



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 12th September 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I put my faith into action? When do I resist putting my faith into action?

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.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS (September 14th)



Generation after generation passes. And in the midst of this passing, the Cross of Christ remains. Through the Cross, God continuously proclaims to the world the infinite love which no created evil is able to overcome. Yes, the Cross remains, so that in it the world, indeed every human person, may find the way of salvation. For it is by this Cross that the world is saved!



(Pope St John Paul II)

MASS FOR THE EXALTATION OF THE TRUE CROSS

Mass will be celebrated at English Martyrs next Saturday at 11:00 for the Feast of the Exaltation of the True Cross.

Archbishop Malcolm will be the Main Celebrant, visiting clergy and a few members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Please come along and join us.

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...



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.

MASS TIMES - Please note that there is NO MASS on Tuesday this week (14th September)

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 7th October, 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 drop-let 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.

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.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 11th September	No Mass Baptism - Daisy Belle Peake
Sunday 12th September <i>24th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism - Ethan Price
Monday 13th September	10.00am Jacqui & Anne Marie Morley 11am - Funeral service Margaret Duncalf
Tuesday 14th September	NO MASS
Wednesday 15th September	NO MASS
Thursday 16th September	10.00am Funeral Mass - Brenda Davenport
Friday 17th September	10.00am Funeral Mass - Patricia Moon 1pm - Funeral service - Janet Cannell
Saturday 18th September	11.00am - Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. 4.30pm - Bob Lambert & Nicola Baptism - Isla Greedus
Sunday 19th September <i>25th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism - Blake Craney

FAREWELL...

Our Deanery bids farewell this weekend to Fr John Harris who retires after 31 years of faithful service to the parish of Holy Spirit. We ask the Lord to give him a good and healthy retirement. Please keep the parishioners of Holy Spirit in your prayers during this time.



After six years in the Archdiocese of Liverpool and founding the new Syro Malabar parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Fr Jino Arikatt leaves Liverpool this weekend to take up a new appointment in the Diocese of Portsmouth. We promise him our prayers and good wishes. We continue to show our support to the Syro Malabar community and to its parish priest Fr Andrews Chethalan.

WELCOME...

A warm welcome to Fr Chima Opara CSSp who takes responsibility for the parish of Our Lady of Walsingham, Netherton. Fr Chima will also serve as Chaplain to Aintree University Hospital.



Jamal Kawa from Jerusalem will be staying with us for a few weeks before he finishes his final year in Medical Engineering at Cardiff University. We hope he enjoys his first visit to Liverpool.

PIETY STALL The parish piety stall reopens after 18 months. Thank you to those who look after it.

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY



Daisy Belle Peake

Baptised Saturday 11th September 2021

Ethan Price

Baptised Sunday 12th September 2021



EDUCATION SUNDAY 2021

Education Sunday is marked this year on 12 September – just after the new academic year starts. The theme for 2021 is ‘A word in season’, taken from Isaiah 50:4.

Churches Together in England (CTE) rightly describes teaching and studying as “demanding and privileged callings” and Education Sunday gives us the opportunity to give thanks to God for all who teach and all who study, for all who continually have to find the right words and deliver them with enthusiasm and graciousness.

This is all the more poignant as we attempt to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers, pupils and leaders in our schools have suffered 18 months of disruption and uncertainty. For the second year in a row, GCSE and A Level students have been Centre Assessed or Teacher Assessed – a challenging situation for both teachers and pupils.

On 12 September, we pray that God will fortify those working to make our schools places of learning and sanctuary – not just teachers and leaders but all the support staff whose tireless work sometimes goes unnoticed. We pray for all our primary and secondary pupils – particularly school leavers who have had such a difficult journey in recent times – not to mention students in higher education and vocational training.

Please support the retiring collection for Catholic education.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY 2021

Each year we celebrate Home Mission Sunday – a day when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales and this will take place next Sunday with a retiring collection.

CATHOLIC PIC

The September issue is now available from the church porch. The main feature is the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Tom Neylon. Prayer cards of the new Bishop are also available from the back of church.



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.

ASSISTED DYING BILL

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has written an open letter inviting Catholics to pray for the defeat of the Assisted Dying Bill to be debated in the House of Lords in October.

It encourages all Catholics to write to peers at the House of Lords stating the reasons why they oppose this legislation and particularly explain from personal experience the reasons why this change in the law should be opposed. It urges discussion and communication about this important matter.

A copy of the letter can be found at: www.cbcew.org.uk
Bishop Sherrington asks...

Take action...

There are three important actions in the next weeks: **praying**, **writing** and **sharing**.

First, I ask you to pray that the Bill will be defeated.

Second, I ask you to write to the Peers from your personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life. The testimony of healthcare and legal professionals will also be important. This needs to be done before the Second Reading on 22 October.

Third, I ask you to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media.

Briefing papers will be available on the bishops' conference website to assist you as this work develops.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Throughout Old Testament history, God's name was often invoked to smite the enemy or call for deliverance. But Isaiah does not call upon God to hurt those who beat him or deliver him from his suffering. No, Isaiah calls upon God in solidarity, sure that he is doing the right thing despite the abuse he's received, confident that he is carrying out God's will. He does not feel the need to call upon God for help because he knows that God is already on his side, or to put it another way, that he is on God's side.

Hearing God can be a double-edged sword. The deaf man whom we heard Jesus heal last week immediately got to hear the praise and wonder of his neighbours. Isaiah, however, who attests that "the Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear" (50:4), is beaten and spat at by those who do not want to hear his criticism. Peter hears Jesus say he would suffer greatly and be killed, then immediately gets an earful when he rejects Jesus' shocking prediction. We are blessed to be able to hear the word of God and recognize what God is calling us to do, but there is no guarantee that what we hear will be well welcome or easy. After all, Jesus follows his tongue-lashing of Peter with a warning to everyone: 'Whoever wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross, and follow me' (Mark 8:34). Openness to God's voice requires an openness to God's will.

But once we accept Jesus' command, we truly live out our faith. Living out our faith, says James in his letter, means doing something concrete to show it. If we truly believe that all people are made in the image of God and that God's Son came to save the multitudes, then that faith should drive us to care for our neighbour, especially those in need of material assistance

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.

FIRST COMMUNION 2022

Preparation for First Communion will begin in a few weeks and this is the last chance for people to register their children. If you know of any families who have children in Yr4 please ask them to collect a form from school or the parish office as soon as possible.



PENSIONERS GROUP wish to welcome some New Members

Are you over 55 and looking for a social afternoon?

We meet in the Parish hall on Tuesday afternoons at 1pm.

Quiz, Bingo, Raffle and refreshments. Weekly subscription of £1.50.

Please contact Jean (928 1502) or Maureen (928 6879)

We have several funerals over the coming weeks:

Monday 13th 11 am - Service - Margaret Duncalf

Tuesday 14th 12 noon - Service - Michael Critchlow (at Crematorium)

Thursday 16th 10am - Mass - Brenda Davenport

Friday 17th 10am - Mass - Patricia Moon

Friday 17th 1pm - Service - Janet Cannell

Monday 20th 11am - Service - Sheila Davies

Tuesday 21st 10.45am - Mass - Peggy O'Dea

Friday 24th 10am - Mass - Eileen Wright

We pray that they may all Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory



Two million reasons to smile!

Thanks to the incredible commitment and dedication of our supporters, volunteers, ambassadors, partners and staff across the globe, we are now feeding more than **two million** children **every school day**. Mary's Meals will never stop striving to reach the next hungry child. Today, you could donate as a landmark toward reaching three million even sooner, so that more children are fed and have hope for their future. Go to marysmeals.org.uk to donate



Season of Creation

UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. 'COP' means 'conference of parties'. Leaders from 197 countries, including Pope Francis, who have signed up to the UN's climate change treaty, will travel to Glasgow to take part in the conference. This will be the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil.

The focus of the conference will be how to keep temperature rises below 1.5C. If the world warms more than this threshold, millions more people in the most vulnerable communities around the globe will suffer from devastating droughts, storms, floods and other impacts of climate change. Governments will be obliged to set out more ambitious goals for ending their contribution to climate change under the Paris Agreement (2015).

CAFOD invite us to sign a petition urging the Prime Minister to make sure the communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. You can sign the petition online here: <https://e-activist.com/page/73304/petition/1>

There is also a download on the CAFOD website for a rosary to celebrate the Season of Creation. We invite you to use this rosary in to celebrate the Season of Creation, an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles. It runs from 1 September to 4 October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi).

Pope Francis calls us all to celebrate this moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork that he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Eucharistic Ministers can now take Holy Communion to the sick & housebound who haven't been able to receive communion since lockdown. Please inform the Parish Office if you are willing to resume.

