



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 3rd October 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can I do to put the needs of those I love, of those who depend on me, above my own needs this week?

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

FRANCIS OF ASSISI (October 4th)

Most of us know Francis' prayer about being a channel of peace (although it is not certain whether he actually wrote that prayer or whether it might be quite a recent one attributed to him). Others will be aware of his Canticle of Creation where he praises God for the sun, moon etc. But there is a little-known prayer that he wrote in praise of the Mother of Jesus. Its language is a bit old-fashioned in places but its sentiments are absolutely right for our age:



Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen, Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin. You were chosen by the most high Father in heaven, and consecrated by him and by his most holy beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. On you descended and still remains all the fullness of grace and every good. Hail, his Palace. Hail, his Tabernacle. Hail, his Robe. Hail, his Handmaid. Hail, his Mother and hail, all holy Virtues which, by grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that from their faithless state, they may be made faithful servants of God through you. Amen.



Pope St John Paul II named Francis patron of those who work for the earth's environment. In the UK the Catholic organisation devoted to animal welfare is Catholic Concern for Animals, www.catholic-animals.com. This is a topic which is becoming increasingly mainstream, with many questions about factory farming and animal research being raised. St Francis was the author of the hymn *Laudato si*, the opening words of which were taken to begin the Pope's historic encyclical on the Care of our Common Home.



MAY HE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

Mark Brehany— Funeral Mass Friday 8th October
10.00am

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 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.

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 2nd October	4.30pm - Mary Hoban Baptism - Louie Redfern
Sunday 3rd October <i>27th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish Baptism - Renae Barnes
Monday 4th October <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	10.00am Tom Smartt
Tuesday 5th October	10.00am Mary Brown
Wednesday 6th October	NO MASS
Thursday 7th October <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	10.00am John Fairclough
Friday 8th October <i>St Teresa of the Child Jesus</i>	10.00am Funeral Mass - Mark Brehany
Saturday 9th October <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	4.30pm - People of the Parish Baptism - Phoenix Fairclough
Sunday 10th October <i>28th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Patrick Green

EUCHARISTIC 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.



We are updating the list of parishioners who receive Communion in their homes so would be grateful if you could please let the Office have details of names and addresses of those you visit.

Prayer for Family Fast Day

Walk beside us, Lord,
in the cool of the day,
in the garden you have created
as our common home.
Walk beside us, Lord,
as the cries of the forest
pierce the dawn,
and flames rip through
our common home.
Grant us courage, Lord,
as we walk beside all those
who struggle to protect
our common home.
Grant us hope, Lord,
and the vision to walk dark paths
in the light of a single sunbeam.
Grant us grace, Lord,
to put the flourishing of all people
and the wonder of your creation
at the heart of all we do,
as we strive to be guardians
of our common home.
St Francis, pray for us.

IRENÆUS NEWS

'This then is my prayer'

Zoom Reflections on the Book of
Ephesians

Mondays 4th, 11th & 18th
October

7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

***'He sent me to give good news
to the poor'***

Zoom Scripture Mornings on St.
Luke's Gospel

Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th
November

ANIMATE YOUTH

It's Back ! Lourdes 2022

Be part of the Liverpool
Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to
Lourdes

Ages 15-22 yrs. old Thursday
21st July 2022 – Sat 30th July
2022 Online applications from
4th Oct

www.liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk/

For more info Tel Fr Simon Gore
01704740467

NEWS FROM CAFOD

As we emerge from the pandemic, Pope Francis calls us all, “at this critical juncture, it is our duty to rethink the future of our common home and our common project.”



In the last year and a half, the coronavirus pandemic pushed millions of people around the world into poverty and deepened inequality. The poorest and most vulnerable people in the world are also being hit hardest by the climate crisis. The climate crisis will affect each and every one of us. It is a crisis that is damaging our world, our common home, God’s creation.

At Harvest Family Fast Day on Friday 1 October, CAFOD is raising money for its Climate Crisis Appeal. CAFOD works with local experts to help people around the world to adapt to the changing climate and protect our common home.

In Brazil, Ivanilde, a mother, a grandmother and a farmer, is on the frontline of the struggle to protect our common home. She lives in a small patch of rainforest in one of the most heavily deforested regions of the Amazon rainforest. More than once, Ivanilde’s home has been ravaged by fires started on land owned by wealthy cattle ranchers and she has lost trees on whose fruits her family rely to survive. Local experts from our church network have stood alongside Ivanilde in legal cases to win rights to stay on the land and she has replanted and restored her land.

All over the world, people are doing their bit to fight the worst effects of climate change. In Ethiopia, water experts supported by CAFOD are helping to build solar powered pumps to help communities struggling with drought. In Bangladesh, CAFOD’s local climate experts are helping people protect their homes and livelihoods from ever more devastating cyclones.

By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Or why not Go Green in October and ask your family and friends to sponsor you to “go cycling, go veggie and go plastic-free”. In this way, we can make choices in our everyday lives that will help to restore our common home and through CAFOD’s Climate Crisis Appeal, support our sisters and brothers overseas.

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Louie Redfern

Baptised Saturday 2nd October 2021

Renaë Barnes

Baptised Sunday 3rd October 2021



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 the parish office as soon as possible.

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

In today's passage from Genesis—the second story of creation—the first woman is created out of a combination of the human and the divine. She is created from the rib of the first human and built up by the Lord God. Many generations later, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (the divine) and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the human). The church, upon whom Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, is the bride of Christ, the human joined to the divine. Jesus speaks to the Pharisees about a husband and wife, but let us apply this lesson to Jesus and the Church. 'What God has united man must not divide' (Mark 10:9).

God can be found in relationships, in the kind and selfless love that we express with those with whom we are closest. It is found in relationships between wife and husband, between parent and child, between two close friends. When we sacrifice our own needs and desires for the needs and desires of another, we mirror Jesus' mission to us. Like Jesus lowering himself to wash his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, we marry the divine and the human when we lower our own needs below the needs of those we love.

Human nature is imperfect, and so are human relationships. Marriages can become painful and traumatic, often because one partner neglects or even hurts the other when they no longer care for the other's needs. Children can become uncared for and even unloved, which is especially tragic since they have so many needs. May our awareness that we all stand in need of God's love and care make us sensitive to others' needs.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!!

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



2. 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.

HELP NEEDED!!!

We desperately need more people to be Ministers of the Word for the weekend Masses. We are particularly short of readers for the Saturday evening Mass. If you are interested in helping with what is a lovely 'job' being part of the Mass please let Fr Mark know or pass your name in to the office.



THE DAY OF THE LORD

The Bishops of England and Wales are asking us to return to Sunday Mass now in our Churches that are as safe as we can manage, but know that if you still don't feel able to join us and receive Jesus in Holy Communion, each of you will be at the centre of every Mass we celebrate.....none of you are forgotten, all of you cherished by the Lord through His Church!

You can read the full statement on the Bishops' Conference website: www.cbcew.org.uk

It is likely that the Bishops will reinstate the Sunday obligation for Sunday 28th November 2021.

COP26 Climate Talks

The destruction of our land, oceans and forests is threatening people's homes and their ability to earn a living.

In November, governments from across the world gather to discuss how to tackle the climate emergency at COP26. It's vital for the Catholic community to demand that our leaders act now to protect our common home. You can sign a petition on the CAFOD website urging world leaders show the ambition needed to stop temperatures rising beyond a disastrous 1.5 degrees, with each country committing to do its fair share. Go to CAFOD.org.uk



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

Lord in your mercy...



Season of Creation

St Francis of Assisi

The Season of Creation culminates in the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. St Francis is the patron of all God's creatures and the environment.

One of the issues that demands our urgent attention is how we treat animals. The current pandemic is a wake-up call. God did not give us animals to do with as we like. He entrusted them to us – we are their custodians. Many animals suffer appalling cruelty because of our demand for food and sport. Christians have a duty of care to God's creatures. We can't keep turning a blind eye!

A Prayer for Animals

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals,
especially for animals who are suffering;
for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated;
for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars;
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;
for all that must be put death.
We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,
and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion
and gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals,
and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

Attributed to the theologian and philosopher, Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

CONFIRMATIONS 2021

If you know a young person who has registered to be confirmed later this year, please remind them of the preparation sessions taking place in St. Monica's church in Bootle on 3rd, 17th & 24th October, 2.30 - 4.00 p.m. Registration has now closed for this year.

