



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 20th June 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Would Jesus ask me, 'Do you not yet have faith?' Does my faith strengthen and console me during times of trial?

RESTRICTIONS

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.

If you are vulnerable or show COVID symptoms you must stay at home.

Baptisms have resumed with up to 30 persons present.

The maximum number of people allowed to attend a funeral at English Martyrs will be 70 persons

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.

POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE

The Beauty of Marriage



Let us pray
for young
people who
are prepar-
ing for marriage with
the support of a
Christian community:
may they grow in
love, with generosity,
faithfulness and
patience

Lord in your mercy...

Update from CAFOD

Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. Just in Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID- 19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

We are very grateful to all who keep CAFOD and our partners overseas in their prayers.

DAY FOR LIFE

We celebrate *Day for Life* on Sunday 20 June 2021. This day, inaugurated by Saint John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists pro-life organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach.

Global Pandemic

The fragility of life and the reality of death has been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Yet in the face of such suffering and death, we have also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. We too have each made sacrifices for the greater good during this pandemic. These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

Assisted Dying

Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.

This year's theme for *Day for Life* focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

Donate

Day for Life adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in the pews supporting our work.

In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater.

Day for Life is a simple, practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.'

Please support the collection at Mass today.

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/>

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE

We started this Bible course in 2020 but was interrupted with the first lockdown. Fr Mark is hoping we can restart it from Thursday 16th September, 7 p.m. in the presbytery. Please give your name to the Parish office if you would like to join this exciting course.



Many Catholics want to read the Bible but get bogged down by the long passages that seem not to make sense or get lost among the sea of Biblical names and places. This eight-part Bible study helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it’s all about. The evening will consist of a 30 min video presentation followed by a time of reflection. Come and join us.

CONFIRMATION

Over 750 young people from across the Archdiocese have registered for the sacrament of Confirmation. Registrations for this year will close on 26 June.

If you know of anyone in Year 8 or 9 who would like to be confirmed, please ask them to register at www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

IRENAEUS PROJECT

‘The word of the Lord endures forever.’ Reflections on the Letters of Peter & Jude by Fr Chris Thomas.

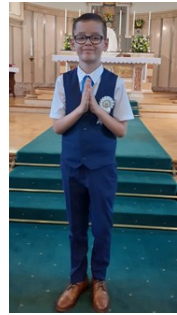
These will take place on zoom on Thursdays 17th & 24th June and 1st July from 10.30 am - 12noon. To book your place please contact Jenny on jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

Masses & Services for the coming week

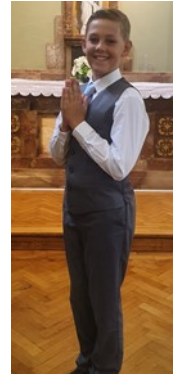
DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 19th June	No Mass
Sunday 20th June <i>Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> <i>Feast of St Alban</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 21st June	10.00am Margaret Young
Tuesday 22nd June	10.00am Ann Buck
Wednesday 23rd June	No Mass
Thursday 24th June	10.00am Terry Hulme 12.30 Funeral service - Monica Green
Friday 25th June	10.00am Anne Lambertson
Saturday 26th June	No Mass
Sunday 27th June <i>Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish



The final group of
children who
made their First
Holy Communion
last week.



CONGRATULATIONS



SYNOD2020

This weekend sees the climax of nearly four years of prayer, discussions and lots of work for our Archdiocesan Synod - SYNOD2020. Members of the Synod gathered together yesterday to focus on the recommendations and to vote on their priorities. Thank you for your help with this as you indicated your priorities and preferences. Today the Synod members will gather in the Cathedral for Mass with the Archbishop. Archbishop Malcolm and a team of people from the diocese and from around the country will spend a week away from Monday 12th July to discuss, pray and begin to write a Pastoral Plan which the Archbishop will make public at the end of November.



A huge thank you to Gavin Williams and Sara Coxon for their dedication and hard work these past four years; their work is now done!

Settlement Scheme for European Citizens

A reminder that EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were living in the UK by 31 December 2020 have until 30 June 2021 to apply for the Settlement Scheme. Those who do not apply are at risk of losing their rights to live and work here or access important services such as healthcare. Please note that Irish citizens do not need to apply. All the relevant information can be found on the official Government website (www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families), from the European Commission (www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know) or from the charity Settled (www.settled.org.uk).

AD MULTOS ANNOS

You will remember Nadeem Giacaman, the Seminarian from the Holy Land who stayed with us in July 2019. Nadeem was ordained priest in Bethlehem on Saturday and we wish him many congratulations and pray that the Lord will guide and bless him and the people he will serve. Wajdi Sahawneh, the other student who stayed with us will be ordained priest in Jordan in August along with the two students who should have stayed last year.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!!

1. Fr Mark celebrates his 25th anniversary of ordination on Tuesday 13th July. Please join him for Mass at 7.00 p.m. We hope to have a reception afterwards.



2. A parish Christmas day out to York on Saturday 4th December.

3. A pilgrimage to Walsingham from Monday 11th - Thursday 14th July 2022. Staying in Elmham House - the Shrine's Pilgrim Hotel. Twin & triple rooms with only a few single rooms are available. The trip will include a full day pilgrimage in Walsingham and a day out to Sandringham. Price is not yet available. Please give your name to the parish office if interested.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE (June 22nd)



John Fisher was born in 1469 and became Bishop of Rochester. Thomas More was born in 1478 and became Chancellor of England. Trouble arose for both of them when King Henry VIII decided to seek a declaration that his marriage with Catherine of Aragon was null on the grounds of consanguinity (blood relationship). Fisher and More disagreed with him, and would not yield, either on the question of the annulment, nor later, when they were required to acknowledge the king as the final authority on ecclesiastical questions in England. Henry had them imprisoned and then eventually beheaded. John Fisher was executed on June 22nd 1535 and Thomas More on July 6th 1535.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JUNE DRAW

1st £20 No. 79 M McQuade

2nd £15 No. 4 B Benbow

3rd £10 No. 64 J Caunce

4th £10 No. 6 B Morrin



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

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

When we teach children about the calming of the storm we use a well tried and tested route. We talk about not having to get upset when things go wrong because Jesus is there to take care of it. And there's nothing wrong with this.

But adults are nagged by a further question. Jesus was sleeping. What happens when our world is turned upside down and God seems just to have dozed off, unaware of what we are going through and helpless to come to our aid? And at certain times in our lives God can seem to be a Rip Van Winkle god, one who can't be roused at all.



No sensible person expects God to be at our beck and call calming every minor storm that brews up in our lives. God is not a jack-in-the-box who jumps out when we release the catch.

So in today's gospel story it is worth noticing that Jesus does not rebuke the disciples for being afraid in the boat. He remonstrates with them for their lack of faith. Their fear is only natural but he chides them for not overcoming their fear. Although they greatly admired Jesus, for whom they had left everything, they showed that they didn't really know who he was. *Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.*

The apostles, like us, were men of faith who honoured God but who kept God at a distance because they were afraid to let him into their inner lives where he might see their pettiness. When the storm raged they were afraid, but they were even more fearful when Jesus calmed the storm. Could it be that they were uncomfortable to find that God was right next to them? Could they have preferred God to remain asleep?

How close are we prepared to come to God without being afraid? Our lives are full of sea crossings, of storms, winds and tempests. We are tossed on the waves of so many rough experiences. But the acid test of our faith comes in what we do when we feel that God is taking a nap, when we feel completely alone. The truth is, of course, that God never sleeps. It's just that our faith has trouble rousing him. And this type of faith, being comfortable with God, is the necessary condition for our arriving safely at the other side of the lake.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It's great to welcome back our happy band of Church Cleaners who would love more volunteers to help them keep English Martyrs looking spotless. Give your name to the Parish Office.



We also desperately need more people willing to wash the church linen as we only have 1 person doing this. Have a word with Cathy Smartt or give your name to the Parish Office.

SAFEGUARDING Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Catholic Church of England and Wales, the Church of England or the Church in Wales.

Opening Times:

Monday: Tuesday; Wednesday 10am – 6pm

Thursday: 12pm – 8pm

Friday: Saturday 10am – 6pm

Sunday: Closed

Website: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/

How can we help? - Remote support is provided nationally through our helpline and Live Chat for as long as our clients feel they need it and it is deemed to be helpful. We can help with advocating with authorities and other agencies, giving you emotional support, providing information (including information on church and police procedures), understanding your needs and working together on individual support plans. Our Services are for people aged 18 or over, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the perpetrator is living or deceased. You do not have to have reported the incident to the Church authorities or the Police in order to access support. Our service is for people who have experienced any kind of abuse – this includes (but is not limited to) sexual violence, inappropriate sexual behaviour, physical abuse, financial abuse or exploitation, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour.

