



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

16th May 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What specifically can I do this week to give of myself to someone else?

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!

ROTAS Rotas for Readers & Eucharistic Ministers are now ready for collection from the sacristy. Having rotas back is another sign that things are slowly getting back to normal.

Many thanks to Jack for looking after this.

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/?>

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

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...



Margaret Cooper,
Susan Hunt &
Family

WEEKDAY MASS

Fr Mark is in London this week for meetings so there will be no Mass on Thursday or Friday. We also welcome back Fr Stephen.

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.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" MAY DRAW

1st £20 No. 116 B Johnson

2nd £15 No. 73 J Chew

3rd £10 No. 77 R Butler

4th £10 No. 36 A Davies



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 15th May	No Mass
Sunday 16th May <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 17th May	10.00am Lena Skitt
Tuesday 18th May	10.00am Mr & Mrs O'Neill
Wednesday 19th May	No Mass
Thursday 20th May	No Mass
Friday 21st May	No Mass
Saturday 22nd May	No Mass Baptism - Jade Woolcott
Sunday 23rd May <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism—Maleek Foster

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

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/>

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2021

This annual day of prayer is celebrated this 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 as you leave church to help in this work.

Feast of the Week St. Dunstan

Born in 909 near Glastonbury and educated at the abbey. After ordination as priest at Winchester, he returned to Glastonbury briefly, but was so called to the royal court. Dunstan was appointed Abbot of Glastonbury. He set about restoring monastic life, which had been almost extinguished under Danish invasions.



in 995, through intrigue at court, he was exiled to Ghent and he saw for the first time a reformed monastery on the continent.

Recalled by King Edgar at bath, he became successively Bishop of Worcester, London and Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dunstan died in 988 and his feast day is celebrated on Wednesday.

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.

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 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.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

No one has ever seen God,' St. John writes today, which is absolutely true. However, he goes on to reveal how we can come closest to seeing God.

First of all, humans were created in the image of God. No matter our size, shape, or colour, each and every one of us was made in the image of God. Therefore, every person is a reflection of God himself. So when we look at someone with love, we are looking at God. In that sense, when we love one another, when we reach out in love to another person, we are loving God. No wonder St. John goes on to say that 'as long as we love one another, God will live in us. When we truly love someone else, with all the demands and challenges that selfless love brings, we approach God.

Indeed, 'God is love'. John uses the Greek word *agape*, regarded as the highest form of love: an unconditional, selfless, total devotion to another. Its greatest examples are found in scripture. God remained ever devoted to the Chosen People, despite their faithlessness. Jesus paid the ultimate price for his devotion, accepting death on a cross out of self-sacrificial love for the entire human race.



At the end of Jesus' lengthy farewell speech to his disciples after the Last Supper, he turns his attention to God the Father, making this great prayer (Jesus' High Priestly Prayer) right in front of them, referring to them, often praying specifically for them, as in the passage we hear today. He prays that they — along with all who come to believe through them — may all be one. Obviously, the unity of his followers is very important, as they are consecrated in the image and likeness of God. But there is something else, and that is in the force that binds all disciples together. It is love. Selfless love bound them and binds us together and binds us in Christ to God. When Jesus prays for unity, he is also praying for us to live in the love that keeps us united.

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 last weekend 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

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 full details and how to register and take part please go to:
<https://www.friendsoftheholylnd.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

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.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

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

