



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 5th September 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I avoid hypocrisy and embrace the spirit of God's commands?
Am I merely fulfilling my Sunday obligation or am I putting God's word 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.

NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP

Congratulations to the new Bishop of Plestia and Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, Tom Neylon who was ordained at the cathedral on Friday 3 September.

Bishop Tom was ordained by Archbishop Malcom McMahon in the first major service to be celebrated in the cathedral since the beginning of the pandemic and the first Episcopal Ordination in Liverpool since that of Bishop Tom Williams in 2003.



The cathedral welcomed Apostolic Nuncio, the Vatican's representative in Great Britain, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Bishops from England and Wales as well as priests and parishioners from the archdiocese to the ordination.

There will be ordination cards available at your church this week-end to celebrate this special occasion for everyone in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

To see photographs of the ordination, please visit the Archdiocese of Liverpool Flickr account: www.flickr.com/liverpoolcatholic and there will be an ordination special in September's edition of the Catholic Pic.

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...



We welcome Fr Mark back this weekend from his well deserved summer break !

MASS TIMES - Please note that there is NO MASS on Friday this week (10th 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 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.

CAFOD Zoom meeting Tuesday 7th September or Wednesday 8th September 7pm – 8pm

All around the world, the poorest and most vulnerable communities are being hit the hardest by the climate crisis. Join Colette online for an hour to hear about CAFOD’s work and our Climate Crisis Appeal for this year’s Family Fast Day. To join the Zoom, please email Colette on cbyrne@cafod.org.uk to receive the link.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
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
Monday 6th September	10.00am Beryl McMullen
Tuesday 7th September	10.00am Jacqui & Anne Marie Morley
Wednesday 8th September	NO MASS
Thursday 9th September	10.00am Felicity Byrne
Friday 10th September	NO MASS TODAY
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

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.



CAFOD Online event

Join us for an online day of talk and prayer to learn more about this year's climate talks, Pope Francis's call to action and how people in the Amazon region are leading the fight to care for our common home.



The countdown is on. In a few months, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks. Our government has a vital role to play in leading global efforts to tackle the climate crisis. But as citizens of the host nation and as people of faith, we have an important role to play too.

This is the time to come together, build a community and act. Do not miss our Faith in Action Day 2021 on **Saturday 11 September, 11am-4pm**. You can register at cafod.org.uk

**mary's
meals**

| a simple solution to world hunger

[Our vision](#) at Mary's Meals is simple – that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things.

Our faith in the simple idea that food can change the story for the world's poorest children remains strong and true almost 20 years after our founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow embarked on this astonishing journey.



None of this would be possible without the incredible commitment and dedication of people like you – our supporters, volunteers, partners and staff across the globe.

On **Wednesday 8 September 2021** we will be sharing a very special announcement and marking an incredible milestone for Mary's Meals. As part of this there will be an exciting international online event at 7pm GMT that evening. Details to follow

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

CURED OR HEALED?

Can you imagine what it's like when you know things are going on around you but you don't know what it's all about because you're deaf?

Can you visualise what it's like wanting to join in all the fun but you can't because you have a speech impediment and it takes you too long to try and get out what you want to say?



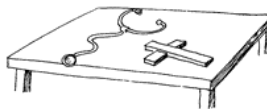
These were the problems of the man whom Jesus meets in today's gospel. But it wasn't just about being deaf and dumb; Jesus 'unblocked' his ears and tongue as a sign that God can open us out to things unheard and unspoken. There are lots of things that stare us in the face but we still don't grasp them.

Can you imagine not realising that God was behind creation, as if all the intricacies of the human body simply came together by chance with no intelligent design at its roots? Someone once said that this is tantamount to a whirlwind blowing through a scrap yard and a Rolls Royce being the end result!

Can you imagine going through life and just existing alongside other people without ever experiencing what friendship is? Or thinking that great leaders, inventors or artists reflected their own good qualities without any reference to something greater than themselves? Can you begin to think of what a dry and empty existence you would have if you just lived for today because you believed there is no tomorrow?

There's much more to life than our ears can hear or our tongues can speak about. And it is this that Jesus wanted the deaf and dumb man to experience. It was not simply a physical cure. Jesus was not just a doctor; he was a healer. He let the man 'be opened' to what he could not hear or speak about: to the infinite, to the true meaning of life, to the deeper joys of existence, to what matters, to a faith that he was not alone, to a trust that he would never be abandoned, to a hope that no despair can crush.

Yes, the deaf and dumb man was cured physically. But after his encounter with Jesus he could hear and speak of things that the crowd was unaware of. They watched a cure. But he went through a healing.



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 statute 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



Donnie Robson

Baptised Saturday 4th September 2021

Penny Long

Baptised Sunday 5th September 2021



Season of Creation

Caring for our Common Home

During the Season of Creation, you might like to dip into Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*. The title is taken from the first line of the encyclical, "Laudato si', mi Signore" ("Praise be to you, my Lord"). These words come from the beautiful Cantic of the Creatures by St Francis of Assisi. The subtitle of the encyclical, 'On Care for our Common Home', explains what the letter is about.

Pope Francis urgently appeals "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affects us all" (14). He challenges us to consider the kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us. Quoting Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Francis reminds us that, as Christians, we are called to be responsible custodians of creation: "Christians in their turn 'realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith' " (64).

Although quite long, the encyclical is easy to read and can be downloaded from CAFOD's website which has lots of helpful resources exploring the encyclical:

www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical

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."

