



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord

Sunday 28th March 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What cross do I find difficult to shoulder myself? Whose burden have I been unwilling to share? How can I help someone and/or allow myself to be helped?

CHURCH RE-OPENING



Please note that all restrictions are still in place.

Face masks to be worn properly over the mouth and nose 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.

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.

PALM SUNDAY

Palms will be distributed as you leave church on Sunday. We have ordered plenty so you are welcome to ask for

as many as you would like to give to family, friends, neighbours.

Palms will be available from the sacristy for the rest of the week.



MASS TIMES -

Please note that the Parish Mass on Tuesday will be at 9.45am. There is also Mass on Wednesday at 12 noon

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

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/hnlXAN

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION.

Good Friday is traditionally the day when Catholics around the world support the holy places associated with the life, ministry, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus in the Holy Land. The Archbishop has sent the following message to support this collection:

Just a reminder that the collection on Good Friday is traditionally held for the Holy Land and, while we are all facing continued financial pressures due to the pandemic, I would encourage you where possible to hold this collection pro Terra Sancta on Good Friday.

This collection was born from the desire of the Popes to maintain a strong link between all the faithful and the Holy Places. It is the main source of material support for Christian life in the Holy Land and is a way that the faithful across the world can express solidarity with the ecclesial communities of the Middle East. Through these funds, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land is able to carry out the important mission to which it is called: preserving the Sacred Places, the stones of memory, and promoting the Christian presence, the living stones, through many pastoral, educational, welfare, health and social structures. As a rule, the Custody of the Holy Land receives 65% of the collection, while the remaining 35% goes to the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, which uses it for the formation of candidates for the priesthood, the support of the clergy, educational activities, cultural formation and subsidies to the various ecclesiastical circumscriptions in the Middle East.

This is a difficult time financially for everyone, including those who live and work in the Holy Land. May this year's collection pro Terra Sancta be an opportunity not to ignore the difficult situation of our brothers and sisters of the Holy Places but rather to lighten burdens.

*With every good wish,
+Malcolm*

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 27th March	No Mass
Sunday 28th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 29th March <i>Holy Monday</i>	10.00am Eva Rowan
Tuesday 30th March <i>Holy Tuesday</i>	9.45am Alfred & Martha Smith 11.00am Funeral Mass - Paul Fisher
Wednesday 31st March <i>Holy Wednesday</i>	12 Noon Theresa Hulligan
Thursday 1st April <i>Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	7.00pm Private intention
Friday 2nd April <i>Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	3.00pm
Saturday 3rd April <i>Holy Saturday</i> <i>Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter</i>	7.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 4th April <i>Easter Day</i>	10.30am Private intention

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.

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 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.

Thursday 1st April

Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00 p.m.
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Friday 2nd April

Service of the Passion of the Lord	3.00 p.m.
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Saturday 3rd April

The Easter Vigil & The First Mass of Easter	7.30 p.m.
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Sunday 4th April

Mass of Easter Day	10.30 a.m.
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HOLY WEEK

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

We are often asked to place the names of those who are sick and in need of our prayers in the Parish Newsletter. We are happy to do this but we must comply with data protection. Names can only be included if that person or their next of kin gives us written permission to do so. Names will then be published for two weeks only unless stipulated, this is to avoid names remaining on the list indefinitely. Forms to help with this will be available from the back of church, sacristy or the parish office.



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.

SOUTH SEFTON FOOD BANK

Thank you to those who regularly donate food for us to take to the local Foodbank and to help those who need our help within the local community. Your help is greatly needed at this time and we ask you to be generous and leave some food at the back of church or at the presbytery. A huge thank you to Christ & Mary for co-ordinating this important act of service.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

If a week is a long time in politics then it certainly is in Christianity. The week we're about to embark upon is the most momentous one for Christians and that's why Holy Week is sometimes also called the Great Week.



It all begins well on the Sunday with the crowds cheering the man they believe will set them free. He's given a royal welcome as he enters Jerusalem and there's a sense of expectation in the air. Most of us can identify with that crowd. There are times when our faith in Christ is easy, when God seems to be smiling down on us and when we could easily join the crowd with its banners and singing.

The high of Sunday continues until Thursday when the Last Supper is held. There's joy as Jesus institutes the eucharist along with the command to serve each other in the way that he has shown. But a cloud looms on the horizon as Judas takes in thirty pieces of silver and gives away his master with a kiss. If we can identify with the crowd then we can surely see the figure of Judas in the many ways that we betray the faith that God has in us. Sometimes we allow ourselves to be tempted by a lot less than money and a kiss.

How can Good Friday be good, given what happened? Its goodness stems from the fact that a victory was won. It's true that we all share in the sin of the world that Christ died for. But by the same token we all share in the triumph of the cross. From now on, sin and death, evil and pain can have no permanent hold over us. We have access to a life that is real and ultimately indestructible.

And just as we think the week is about to end in a fizzle, we come across a Saturday night surprise. Jesus, whom they crucified, has risen. His enemies are confounded and he will go on to impart the Spirit of life to those who believe in him. If we want to join the cheering crowd ever again, then it must be because of this resurrection. It's the centre of our faith and gives meaning to everything we say and do in our relationship with God. Anyone can have life, but not everyone knows that it can be eternal.

What a week!

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.

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**



REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Fisher who died recently and his Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday morning. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



A message from Friends of the Holy Land

Christians in the Holy Land are smiling because of your support every day, and we are resolved to keep up the good work. This time is normally incredibly busy, but for the second year in a row, there are no visitors - meaning no income for the majority of local families. The Covid crisis is still in full swing; there is still no government unemployment support and the lack of a coherent vaccination programme for Palestinians means the health, welfare and unemployment situation is likely to remain the same deep into 2021. The smiles you bring Your support, though - by God's grace - is doing a lot of good. In 2020 we increased our grant-giving by more than 50% (compared to 2019), and stories continue to flow in to our office of sustained families and thankful recipients.



GET READY FOR THE PENTECOST CHALLENGE!

Our new virtual fundraising challenge will combine real exercise with a virtual journey across the Holy Land.

This year, we're challenging our supporters to walk, cycle, run or swim the distance from Bethlehem to Nazareth - the usual pilgrimage route - over several weeks. As you do a bit of exercise around your neighbourhood each day, you can plot the miles you've done on our virtual Holy Land map, see where you've got to, have a look around on Google streetview - and we'll send you some unique inside stories from Christian communities we support along the way!

You will be able to take part as a team and combine your miles together - so we would love you to form a team from your group or parish. The great thing is, you don't have to meet up in person to do this - you can exercise separately (or in twos!) and still make it a team effort. As well as a vital fundraiser, it's a great opportunity to get your group active again as we ease out of lockdown. Full details to follow after Easter.

