



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday 23rd May 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I sense the movement of the Holy Spirit in my life right now?  
Does it feel more like a gentle breath or a powerful wind from heaven?

## 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!**



## METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

### Recruitment for boy and girl choristers 2021

Do you know a child who would like to be a chorister at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King here in Liverpool? The search is now on for our next generation of Boy and Girl choristers. We are recruiting boys currently in year 2 & 3 and girls currently in year 5. All choristers are educated at Runnymede St Edward's Catholic Primary School (Boys, year 3-6) and St Edward's College (Boys & Girls, year 7-10.)

If you know of a Catholic family who might be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please share this information with them. Full details of choristerships at the Metropolitan Cathedral, alongside application forms and voice trial booking slots can be found at: [https://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs/?](https://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs/)

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

The Bishops of England and Wales are asking us to return to Sunday Mass now in our Churches that are as safe as we can manage, but know that if you still don't feel able to join us and receive Jesus in Holy Communion, each of you will be at the centre of every Mass we celebrate.....none of you are forgotten, all of you cherished by the Lord through His Church!

You can read the full statement on the Bishops' Conference website:  
[www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

How blest we are to have our beautiful church safely open again! It can only happen of course because of the commitment and diligence of our stewards.....and of course your cooperation with all the safety measures we have in place.

### 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, you will find the Synod2020 booklet at the back of church.



Please take the booklet, read and reflect on the recommendations and prioritise them from most important - not important. Once you have made your choices for each recommendation, please bring the completed booklet back to church and place it inside the Synod2020 box. This will help Sara, Gavin & Fr Mark make their final decisions on how to vote in June.

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

## WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

**Jade Woolcott**

Baptised Saturday 22nd May 2021

**Maleek Foster**

Baptised Sunday 23rd May 2021



## CORPUS CHRISTI

This annual celebration of the Body & Blood of Christ reminds us of the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. There will be a time of prayer and Benediction on Sunday 6th June, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, at 4 p.m. in church. All are welcome.

## Churches Together in Merseyside

### 'The Spirit at Work in the World'

The Ecumenical Pentecost Service will be on-line once again this year. The service is built around the Peace Doves installation at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and the theme of the Service is 'the Spirit at Work in the World.' The service is available on the two Cathedrals YouTube channels on Sunday at 3pm and here are the links:



[youtube.com/liverpoolcathedral](https://www.youtube.com/liverpoolcathedral); <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheMetropolitanCathedralLiverpool>

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 22nd May</b>	No Mass Baptism - Jade Woolcott
<b>Sunday 23rd May</b> <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism - Maleek Foster
<b>Monday 24th May</b>	10.00am Special intention (HG)
<b>Tuesday 25th May</b> <i>St Bede</i>	10.00am Mgr Austin Hunt LDSF
<b>Wednesday 26th May</b>	No Mass
<b>Thursday 27th May</b> <i>Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ The Eternal High Priest</i>	10.00am Marion Doran
<b>Friday 28th May</b>	10.00am John Dunn
<b>Saturday 29th May</b>	10.30am - First Holy Communions Baptism - Lavanha & Nahla Cooper
<b>Sunday 30th May</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism - Lucas Bunday

## PAPAL PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR MARY

In response to the Holy Father's heartfelt wish, the month of May will be dedicated to a "marathon" of prayer, to ask for the end of the pandemic, which has afflicted the world for more than a year now, and to ask for the resumption of social and work activities. Pope Francis wishes to involve all the Shrines around the world in this initiative, so that they may become vehicles of the prayer of the entire Church. The initiative is being conducted in the light of the biblical expression: ***"Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God"*** (Acts 12:5).

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, entrusted by the Holy Father with the task of organizing the event, has extended this invitation to all the Shrines around the world, in order to promote the diffusion of the initiative in the relevant Regions, so as to reach priests, families, and all the faithful, inviting them to join in this prayer of intercession and hope to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Together with the prayer of the Holy Rosary, each day of the month is characterized by a prayer intention for the various categories of people most affected by the plight of the pandemic: for those who have not been able to say goodbye to their loved ones, for all health care personnel, for the poor, the homeless and those in economic difficulty and for all the deceased. These are some of the intentions that will punctuate our prayer to Our Lady. Every Shrine around the world is invited to pray, in the language and manner used locally, asking for the resumption of social life, work and the many human activities that were suspended during the pandemic.

The official channels of the Holy See will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of these thirty Shrines at 6:00 p.m., according to time scheduled in Rome. A short liturgical guide has been prepared that provides further information. The guide in Italian, English and Spanish can be downloaded from [www.pcpne.va](http://www.pcpne.va)

## CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE - STONEYHURST

The Logos & Literature: Elaborating the Divine (online evening talks), 29 April - 8 July

A series of talks exploring some of the great themes of the Catholic Christianity in literature both old and new. Details and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/logos-and-literature/>

## **Pentecost Prayer**

**On this great Feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church we thank God for the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the life of the Church.**

**We pray for our Synod which will take place next month, and ask God to guide all those who will take part.**

**May this be a moment of blessing and renewal for all the members of the Church in the Archdiocese.**

**Merciful Father, Faithful God,**

**our Church has never lacked the life-giving presence of your Holy Spirit.**

**May your Holy Spirit always be at work among us, helping us to be more like Christ in our love of you and of our neighbour.**

**We ask your blessing upon our Synod.**

**May we be truly open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

**Help us to become ever more fully the Church that you are calling us to be.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**



## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

Next Saturday we have the first of three groups of our children who are making their First Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers as they take part in this most special Sacrament.



## **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

Margaret Cooper,  
Susan Hunt & Family



## 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.



## MARY'S MEALS

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady and we invite you to consider joining with parishes across the country to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. Our mission is carried out in Our Lady's name to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities.

Mary's Meals grew out of a response to the Bosnian conflict in the early 1990s. Since then we have been involved in emergency relief work in countries including Myanmar, Haiti, India, Kenya and Thailand. Mary's Meals is now providing life-giving and life-changing school meals to more than 1.8 million of the world's poorest children. Around 64 million of the world's hungriest children do not attend school. In order to survive they have to work or beg. Please pray for them as you pray the Rosary.

## PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA

The new shop is now open.  
Opening hours:  
Tuesday - Saturday:  
10am - 5pm  
Email:  
liverpool@pauline-uk.org  
Tel: 0151 709 1328  
84 Church Street,  
Liverpool, L1 3AY

## 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.



## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

An E-fit (Electronic Facial Identification Technique) is used to identify someone's features, usually when the police are investigating a crime. It is the most up-to-date computerised method of describing a person.



If today, Pentecost, we were to try and provide an E-fit of the Holy Spirit, what evidence could we offer?

At Jesus' baptism in the Jordan the Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a dove. We tend to think of peace when we think of doves. But anyone who tries to get close to a dove will know that they immediately fly away. They can't be tied down and they can only be studied by people who approach them calmly and slowly. The Holy Spirit cannot be "pigeon-holed" and only with prayer and reflection can we begin to understand his (or her?) machinations.

Of course, we are introduced to the Holy Spirit on the first page of the bible in the form of the breath of God hovering over the waters of the earth. The Spirit breathes life, inspires and vivifies. It is the Spirit that motivates us and enthuses our actions.

And in the story of the very first Pentecost we see two more characteristics of the Holy Spirit: wind and fire. The Spirit appears like a powerful wind from heaven and also as something that looks like tongues of fire. We sometimes speak about a "wind of change" that sweeps through a society or a continent. The Holy Spirit blows wherever he wills, bringing a blast of fresh air and then disappearing as quickly as he arrived. No one can catch the wind. And the tongues of fire burn to bring heat, light and warmth. Fire casts out darkness, provides comfort and enlightens.

We know a lot about the Spirit and yet we know almost nothing. Our E-fit would show a dove, breath, wind and fire. A strange mixture for a photo! Each time we get close to thinking that we have got a handle on the Holy Spirit we realise that the Spirit cannot be categorised. For the Spirit is the wind that blows through our cobwebs and changes our hearts. The Spirit is the flame of fervour that burns within us and makes us ardent witnesses to Christ. The Spirit is the very life-breath of God within us that inspires all we say and do. And today we recall the gift of the Spirit to the Church and the world.



## **SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR**

Could you be a Foundation Governor for one of our schools?

Service as a foundation governor in a Catholic school is one of the most significant and important ways members of the Catholic Faith community can support the Church's divine mission of helping all to arrive at the fullness of Christian life.

There are few specific requirements. However, a Foundation Governor must:

- Be a Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly and gives true witness to the teachings of the Church
- Be prepared to work with discretion as a member of the full governing body and attend training events to help build up a body of knowledge and expertise
- Bring a wider skill set to enhance the wider Governing Body in undertaking its collective duties to lead the school and meet the contemporary requirements of the Department for Education and Ofsted

Our two parish schools currently requires new Foundation Governors and there may be opportunities in other Catholic schools in the area. Please contact Fr Mark directly if you feel able to support our wonderful schools in this way.

## **STANDING ORDER**

Fr Mark explained the difficulty in banking coins with HSBC from the beginning of August when the counter service at the Bootle branch comes to an end. On average we bank more coins than notes each week.

Standing Order is an easy way of making your weekly donation to the parish. Just one simple form is all it takes and we encourage you to consider this as it has many benefits:

\*You won't need to look for money each week. You can still use your weekly envelopes and place an empty one in the basket. The amount you specify on the form goes from your bank account into the parish account.

\*Reducing the amount of money left on the premises is better for safety.

\*We reduce the amount of coins banked each week.

Please do consider setting up a Standing Order and we will happily help in completing the one form. Contact the Parish Office.

## **A message from Friends of the Holy Land**

Our friends in the Holy Land need our help more than ever at the moment. 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 can 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 full details and how to register and take part please go to:  
<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost>

Bernie, Sara and Stephanie Coxon have registered as a team - if you would just like to sponsor them you can do so at:  
[fhl.enthuse.com/pf/bernadette-coxon](http://fhl.enthuse.com/pf/bernadette-coxon)

## **CAFOD & INDIA**

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns and set up safely run isolation and quarantine centres. You can donate online here: [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give). Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

## **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

Please collect your new box of envelopes from the church porch as soon as possible.  
Thank you.

