



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

5th Sunday of Lent
Sunday 21st March 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I believe I have the One who is the resurrection and the life within me?

How does this motivate me to live my life in a new way?

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.

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, Denise Harper



PALM SUNDAY



Next week we commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem when people waved palm branches to welcome him. We usually begin in the school playground to bless the palms and to celebrate that event. Restrictions are still in place which means we cannot do so this year but Fr Mark will bless the palms in church and they will be distributed at the end of Mass.

DON'T FORGET

British Summer Time begins next Sunday, 28th March. Sadly we lose some sleep as we put the clocks forward 1 hour.



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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

ANNUNCIATION (Thursday March 25th)

If God is to become one of us then it is inevitable that one of us had to be chosen for the privileged role of being his mother. That role fell to Mary.

Together with Jesus, Mary is the graced link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God and she shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. As the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God, she manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

The Annunciation invites us to make Mary's response our own whenever we stand before God in prayer: *'Yes, Lord, let what you have said be done to me!'*

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 20th March	No Mass
Sunday 21st March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 22nd March	10.00m Deceased relatives of Catherine Connor
Tuesday 23rd March	10.00am Those affected by the Coronavirus
Wednesday 24th March	NO MASS
Thursday 25th March <i>The Annunciation</i>	10.00am Brenda McStravock
Friday 26th March	10.00am Chris Collins
Saturday 27th March	No Mass
Sunday 28th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

SOUTH SEFTON FOOD BANK The current pandemic has left many of our families needing our help more than any other time. The food bank provides a great service for those families who are struggling. If you can help please leave any donations at the back of church

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

CENSUS 2021

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

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.

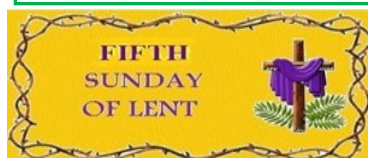
The Census has been carried out every decade since 1908, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first done predominantly online, with every household receiving a unique code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on computers, phone or tablets. Paper copies will be made available for those 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.

CATHOLIC PIC

You can still access the March edition of the Catholic Pic online. Fr Mark has written this month's main feature on the Christian Community living in Gaza and how the pandemic has affected them. It's available to download: <https://bit.ly/3uPeS87>.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

For the last month we've been making our way through Lent on a voyage towards Easter. It's as if we've taken to the road with Christ on his journey up to Jerusalem where he (and we) will embrace death so as to rise above it to a life that never ends.

But as we've journeyed with Christ we've been listening to his words guiding us along our route to Easter. These words take on a different colour each year in a three-year cycle that the Church's liturgy uses. But this year the theme of Jesus' message has been unmistakable: you must embrace the wisdom of God that the world considers to be sheer foolishness.

Jesus could have tried to buy us off with some easy words, like politicians who promise everything in return for votes. He could have told us that we can get to heaven just by praying and paying. He could have offered us salvation by keeping the law and being seen in the right places. He could have suggested a quick fix but he chose to offer the tougher route.

We've listened to a series of paradoxes over the last few weeks and today Jesus tells us that just as a grain of wheat must be buried before it can sprout, so too we have to die if we are to enjoy life. His message is one of self-sacrifice, cross-bearing, total service and a love which counts no costs. And unlike other philosophies that underline the skills and talents of their adherents, Jesus tells us that we reach our perfection the more like a servant we become, and that we achieve our dignity by putting ourselves last rather than first.

This message isn't for everyone. It's not for people who like to be thought of as important but now find they must consider themselves last of all. Not for people who prize possessions, now being told to give to the poor. Not for those who invest everything in the here and now. Not for those with status who fear that they'll lose their respectability. Not for wise people who see it as sheer foolishness. Is it for you?

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.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE 200 CLUB

February Draw

- 1st Prize £20 No. 81 A Stanley
- 2nd Prize £15 No. 20 J Mahoney
- 3rd Prize £10 No. 176 C McPhillips
- 4th Prize £10 No. 64 J Caunce

March Draw

- 1st Prize £20 No. 198 P Savage
- 2nd Prize £15 No. 157 M Potts
- 3rd Prize £10 No. 58 A Lundon
- 4th Prize £10 No. 154 Mark



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

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

We've received a message from Cardinal Nicholls & Archbishop McMahon:

We welcome the designation of Tuesday 23rd March as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

We ask you all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer. In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father. For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make the 23rd March truly a day of prayer.

March 2020 was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We know this will involve an extra effort, but this can be part of our important contribution to a significant moment in the life of our country. Indeed, we ask that you might invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to come to church with you as you make this visit.

May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God's Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.

