



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 22nd August 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What specific action can I take to show my commitment to remain a disciple of our Lord?

ADVICE TO PARISHES

Due to the fact that the pandemic is far from over it is not the intention to restore an obligation to the attendance at Sunday Mass at this point. Please remember the importance of keeping Sunday holy and if possible attending Mass weekly.

1. Face coverings must still be worn for all those coming to church. (Exemptions for genuine medical reasons excluded)
2. Social distancing will not be mandatory in our churches but please be mindful of other people who may want to keep a distance.
3. You must sanitise your hands before you enter a church. There will be no need to sanitise your hands as you leave.
4. The numbers for weddings, funerals and baptisms are limited to a safe capacity of each church building.
5. Holy Communion is now restored to its traditional place. People should approach Holy Communion row by row and not in a haphazard way.
6. Holy Communion is to be given on the hand. Holy Communion under both kinds will not be re-introduced at this time.
7. Mass will end in the traditional way.
8. Singing can gradually be restored and hymn books are allowed but can only be used once a day.
9. The collection bags should still not be passed around.
10. The sign of peace can be restored but without any touching, ie by a handshake.
11. Ministers of the Eucharist can take Holy Communion to the sick & housebound but with the appropriate caution.

Further details may emerge in the coming weeks and we will keep you informed.

NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP

The Archbishop of Liverpool announced on Tuesday 6 July 2021 that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Canon Thomas Neylon of the Archdiocese of Liverpool to be Bishop of Plestia and Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool.



The Archbishop has confirmed that he will ordain Canon Neylon as Bishop on Friday 3 September at 12noon in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

There will be unreserved seats in the Cathedral for people who wish to attend, and whilst tickets are not being issued, we need to know if you are intending to celebrate this special occasion and will be attending the Mass by emailing c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

We would ask that you are in your seats by 11.30am.

Please note that parking will be restricted at the Cathedral.

POPE FRANCIS

PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.



Lord in your mercy...

MASS TIMES

Please note that throughout August and on 2/3 September the weekday Mass will be at 10.15am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

Fr Mark recently announced that we will resume the Saturday evening Mass after the Summer holidays. The first Mass will be on Saturday 18th September at 4.30 p.m.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

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.



FACE MASKS

We remind you of the current rule, issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and endorsed by the Archdiocese, with regards to the wearing of face masks:

“Face coverings will remain mandatory for all those coming to Mass and/or a church service. (Exemptions for genuine medical reasons excluded.) We must ensure that people wear face coverings properly over both nose & mouth which will reduce aerosol or droplet spread.”

CBCEW Covid-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance. Archdiocesan Letter to Priests (14th July 2021).

We ask everyone coming to church to follow this rule. Thank you.

IRENÆUS PROJECT

The Irenaeus project have extended their outreach programme to the wider community and are looking for volunteers to assist them to cover various aspects of the project. If you have any extra time available and would like to volunteer, please contact us on 0151 949 1199 or email: therese@irenaeus.co.uk

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 21st August	No Mass Baptism - Emilia & Caleb Burgess
Sunday 22nd August <i>21st Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Eileen Dempsey Baptism - Connie Roach
Monday 23rd August	10.15am James Brown
Tuesday 24th August	10.15am Owen Deary
Wednesday 25th August	No Mass
Thursday 26th August	10.15am Lynn Miller
Friday 27th August	10.15am Emma Rimmer
Saturday 28th August	No Mass Baptism - Joseph Williams
Sunday 29th August <i>22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am James & Hannah Ashcroft Baptism - Daisy Leigh Johnson

CAFOD

responding to multiple emergencies across the world



CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

SYNOD 2020 UPDATE

After all the Synod votes were counted and considered the next step was a meeting with the Archbishop, his council and the Pastoral Plan Group. This took place at the Pastoral Centre of the Leeds Diocese for 5 days from July 12th.

During this week the votes on the 19 Recommendations took centre stage. These votes, the Synod Themes and the 27,000 contributions of the listening stage were allowed to direct and speak to the development of ideas for the pastoral plan. Alongside this the prayer and liturgy of each day inspired our thoughts and plans. At the centre of this was Christ himself whose light was shed on our Synod and on the realities of the world in which we are called to minister and live.

It was a hard week but one full of life and energy. By the Thursday a way forward was beginning to emerge. It is challenging but also life giving and most of all faithful to Christ experienced through the discernment that has been our pattern of working throughout the whole synod journey.

The ideas, and there were many of them, have surfaced. The next stage is for a writing group to gather (for a week) and to try to present what has emerged in a way that we can put it into place and make a difference. The Archbishop and his council will review the Plan; the Pastoral Plan Group will meet again for 3 days in September and then we will work out how to rollout the Plan towards it being shared at the end of November.

We will keep updating you as steps emerge.



ST JOHN

For most of August the Gospel reading on Sunday will be taken from the Gospel of St. John. It is worth reflecting on this beautiful book and look at the background which will help us in our reading and proclamation. We are looking at this in our newsletter over these few weeks. This week:

Background to John's Gospel

The other three gospels are known as the 'synoptic' gospels because they largely view and organise their material along the same lines. John's is the odd one out. It was probably written between 90 and 110AD and so comes a long time after the events of Jesus' life and death and certainly after the other three accounts. Instead of grouping his material in a chronological narrative, John uses it to develop theological themes which he expands into conversations (discourses) between Jesus and various characters. He does this to show the different power and effect that Jesus has on those who encounter him and respond in faith, intending that his readers should also experience that same power. John has a 'Poet's Eye' in the way he uses symbolism to get across the teaching of Jesus. For example, the clay that Jesus puts on the eyes of the blind man is symbolic of the clay of creation, creating a new life for the blind man. The latter part of his gospel synthesises the mystery of Christ by summing it up in a series of 'one liners' in which Jesus says 'I AM the...' Bread of Life, Light of the World, Good Shepherd, True Vine, Sheepfold, Way, Truth and Life, and Resurrection and the Life.

The purpose of all of this is to present Jesus as the fullness of life and to show how God communicates his life to men and women through their encounter with Christ.

In next week's newsletter we will look at what John says

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!!

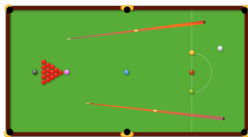


1. Mass for the Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Saturday 18th September at 11.00 a.m. Archbishops Malcolm & Patrick with Members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre will join us.
2. A parish Christmas day out to York on Saturday 4th December.
3. A pilgrimage to Walsingham from Monday 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.

SNOOKER CLUB

We have a parishioner who is kindly now running an afternoon snooker club on the same day as pensioners for any who would like to join him. Cues, chalk and all equipment will be provided together with tuition if needed - and of course it is an opportunity for a chat with a cuppa and a biscuit!

Please telephone Ian on 07983 982670 to register your interest as numbers will be limited.



It is so nice that we can now have these things back up and running so please come and join us and show your support.

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY



Emilia & Caleb Burgess
Baptised Saturday 21st August 2021

Connie Roach
Baptised Sunday 22nd August 2021



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Joshua (a variant of the name Jesus) gives his people three options. The gods 'beyond the River' (24:15) are their distant ancestors' gods, from before Abraham and Sarah. Nostalgia would inspire this choice. 'The gods of the Amorites' (24:15) are those of their current non-Jewish neighbours. Choosing this option would ease their acceptance as foreigners. But they all choose to remain loyal to the Lord. After all, their God led them out of slavery, gave them hope during their hardships in the desert, and guided them to the Promised Land. By our baptism, God has rescued us from the slavery of sin, given us the hope of eternal life, and guided us along right paths. Alternative paths may be easier or more socially acceptable, but our moral conscience tells us that these are not the values that will lead us to our eternal home.

Today's second reading begins with an unfortunate analogy too reflective of its time, but the second half is the point. Christ is the head of the Church. This is why we often call the Church the body of Christ. Like a married couple's love, which leads one spouse to sacrifice their own desires for the other, Christ's love for us - the Church - led him to sacrifice himself for our salvation. His body is the living bread that gives us life eternal.

A little context might help in today's Gospel, which begins with 'This is intolerable language How could anyone accept it?') John 6:60). What languages? What did we miss? This: Jesus had just told them that he is the living bread and that in order for them to have life they must eat his flesh and drink his blood. Yes, this is much harder to handle than the multiplication of the loaves and fish, which must have seemed like a lifetime ago. Sadly, but unsurprisingly, many of his disciples bailed. But no matter how confused or shocked the Twelve may have been, Peter drills down at once to the essential truth: 'You have the message of eternal life' .(6:68) Each time we respond Amen we affirm our acceptance of Jesus' challenging words.

Amen!

FIRST COMMUNION 2022

Registration forms for children in Year 4 (from September) are now available for those who would like to make their First Communion in Spring 2022. Forms can be collected from the Parish Office.



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.

TEST & TRACE

In order to support the NHS Test and Trace programme, we are taking contact details for all those coming to church. If you have downloaded the NHS Test & Trace App on your smart phone you can scan the QR code instead which is displayed in church.

In line with guidance issued by the Department for Health and Social Care, we will keep your details safely and in compliance with GDPR legislation for 21 days before securely disposing of or deleting them. We will only share your details with NHS Test and Trace, if asked, in the event that it is needed to help stop the spread of coronavirus. We will not use your details for any other purposes or pass them on to anyone else.

More detail about CAFOD's response to world emergencies :

On Saturday 14 August, a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti. More than 1900 people have been killed and at least one million more people are affected. Tropical storm Grace has now hit Haiti, exacerbating the already serious emergency. CAFOD is working through the local Church organisations, Caritas Haiti, the Jesuit Migrants and Refugees Service, the religious congregations and sister agency Catholic Relief Services to provide urgent humanitarian aid - food, water, tents, hygiene kits and first aid for families affected.



In Afghanistan, we are shocked and gravely concerned by the Taliban take-over of the vast majority of the country. The generosity and compassion of our Catholic community have allowed us to stand together with communities in Afghanistan since the 1980s, supporting local organisations committed to improving the lives of vulnerable and marginalised people. As you will appreciate, the situation in Afghanistan is uncertain and changing rapidly. Our Emergency Response Team are assessing how best to respond. We are doing everything possible to ensure the immediate well-being of local partners and the communities they serve. Please keep the people of Afghanistan in your prayers.

We are also responding to serious food shortages in Africa – in Ethiopia's Tigray region, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. Families across these three countries face extreme hunger because of a deadly combination of Covid, climate change and protracted conflict. A recent UN report identifies hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan, and north-east Nigeria as "catastrophic". We have committed £500,000 already to get food and clean water to hundreds of thousands of people. With further support local aid workers will be able to scale up their response to reach more women, children, men, the elderly and people with disabilities with the food they urgently need.

Thank you for your solidarity, your prayers and your support for CAFOD's work across the world. We share this prayer with you in this time of crisis.

In Your Shoes

Community Hub

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come along and enjoy mixing with others and making new friends, joining in our activities, learning new skills and/or gaining qualifications

At the Hub we will be offering:


- Education, Training & Qualifications
- Food Bank Vouchers
- Activities and Fun Events
- Community Shop
- Confidential Support, Advice & Signposting
- Autism Friendly Activities
- Meeting/Activity Room Hire
- Day Trips

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 2.30pm

In Your Shoes Community Hub
100 Moss Lane. Litherland. L21 7NJ.

For more information please don't hesitate
to contact Paula, Marie or Nicola

Tel: 0151 345 9611 or email: theteam@inyourshoes.org.uk

Find us on facebook  or at www.inyourshoes.org.uk 