



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

18th April 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I give witness to the forgiveness I have experienced in Jesus?

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**

* **CALLING ALL FLORISTS!!** *
* You will have noticed that we now have *
* our beautiful flowers back on the altar. It *
* is wonderful to see the displays back in *
* place. This is thanks to a very small group *
* of parishioners who give up their time to *
* make our Church look lovely. *
* It would be helpful if we could have a few *
* more people to 'share the load' as things *
* get busier. If you have 'green fingers' and *
* would like to help with this lovely job *
* please pop in to the Parish *
* Office and speak to Bernie. *
* All offers of help gratefully *
* accepted!! *



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 17th April	No Mass
Sunday 18th April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 19th April	10.00am Maureen Monaghan
Tuesday 20th April	10.00am Steven Duncalf
Wednesday 21st April <i>St Anselm</i>	No Mass
Thursday 22nd April	10.00am Jean Turner
Friday 23rd April <i>St George</i>	10.00am Gerard Byrne
Saturday 24th April	No Mass
Sunday 25th April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM



In a recent letter to the priests of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop reflected on the Vatican response on the blessing of same-sex unions. He has given permission to the priests to share his message:

Dear Brothers,

The recent response by the CDF to a dubium on the blessing of same-sex unions has caused some hurt amongst the faithful of the archdiocese and beyond. I have received correspondence myself on the issue, with one father writing in a letter that his son, who is gay, “is suffering because he has read about the recent pronouncement.” I am sure that the sentiment of this parent will echo the sentiments of many parents, and I have no doubt that this suffering is felt acutely. I also know that some of you will have heard similar sentiments from people you minister to and, perhaps, you have felt it yourselves. It is important therefore that we reach out to all our LGBT+ brothers and sisters, to show them that they have a place at the heart of our Church, and our archdiocese. As Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, has been reported as saying recently, the latest pronouncement should give us greater impetus to another conversation about inclusion. Indeed, our Synod is, in one sense, just this: staying faithful to Tradition, but being open, through our learning, reflection, prayer and discernment, to the new insights which the Holy Spirit offers to us about the depths and breadth of God’s creation. We are a stronger and more powerful witness to Christ because of the presence of our LGBT+ brothers and sisters, indeed, because of the inclusion of all the people of God. Far from denying their experience, and the reality of their lives, we should learn from them and hear God speaking through that reality. We would be poorer without them. It is my hope and prayer that we will find new ways of expressing this inclusivity, understanding the language we use, and employing the talents of everyone, to witness more profoundly in our lives as priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful, a fundamental Gospel teaching: that God’s love has no limits.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" APRIL DRAW

1st £20 No. 139 S Breen

2nd £15 No. 218 B Whittaker

3rd £10 No. 58 A Lunden

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@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 Chris & Mary for co-ordinating this important act of service.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Peter is a model for the Christian disciple, calling out the people on their sin, but with understanding and compassion, all while guiding them to conversion of heart. Though accusing them of being responsible for Christ's death, he tells them, *'Now I know . . . that neither you nor your leaders had any idea of what you were really doing'* (Acts 3:17). He does not excuse their role in the evil, but he provides an explanation: they were following their leaders, perhaps intimidated by them. He knows what that kind of weakness is like. After all, he abandoned the Lord on that fateful night, intimidated by people who could have turned him over to the authorities. But just as he knows their weakness, he knows the forgiveness that comes with repentance. So he eagerly offers them the opportunity for conversion.

Like repentance and forgiveness, knowledge of God and faithfulness to God's commandments go hand in hand. Those who know the goodness of God, who know the mercy of God, who know the love of God, wish to keep God's commandments, for living by those commandments increases the goodness in our life and the world, comforts us with mercy when we sin, and so the God's love comes to perfection in [us]. (1 John 2:5). Sometimes keeping God's commandments may be difficult or painful, especially when we focus on short-term satisfaction. For long-term satisfaction, a life well lived exceeds any temporary happiness.

At the time the resurrected Jesus spoke to his disciples, his words and actions had not yet been written down. But he told his disciples that words had already been written about him, words written long before his birth to Mary, words in the law and the prophets and the psalms. In establishing the new covenant, Jesus fulfilled these words. His disciples may not have understood on their own, but just as he opened their eyes in the breaking of the bread, he *'opened their minds to understand the scriptures'* (Luke 24:45). Let us be similarly blessed each week in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

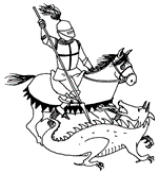
FEASTS OF THE WEEK

ST ANSELM (April 21st)

Anselm was an Italian scholar who also worked in France and eventually became Archbishop of Canterbury. He was highly respected for his teaching and his writings. One of his famous works explored the Incarnation and was called in Latin 'Cur Deus Homo?' ('Why did God become a Human Being?'). He used many arguments to try and prove the existence of God and is credited with saying that God is 'that than which nothing greater can be conceived'. He died in 1109 aged 76 and is buried in Canterbury Cathedral.



MODERN-DAY DRAGONS (April 23rd)



The chances are that St George was a farmer before becoming a soldier. That's because 'George' is the Greek word for farmer. His story goes back to third century Turkey and the tale is told of a group of villagers who were plagued by a dragon who demanded to be fed with their children. George, representing the forces of good and the power of the Church, killed it. This simple story is really the story of Easter, the triumph of good over evil, the victory of life over death.

George's importance is perennial. What are the dragons of our day? Maybe our children are being sacrificed to drugs, to alcohol, to people-trafficking, to exploitation etc. Each generation needs a George to lance its modern-day dragon.



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.

