



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

9th May 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How am I being called to sacrifice my own priorities in order to serve others?

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

CHURCHES OPEN

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!

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, 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 distributed last weekend and further copies are available at back of Church
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.

Feast of the Week

St Matthias

According to tradition Matthias was one of the seventy-two whom Christ sent out, two by two, during his ministry to preach and to heal the sick. From the Acts of the Apostles we know that St. Matthias was with Christ from the time of his baptism until the time of his ascension. When a successor was needed for Judas, two candidates were selected, Matthias and Barnabas. After the apostles prayed, they cast lots and Matthias was chosen. From this time onwards he was always numbered among the Twelve. He received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost with the other eleven.



St. Matthias preached the Gospel in Judea, and is then believed to have established the faith in Cappadocia and on the coast of the Caspian Sea. He was martyred at Colchis, in modern-day Georgia, and his body remained for a long time in Jerusalem. It is believed to have been taken to Rome by St. Helena in the fourth century.

We celebrate his Feast day on Friday.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 8th May	No Mass
Sunday 9th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 10th May	10.00am Elsie Smartt
Tuesday 11th May	10.00am Joseph O'Callaghan
Wednesday 12th May	No Mass
Thursday 13th May <i>The Ascension of The Lord</i>	9.15 am Funeral Mass - Angela Reece 12 noon People of the Parish 6.00 pm Perpetual Mass List
Friday 14th May <i>St Matthias</i>	10.00am Evelyn Bisson
Saturday 15th May	No Mass
Sunday 16th May <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

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

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

We celebrate the funeral Mass on Thursday for Angela Reece. 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.



WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2021

This annual day of prayer is celebrated next Sunday, 16th May. The theme for the 2021 World Day of Social Communications, chosen by Pope Francis, echoes the words of the Apostle Philip, recognising that authentic communication leads to *“encountering people as and where they are”*.

On World Communications Day, we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. Vital to this is good communication - through our websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to forge positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people.

There will be a retiring collection next Sunday to help in this work.

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. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

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.

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.

For more information: 0800 6981212 or visit www.marysmeals.org.uk



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Religious people often see non-religious people as outsiders. This no doubt stems from the fact that to espouse a religion is no light matter; it means taking a step that is the basis of our whole being and orientation. For religion is a life option not a leisure activity.

In the Old Testament the Jewish people considered themselves to be the chosen people of God to the extent that they kept clear of all dealings with the 'nations', the surrounding peoples and cultures. When prophets like Isaiah came along and in God's name foretold that all these pagan nations would be welcome to offer worship on the holy mountain of Jerusalem, it profoundly shocked the religious sensitivities of their audience.

In the New Testament Peter makes an astounding discovery: that God has no favourites and that anyone who tries to do God's will is acceptable to God. This comes after thousands of pagans have listened to his preaching and have received the same Holy Spirit with which he himself has been anointed.



Things haven't changed that much. We have an inbuilt tendency to think of those who do not share our faith as being on a different plane to us. Yet one thing is clear: God gives his Spirit to anyone he thinks is striving to do his will. And this should make us stop and think: we have no monopoly on truth and goodness. While we know that our Church possesses the gifts of the Holy

Spirit, it is patently obvious that the Spirit blows through Jewish people, through Muslims, through Buddhists and Hindus...in fact, even through those who do not even believe. For all goodness and truth comes from God.

Living our faith in the power of the Spirit is a real challenge, because it dares us to look at our surroundings and discern the people and events that God is using today to speak to us. And of course sometimes these people and events are the last ones we would ever expect to be mouthpieces of God. But when it comes to choosing people, God has no favourites. Anyone who strives to do his will is acceptable.

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.

PAX CHRISTI

In the week from 15 to 21 May, Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid19. Fausta is having a dance-a-thon, Bruce is delivering a peace message to foreign embassies in London, Matt is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, Pat is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, Rachel will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi's 75th anniversary. More fundraisers are joining in the fun Please go to their website www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/ for details on how you can sponsor them.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

This holy day is celebrated on Thursday with two Masses that day:
12noon & 6.00 p.m.

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!

