



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

EASTER DAY

4th April 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

How have I come to believe? How can I witness to the power of the Resurrection in my life?

## **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.

## **WEEKDAY MASS**

Please note that Mass on Bank Holiday will be at 12noon.

Fr Mark is taking a few days off and we welcome back

Fr Stephen who will look after us for the rest of the week.

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**



Palms are still available from the sacristy.



## 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](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/lenten-book)



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Saturday 3rd April</b> <i>Holy Saturday</i> <i>Easter Vigil &amp; First Mass of Easter</i>	7.30pm People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 4th April</b> <i>Easter day</i>	10.30am Private intention
<b>Monday 5h April</b>	12 noon Stephen McQuade
<b>Tuesday 6th April</b>	10.00am Christine McCormack
<b>Wednesday 7th April</b>	No Mass
<b>Thursday 8th April</b>	10.00am Margaret & Septimus Murphy
<b>Friday 9th April</b>	10.00am Chris Collins
<b>Saturday 10th April</b>	No Mass
<b>Sunday 11th April</b>	10.30am Hazel Rankin



## EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

2021 Easter Message from  
The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP  
Archbishop of Liverpool

The events of the first Easter morning began quietly, in stark contrast to the violence and baying crowds which accompanied the crucifixion on Good Friday. Mary Magdalen went to the tomb early in the morning on the first day of the week – while it was still dark – while it was quiet with no people around and none of the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem, the busy city. Things began to change when she saw that the stone had been rolled away, she ran to Simon Peter and the disciple John saying, ‘they have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him’. The disciples ran to the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, they believed.

Mary though was not joyful, she did not have hope, she stood outside the empty tomb weeping asking where the body of Jesus had been taken. Yet as she recognised the risen Jesus her life was transformed moving from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy and from despair to hope.

For over a year now we have been living under the darkness of the pandemic, just as the light of the Risen Christ is always with us so we have seen light in that darkness through the bravery, generosity and kindness of others. The light offered to us by the heroes of our NHS, carers, and all who have worked to keep our country going.

Easter is always a time of reawakening and this year as a country we are approaching our own reawakening. Our villages, towns and cities have been quiet, but they are slowly and cautiously coming back to life. We are seeing hope through the

the vaccine, developed through the gifts of science, giving us hope for a better and safer future.

There have been times of grief, loss, doubt and despair during the dark days, and we hold in prayer all who have suffered. We bring those times to our celebration of the resurrection which begins in darkness in our churches with the lighting of the Easter Candle symbolising the risen Christ. A life-giving light overcoming the darkness, bringing healing to a broken world.

Just as the lives of Mary Magdalen and the disciples were transformed on the first Easter morning so too our lives may be transformed as we embrace the light of the Risen Lord who sheds his peace on all humanity.

May God bless us all on this glorious Easter Day.



## 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.

*giftaid it*  
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](mailto:fay.purves@wearenugent.org).

### SOUTH SEFTON FOOD BANK

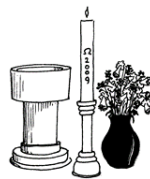
Thank you to those who regularly donate food for us to take to the local Foodbank and to help those who need our help within the local community. Your help is greatly needed at this time and we ask you to be generous and leave some food at the back of church or at the presbytery. A huge thank you to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





## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Enter a Church on Easter Sunday and you're immediately struck by a different atmosphere. Weeks of purple are replaced by white and gold. The lily can often take pride of place among the flowers. A huge paschal candle is prominently on view. Music is allowed (but not yet singing) and usually the font brims with water.



Sadly because of the pandemic restrictions celebrations and how we celebrate are a little muted this year but the symbolism is still there. Easter is about light, water and life. The fire that is usually lit on East Night to illuminate the darkness of night and the paschal candle are eloquent reminders that those who walked in darkness now can journey in the light of Christ. We no longer stumble along, prey to every evil and danger. We see things in a new light.

The water symbolises not only the fact that in baptism we are cleansed from our sin but also that our thirst for God is fulfilled by our faith in Jesus. Easter responds to our longing for meaning in our cluttered lives and it points the way to beyond the mundane. Its music fills the hole created by our yearning for something greater than ourselves, for someone who can bring us to fruition, for a saviour and redeemer.

So the vital signs of Easter proclaim new life. But it's not simply the life that our world has become used to; it's life to the full. Easter raises us up to enjoy a life that stretches us in mind body and spirit and that beckons us to eternity. For Easter life is eternal life and we enjoy it on both sides of the grave.

And all of this is because Jesus rose from the dead. The resurrection is at the heart of our Christian faith. As St Paul says, if it didn't happen then we are all wasting our time. An ancient Easter hymn reminds us that sheep are ransomed by a lamb, that an innocent man has served our sentence to reconcile us to the Father and that life's own champion is slain but only to reign.



The resurrection proclaims God's glory and power. Our alleluias today attest to the fact that life can never be the same for us again. Our human existence is radically transformed by the victory that Jesus won against the powers of darkness in our lives. We have been bought back. We have been saved from ourselves. We have been given the chance to live life to the full. No pandemic can destroy this message. This day was made by the Lord; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia!

## CAFOD Lent Appeal - Thank You!!



A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who sponsored me for the 'Walk for water' CAFOD Lent appeal. I did complete the 10000 steps every day throughout Lent (even though some were very windy and rainy!). Sadly I am not the dress size 6 that I thought I would be at the end but we have raised an amazing £600!!! Thank you - your support kept me going through the 40 days. The just giving page is still open if anyone wants to contribute [justgiving.com/bernies-walk](http://justgiving.com/bernies-walk).



Next stop—Friends of Holy Land Pentecost Challenge!!  
Thanks again - Bernie

### 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...*

### 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 Middlesbrough 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.



## 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.

