



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 29th August 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCMS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What will I do this week to put God's word into action? Has God's word truly penetrated my heart?

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 SEPTEMBER

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

*Lord in your
mercy...*



THANK YOU!!!

This week we say 'farewell' to Fr Stephen who leaves us on Friday. His help whilst Fr Mark has been away has been tremendous and we cannot thank him enough for looking after us this Summer. We will see him again for a few masses in the coming weeks but for now we wish him a very well deserved rest!!

Thank you Fr
Stephen!



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.

We have a few funerals this week:

Wednesday 1st September 10.00am - Service Joseph Gordon

Thursday 2nd September 11.00am - Mass Ellen Higham

Friday 3rd September 12.30pm - service Maureen Clark

Also:

Monday 13th September 11.00am - service Margaret Duncalf

May they all rest in peace and rise in Glory



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
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
Monday 30th August <i>St Edmund Arrowsmith</i>	10.15am Derek Forrest
Tuesday 31st August	10.15am Almiela Wales
Wednesday 1st September	10.00am Funeral Service - Joseph Gordon
Thursday 2nd September	11.00am Funeral Mass - Ellen Higham
Friday 3rd September <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	10.15am Debbie Rice 12.30pm - Funeral service - Maureen Clark
Saturday 4th September	No Mass Baptism - Donnie Robson
Sunday 5th September <i>23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism - Penny Long

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

This week is the final 'instalment' of our reflection on St John's Gospel:

What does John's say?

The gospel of John is divided into five sections. It begins with a Prologue (1: 1-18) in which it presents Jesus as the completion of salvation history, the Word of God who was made flesh and lived among us. In the second section (1: 19-34) John makes it clear that Jesus is the long-expected Messiah, anointed by the Holy Spirit. Some suggest that to counteract opposition from John the Baptist's supporters he heavily points out that John was not the Light but merely a witness to it. The longest section is the Book of Signs (1: 35-12: 50) in which Jesus is shown to be the Word incarnate through a series of miracles (signs) and conversations with various people which John has Jesus comment on. The Book of the Passion (13: 1-20: 31) contains the events of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection as well as his appearances after the resurrection. The final section (Chapter 21) is almost an appendix but reminds us of the fact that we as Church are commissioned to carry on the work of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mighty Acts

'The gospel is a glorious declaration of the mighty acts of God when he invaded this earth in the person of his eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.'
(John Blanchard)

John's Gospel in the Liturgy

When the scriptures are proclaimed at the liturgy in Roman Catholic worship, and in much of Anglican worship, there are usually four passages that are read each Sunday. The first is taken from the Old Testament (except during Easter). This is followed by a psalm and then a reading from one of the letters of the New Testament. The climax of the liturgy of the word comes in the gospel. The three-year cycle of gospel readings uses Matthew, Mark and Luke for the ordinary Sundays of the year. John's gospel is reserved mainly for the seasons of Lent and Easter and occurs in Years A, B and C. In Lent there is an emphasis on the effect that Jesus has upon us through our baptism and we glimpse the encounters with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and Lazarus. During Holy Week the passages from John are taken from his Book of the Passion. In Eastertide we listen to Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper and his prayer for the disciples (including us) as well as the section on the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating, as tens of thousands more Afghans flee their homes, compounding an existing crisis following decades of conflict and drought. Afghan families displaced inside the country and those who have reached neighbouring countries need humanitarian assistance – the basics of life: food, water and shelter. You can help by donating through the CAFOD website – cafod.org.uk

Pope Francis has expressed his “unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan”. He called for prayers “so that the clamour of weapons may cease, and solutions may be found at the negotiating table”. Please continue to keep the people of Afghanistan in your thoughts and prayers:

*Almighty God, in our distress and grief
help us to remember that you love us.
We do not understand why this great disaster
has happened but help us to trust you.*

*Loving Lord,
for those who have died, give them eternal rest
for those who are bereaved, comfort and console them
for those who are hurt, heal and strengthen them.
Lord God, enable us to help our suffering brothers
and sisters in whatever way we can.
Heavenly Father be with us now and always.
Amen.*

CAFOD
Just one world

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Jesus quotes Isaiah when responding to the Pharisees and scribes: 'This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me' (Mark 7:6). How do we honour the Lord with our hearts rather than our lips? For Moses, it was by obedience. Obedience to God's commandments, whole and entire, is what he demanded from the people. Living in accord with God's commands was possible when one took God's word to heart. It would then in turn inspire nonbelievers because they would recognise the wisdom and intelligence behind these laws after seeing the justice and well-being of the Chosen People.

Jesus paints a vivid picture of hypocrisy by quoting Isaiah's contrast between lips and hearts, between giving lip service and being moved in our hearts to do something. It is not that what we say is unimportant, but it is not nearly as important as our impulses and motivations within our hearts. Jesus lists all sorts of detestable impulses that can come from within our hearts, qualities and behaviour that defile our purity much more seriously than failing to purify our hands or our belongings. If your outward cleanliness does not reflect your inner attitude, it has lost its meaning.

How do we show our gratitude to someone who's given us something wonderful? We may give them something in return or we can share it with someone else. James tells us that every perfect gift comes from God and in fact God has planted the word of truth in each of us. What should we do with that word of God in us? James is clear: 'you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves' (James 1:22). To thank God for giving us the word, we share it, we put it into action.



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.



Our Lady Queen of Peace Some of you may recall the problems we had with vandals who destroyed the beautiful statue of Mary that was in the garden at Our Lady's. The daughter of one of the Syro Malabar parishioners took the repair on as a project after she finished her GCSE's. He has sent some photos of the amazing job she has done on the repair. It is absolutely lovely and is now back in



the Church. A massive well done and thank you to Jessica!



2022 Archdiocese Directory and Ordo

It is time to order next year's directory and Ordo. Please let the office know if you wish to order a copy of either of these.

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.

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY



Joseph Albie Williams
Baptised Saturday 28th August 2021

Daisy Leigh Johnson
Baptised Sunday 29th August 2021



Season of Creation

During the last eighteen months, many of us have been aghast at those who remain sceptical about the Covid-19 pandemic and see it as some sort of conspiracy. Sadly, there are plenty of people who view the constant warnings about climate change in a similar way. However, the evidence is undisputable, and the latest report from the United Nations warns us that if we don't take action now, the damage to the earth, our common home, will be irreversible. Just this month we have heard about terrible fires in Europe and the United States, as well as unprecedented flooding in various cities.

In 2015, Pope Francis issued an encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, about these issues and established a Season of Creation in the Church's Year to help us to focus on the cry of the earth. The season begins this week with the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' on 1 September and runs until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October.

More information will be shared over the coming weeks.

Following the recent 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti around half a million children need emergency humanitarian assistance.



Tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed and there is widespread fear of further damage and danger as aftershocks continue. People are in urgent need of food, safe water, and shelter.

Mary's Meals has been feeding schoolchildren in Haiti for 15 years and works closely with four well-established and trusted local partners across the country. Many communities were already vulnerable as the Caribbean nation continued to grapple with ongoing political unrest and the long-term damage created by previous natural disasters, so this latest catastrophe has left hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need.

Our partners are co-ordinating an emergency response, to deliver emergency ration packs of essential food items to families in the worst affected areas.

Please give if you can, to help families in desperate hardship - marysmeals.org.uk

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