top three of saints in the world it would be a toss-up between St Nicholas, St Valentine and St Patrick. Certainly everyone seems to be Irish on St Patrick's Day!



Most people know how he was born in Scotland around 385 and how he was captured as a slave when he was about fourteen and taken to Ireland where he remained at first until he was about twenty years old. He was later ordained priest and became a bishop, returning to Ireland to spread the gospel.

But what can we say about him that is relevant to us today? Patrick was a humble, devout and gentle man. He was outstanding for his love and total devotion to God even in the midst of his extraordinary captivity. His trust in God when things are difficult is a lesson to all of us. He had such a vision of God that he feared nothing, not even death, and his one driving goal was the importance of the mission that God had entrusted to him. Half of these qualities would be enough for any one of us!

DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

You will remember the two students from the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in the Holy Land who stayed with us in the Summer 2019, Wajdi Sahawneh & Nadeem Giacaman.

Their long awaited ordination as Deacons will be taking place on Friday 19th March at the seminary in Beit Jala near Bethlehem. Two of the students who should have stayed with us last Summer will also be ordained, Ramez Twal & Louis Salman. The ordination was

due to take place last December but was postponed because of the coronavirus. The ordination starts approximately 4.00 p.m. and you can watch it online at www.fb.me/e/1ApO3IE2W or possibly by tuning into the Christian Media Centre at www.cmc-terrasanta.org Please keep Wajdi, Nadeem, Ramez and Louis in your prayers and we pray that their priestly ordination will be celebrated later this year.



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.

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 kits. Contact Fay Purves at Nugent for more info on 07776 515 762 or email fay.purves@wearenugent.org.

FR PETER FOX RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Peter Fox, who died on 24th February. He was 76 years of age and was in the 52nd year of his priesthood. Fr Peter was born and bred in Waterloo and was ordained a priest on 8th March 1969. Following ordination he served in a number of parishes across the archdiocese as assistant priest and in April 1986 he received his first appointment as parish priest, when he was appointed at Our Lady of Walsingham, Netherton until 1991. He was due to retire this year and had an appointment to visit his new home the day he died. He was a much loved priest and will be sadly missed. His funeral Mass will take place on Monday in Whiston. May he rest in peace

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

In the days before the Babylonian exile, the Chosen People, from their leaders to their intermediaries in the temple to all its citizens, had given in to sin, turning away from God and taking comfort in the darkness. The people were punished, driven into exile as the temple burned. But this was not the end. God fashioned humankind in the divine image, promised our ancestors mercy to every subsequent generation, and was not going to abandon us to the darkness. God sent the Son to us so that we all might be saved through him. At all times, in all circumstances, we are invited to come to the light. May we take that opportunity.

Cyrus the Great, the builder of the largest empire the world had ever known, was a foreigner and a pagan. But he allowed the peoples he conquered to worship freely, however they chose. In fact, not only did he liberate the Israelites from exile, he called on them to rebuild the temple. In Scripture he is considered an instrument of God's will. Isaiah calls him the Lord's anointed and today we hear the Chronicler argue that God inspired him to 'fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah' (2 Chronicles 36:21, 22). God's will is so powerful and influential that even a pagan and a foreigner can execute it. The most unlikely people can be instrument of God's will.

God's mercy runs throughout today's readings. God's people 'added infidelity to infidelity' (2 Chronicles 36:14), were dead through (their) sins" (Ephesians 2:5), and 'prefer darkness to light' (John 3:19). God's heart was moved to compassion, however, not to anger, and so sent the Son to save, not to condemn. In the end God responds with mercy, undeserved and salvific.

CATHOLIC PIC

The March edition is now available. Fr Mark has written this month's main feature on the Christian Community living in Gaza and how the pandemic has affected them. You can get a copy from the presbytery or when church reopens next week or it's available to download : <https://bit.ly/3uPeS87>.



CHRISM MASS

The annual Chrism Mass in the Cathedral will be taking place on Wednesday 31st March at 6.00 p.m. Unfortunately, due to ongoing restrictions and in order to ensure the safety of all those involved, the Archbishop has decided that only a very small number of priests will be allowed to attend. A limited number of people can also attend – and who can do so without infringing current Covid regulations.



Anyone wishing to attend must book a place directly with the Cathedral: c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk or 0151 709 9222. Unfortunately, at this time, the Cathedral will not be able to accommodate everyone who may want to attend, and therefore once the capacity is reached it will not be possible to take any further bookings. Registration will be on a first-come-first served basis. Our parish will not be providing transport as we usually do for this event.

The Mass will be live streamed from the Cathedral and the Archbishop hopes that people will tune in.

HOLY WEEK 2021

It is great news that we will be open to celebrate Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Saturday/ Sunday together. Sadly though our celebrations this year will be very different to how we usually spend this special week. The Vatican has sent instructions to every Catholic Church in the world as to how we can celebrate Holy Week in light of current COVID restrictions. The Masses & Service of the Passion will be a lot shorter than they usually are with many of the special elements removed this year.

If you cannot attend church on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday & Sunday, the Archbishop encourages you to watch proceedings online from the Cathedral where he will be the Main Celebrant. Further details will be given.



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

IRENÆUS LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Irenæus are running a series of 'zoom'reflections during Lent

'Come back to Me' -

reflections on the Book of Hosea.

Wednesday 17th, 24th and 31st March
10.30am to 12 noon

'Dying and rising with Christ -

three days of reflection on the Easter Mystery

Thursday 1st April to Saturday 3rd April.
Link opens at 9.30am till 5.00pm Prayer

Book a place for either event at jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

There is no charge but donations would be welcome



COVID-19 REGULATIONS

It is worth reminding ourselves of the current regulations affecting places of worship and the celebration of Mass & Services. These regulations are to ensure the safety of everyone coming to church and you are asked to follow them:

Each time you come to church you will be asked to either use the NHS COVID-19 app or to provide your contact details for track & trace purposes. These written details are securely kept for 21 days before they are destroyed.

Everyone must have their hands sanitised as you enter and leave church.

Facemasks must be worn by everyone over the age of 11 unless you are medically exempt from doing so. Facemasks must be used correctly.

Parish Stewards will escort you to your place and we ask you to co-operate with this. You cannot sit wherever you wish but people will sit in the order they arrive. This is to help the parish Stewards to clean and sanitise the church after Mass.

There can be no lingering in or around the church grounds to talk to people. If you need to wait or talk to someone this must be done outside the church gate. When you arrive to church you must take your seat immediately and you must leave as soon as you have received Holy Communion. There should be no chatter in the church porch.

Candles may be lit but only one person should stand near the candle stands. Ideally you are asked to light candles before Mass.

Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass. Please wait until you are invited to come forward by a Steward. You must bring your belongings when you leave your bench. Approach with your mask in place and with flat palms. Please do not touch the host until the priest has moved his hands away. Lower your mask, place the sacred host in your mouth, raise your mask and leave church by the side aisles. You must not return to a bench.

Mass sheets, Newsletters etc can be used but they must not be left in church. You cannot take anything away in order to give them to another person because of contamination.

Please help us to keep our church environment safe and healthy by following the guidelines which all Paces of Worship are asked to follow.