



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

2nd May 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

In order to flourish and bear fruit, the vine needs to be pruned. What in me needs to be pruned so that I can bear fruit to the fullest extent possible?

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 MAY

The world of finance

Let us
pray that
those in
charge of
finance



will work with
governments to
regulate the
financial sphere and
protect citizens
from its dangers

Lord in your mercy...

SYNOD2020

As we approach our Archdiocesan Synod, taking place online on 19th June, Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on the recommendations that have emerged. If you haven't seen them yet, there are three places you can find them:



1. Printed in the April edition of the Catholic Pic
2. On our Synod website:
www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk
3. You will find the recommendations in your newsletter this weekend with instructions of this next stage
4. Printed in our Synod book 'Together on the Road' which also includes resources for discernment and the theological reflections. Available for £3 from Pauline Books & Media, and the Synod Office www.synod2020@rcaol.co.uk

Please continue to keep the Synod in your prayers in the coming months.

Armchair retreats with Denis Blackledge SJ, Jesuit Parish Priest of Saint Francis Xavier's Church in Liverpool

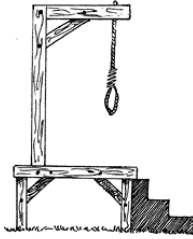
Each week Fr Denis chooses a couple of scripture passages to break open the living word in a homely way to give fresh encouragement and deepen the daily living of folk as friends and followers of Jesus. Follow the link to join in:

<https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/armchair-retreats>

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 1st May	No Mass
Sunday 2nd May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 3rd May <i>Ss Philip and James</i>	12 noon Oliver Thomas Beck
Tuesday 4th May <i>Feast of The English Martyrs</i>	12 noon Jean Maloney
Wednesday 5th May	No Mass
Thursday 6th May	10.00am Jennifer Dowd 2.00pm Funeral service - Dawn Jamieson
Friday 7th May	10.00am Olive & Derek Forrest
Saturday 8th May	No Mass
Sunday 9th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

FEAST OF THE WEEK



The feast of the English Martyrs gathers together the English men and women martyred for the Catholic Faith between 1535 and 1680 and who were beatified or canonised by the Holy See. It also coincides with the Anglican celebration of the Reformation Martyrs. On this day in 1535 three Carthusian monks died at Tyburn, the first of many martyrs, Catholic and Protestant, of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, forty two have been canonised and a further two hundred and forty two declared blessed, but the number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or suffered harsh persecution for their faith in the course of a century and a half cannot now be reckoned. They came from every walk of life; there are among them rich and poor, married and single, women and men. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution.

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday is Bank Holiday so Mass will be at midday. Tuesday is the Feast of the English Martyrs, a patronal feast for our parish. Mass will also be at midday that day as we encourage more of you to come along and ask for the intercession of the martyrs.



RED BOXES

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the Mill Hill Missionaries by having a red box at home. Last year our Parish raised an amazing £1514.00! If you do not have a box and would like one please ask at the Parish office or see Mary Maloney.



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.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

We celebrate the funeral service on Thursday for Dawn Jamieson.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



CATHOLIC PIC

May edition of the Catholic Pic is now available from the back of church.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES

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

giftaid it
Making donations go further

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.

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 are available from the back of church, sacristy or the parish office.



Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us.

This May, the month traditionally dedicated to

Our Lady, we invite you to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish, enabling us to reach more hungry children.

You will find inspirational resources for our Pray In May campaign, including our prayer card, on our website:
www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Have you ever watched the TV and seen a report about someone who is doing sterling work, helping people and making a real difference to the world around them? And then you find out they don't even believe in God? That's because you don't have to believe in God to do good and you don't have to be a Christian to make a difference to the world. But today Jesus tells us that only those who 'remain' or 'abide' in him will be following the Christian path. So what does it mean to 'remain' in him?

A vine branch is lifeless and useless unless it remains attached to the vine. Inside it there is living sap that flows throughout the vine into each of the branches enabling each branch to produce fruit. For us to abide in the vine means that we are going to be people who are depending upon Christ and who are allowing the power and the Spirit of Christ to flow through us and in us. So, remaining in the vine means living our lives with the Trinity consciously present within us. And only if we do this will we bear fruit that will last as we become more and more like Christ. For when we 'remain' attached to the vine, we become more like Jesus and we want to tell others about the source of our life. When we become more like Jesus we pray more and our approach to life changes: we treat people more like Jesus did, we talk to people like Jesus did and we are prepared to go that extra mile like Jesus did.



One of the great risks that we run is to think that by our own effort we can make ourselves better and that we can make a lasting difference to our world. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are only branches of the vine and that branches cannot bear fruit all by themselves. We need to be attached to the trunk of the vine itself.

At the start of each day are we conscious of 'remaining' in Christ? Do we speak to Christ during our waking hours? Do we ask for help and support in the decisions we make? Are our lives a go-it-alone affair or are they lived in God's presence?

Anyone who bears fruit is doing something good. But Jesus tells us that only if we 'remain' in him and are part of the vine will our fruit last.

Employment Opportunities within Archdiocese of Liverpool

Follow the link for information packs and application forms for both posts
<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/jobs>

Communications Manager

Are you seeking a challenge? Can you play a pivotal role in supporting the Archdiocese in the furtherance of its mission and service, driving forward a step change in our approach to communications, using modern communication channels and platforms to reach out and engage with the wider world in fresh and creative ways? If so, then we would welcome an application from you for the post of Communications Manager. The Communications Manager, under the direction of the Trustees, and the Chief Operating Officer, will lead the strategic development, direction and day-to-day delivery of the Archdiocese communications, digital presence, and information management function. This is a new role, and the post holder will act as the principal communications adviser to senior clergy, parishes, and Archdiocesan officers, overseeing media and public relations, internal communications, IT, and information management along with brand and crisis management. • The role is full time, 35 hours per week (Monday – Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm), with the ability to work flexibly as per the needs of the business. • We are offering a salary of £45,000 plus an attractive pension package with 38 days holiday plus a range of other benefits. • A full information pack regarding this role and details of how to apply are available on our website at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/jobs. Communications Manager Closing date: 5pm Monday 10 May 2021 Interviews to be held Tuesday 1 June 2021

Director of Pastoral Development

The Pastoral Development Department is a significant and exciting development in the life of the Church in Liverpool, and we are looking for someone who can lead a new and agile department that responds to the existing and evolving needs of the Church and works alongside the Church to enable it to plan for its own sustainable future. Supporting the Synod process and areas such as Mission Development, Catechesis, Development, Procurement and Training, Ordained Ministry Development, Laity Development, Catholic Social Action and Stewardship this role is pivotal in supporting our Churches to maintain a faithful, healthy, and active presence in every part of the Archdiocese, now and in the future. If you are interested in joining us in carrying the messages of the Synod beyond the traditional walls of the Church into the communities we serve, we would love to hear from you. • The role is full time, 35 hours per week (Monday – Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm), with the ability to work flexibly as per the needs of the business. • We are offering a salary of £45,000 plus an attractive pension package with 38 days holiday plus a range of other benefits. • A full information pack regarding this role and details of how to apply are available on our website at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/jobs. Director of Pastoral Development Closing date: 5pm Monday 10 May 2021 Interviews to be held Wednesday 26 May 2021

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 soon!

