



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

11th April 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

To who do I need to offer mercy and forgiveness?

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 17th May 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.

Can we please also ask that, after having your hands sanitised, you immediately enter Church and take your seat as instructed by the stewards. Please do not linger in the porch. The lockdown is easing but we do still need to be careful and observe social distancing when entering and leaving Church

Thank You!



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



THANK YOU...

Fr Mark writes...*'Thank you once again for your good wishes for my 50th birthday, for the very generous gifts and cards. I will offer Mass for you very shortly.'*



Thank you to all those who made Holy Week and the Triduum very special. Parishioners give up their time to get church ready and to ensure a special time of grace for us all. Thank you!

Thank you once again to our wonderful team of Stewards who continue to make sure that our church is a clean and safe environment. We can't open church without them!

Thank you to Fr Stephen for looking after us these last few days.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

Fundamental rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



Lord in your mercy...

SYNOD2020

Unfortunately due to the Covid Pandemic, the Synod, which was due to take place, last October, was not possible and the date was re-arranged to June 19th 2021.

However, work on the proposals and suggestions made by our parish and those across the Archdiocese, has continued.

Synod members, including our own parish team, met online on 12th & 13th March to hear about and receive the final Synod recommendations, discerned from the many thousands of responses submitted from the discussions we were able to have in parishes, before the pandemic.

All of this has led towards 19 recommendations which will be voted on by Synod Members. As a parish we would very much like your involvement and views on the recommendations as this will help in our process of discernment ahead of voting at the Synod in June.

To do this we will be producing a booklet which will explain the 19 recommendations and how you too can indicate which recommendation should be voted on.

The booklet will be included in the parish newsletter at the beginning of May

For further information about the Synod Recommendations, visit [-https://www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk](https://www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk)



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 10th April <i>Easter Saturday</i>	No Mass
Sunday 11th April <i>Day of Divine Mercy</i>	10.30am Hazel Rankin
Monday 12th April	10.00am Chris Collins
Tuesday 13th April	10.00am Pauline Bradshaw
Wednesday 14th April	No Mass
Thursday 15th April	10.00am Catherine & John Trevaskiss
Friday 16th April	10.00am James Crabb
Saturday 17th April	No Mass
Sunday 18th April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

In many ways, the Christians of the Holy Land rely on pilgrimages for their survival. In 2019 over 4.5 million pilgrims flocked to the holy sites to experience the places of Christ's birth, ministry, death and resurrection. All this changed in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global restrictions on travel has turned off this essential financial lifeline.

The Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Reverend John Wilson, is the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in England and Wales. The Knights and Dames support the 'Living Stones' – the Christians of the Holy Land. Archbishop Wilson encourages us to keep the Christians of the Holy Land in our prayers and tells us how we can help

"We use the word solidarity an awful lot – to stand alongside, to stand solid. It's so important that we stand in solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land. We know that many of them earn their living – they're able to provide for their families and their children – because of pilgrimage work. When that doesn't happen, as at this present time, it's very difficult for Christians in the Holy Land. There are a number of things that we, as ordinary people, can do. We don't have to be members of the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, just people with a good heart. Christian people who want to help.

The first important thing we can do is pray.

We pray that the difficulties that our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land face – the political difficulties, the difficulties of work and finance, the difficulties of education and health care – that these difficulties be lifted and that the Lord works through the power of the Holy Spirit to change hearts and minds, to bring about peace and justice.

The second thing we can do is, if we're able, is to offer our support financially.

And there are many, many different charities that work in the Holy Land. To find one that we feel confident is able to support the Christians of the Holy Land, and, if we can, give them some money.

A third thing that we can do is actually find the organisations that make available, in our country, things made by Christians in the Holy Land.

A lot of things are carved out of olive wood – beautiful statues, cribs, icons, rosaries. Lots of gifts that are produced in the Holy Land and then brought, through different organisations and charities, to this country. Maybe we can buy a gift to give to somebody else. In doing that, we help the Christians. This will also help sustain the economy in the Holy Land, because without a thriving economy, Christians will not be able to remain. And for Christians not to be able to remain in the Holy Land, where Our Lord walked, where he exercised his ministry, would be such a terrible, terrible shame.

I was in the Holy Land in 2018 and we met a number of different Christian groups and organisations, some charitable groups. We learned how very tough it is for Christians to continue in the Holy Land. So any support we can give, in any kind of way, will really, really make a difference."

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" APRIL DRAW

1st £20 No. 139 S Breen

2nd £15 No. 218 B Whittaker

3rd £10 No. 58 A London

4th £10 No. 145 S Harper



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

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.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid envelopes for the new Tax Year are now available for collection at the back of Church.

If you do not already gift aid your weekly offering could we please ask you to consider signing a gift aid form. This enables the Parish to receive an extra 25% on top of your contribution. Forms are available from the Parish Office.

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Making donations go further

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@wearenuigent.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

When Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles, many Christians believed that Christ's second coming was imminent. As Luke himself wrote in his Gospel, Jesus told his disciples that 'before this generation has passed away all will have taken place' referring to the signs preceding the coming of the Son of Man (Luke 21:32). The early church's belief that judgment day could be coming at any moment led them to focus on making sure that the community was exhibiting the values Jesus taught. If the world was ending, there was no reason to hoard possessions for the long term. Freely give to those in need! Though we have no reason to believe that the end of the world will come in our lifetimes, we know that our own particular judgment day could come at any time. It will definitely come at the end of our lives. So we would be well advised to follow the same gospel values as did the early church: share what you have, ensure no one is needy, take care of each other.

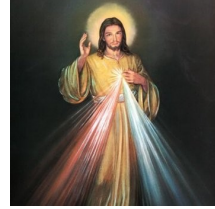
Besides missing seeing the risen Lord in the flesh, St Thomas also missed receiving the Holy Spirit on that first day of the week. Perhaps his doubt and disbelief stemmed from not having the Holy Spirit within him to guide him to the truth. We have each received the Holy Spirit in baptism, so we have an advantage Thomas did not have at the time. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to the truth.



We bestow mercy on someone when they have done something wrong, choosing to refrain from punishing them even when they deserve some penalty. But more than that, the mercy that Jesus taught in the story of the prodigal son, showed to the woman caught in adultery, and offered Peter after he denied him three times is a mercy that is steeped in empathy, a mercy given to someone who is not able to forgive him- or herself. It is when we feel that we are beyond mercy that we stand most in need of God's divine mercy. It is when we have been wronged by someone who feels that they are beyond mercy that we are called to imitate our Lord in offering mercy. Not because he or she deserves it. Because without mercy, we are all lost.

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

On May 5, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave of Easter, would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The feast was established by the pope after he canonized Saint Faustina, a humble Polish nun to whom Jesus revealed his message of divine mercy.



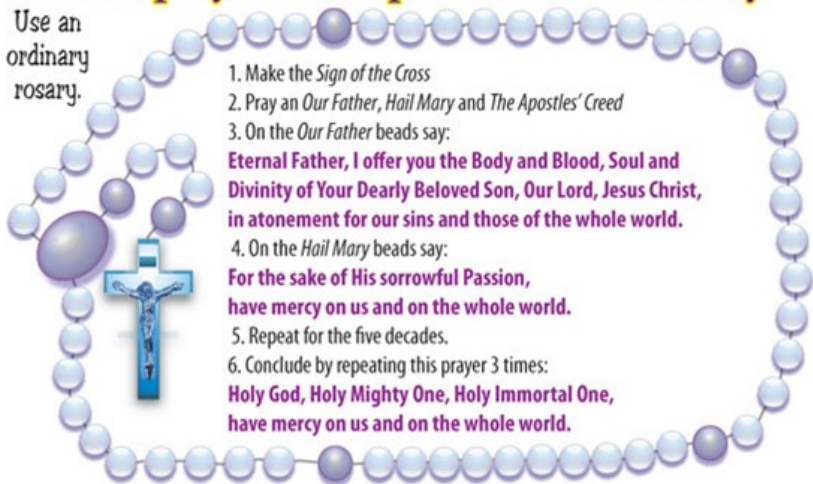
Born in 1905, Saint Faustina became a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at age 20. While at the convent, beginning in February 1931, she received several revelations from Jesus, who communicated to her the depth of his mercy and his desire that all be merciful to one another.

In Saint Faustina's visions, Jesus appears with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and blue/white rays emanate from his heart, symbolising the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. Jesus asked that the image be painted with the words "Jesus, I trust in You" inscribed beneath it.

Jesus instructed Saint Faustina on how to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and made this promise: "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from my infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know my infinite mercy"

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use an ordinary rosary.



1. Make the *Sign of the Cross*
2. Pray an *Our Father, Hail Mary and The Apostles' Creed*
3. On the *Our Father* beads say:
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
4. On the *Hail Mary* beads say:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
5. Repeat for the five decades.
6. Conclude by repeating this prayer 3 times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

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.

