



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King

Sunday 21st November 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCMS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I live according to the truth, the truth to which Jesus has testified?

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. The sign of peace can be restored but without any touching, ie by a handshake.
8. Ministers of the Eucharist can take Holy Communion to the sick & housebound but with the appropriate caution.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Lord in your mercy...



FEAST OF THE WEEK

PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(November 21st)



Who could know God, if it were not for you, most holy Mary?
Who could be saved? Who would be preserved from dangers?
Who would receive any grace, if it were not for you, Mother
of God, full of grace?

What hope could we have of salvation if you were to abandon us, O
Mary, who are the life of Christians? (St Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre)

THE DAY OF THE LORD

The Bishops of England and Wales met for their twice yearly meeting this past week in Leeds and they have issued a statement with regards to the Sunday Mass obligation. The statement is called 'Honouring Sunday' and it can be read on the parish website or on the Bishops' Conference website: www.cbcew.org.uk

Luke, an Advent Gospel - a series of talks

This Advent at the Cathedral, they are hosting a series of four talks on the Gospel of Luke. As we will be hearing from this Gospel on most Sundays next year, it would benefit us to refresh our memories and gain some new insights into this rich and varied text. These talks will run on consecutive Wednesdays in the *Gibberd Room*, beginning on the **24th of November**. The organisers also anticipating an opportunity for discussion/Q&A at the end of each session. More details below:

Luke, a Gospel of the Poor - 24/11/2021 at 7pm - Fr Chris McCoy

Luke, a Gospel of Inclusion - 1/12/2021 at 7pm - Sr Bridget Folkard
SSMN

Luke, a Gospel of Prayer - 8/12/2021 at 7pm - Canon Anthony O'Brien

Luke, a Christmas Gospel - 15/12/2021 at 7pm - Archbishop Malcolm
McMahon OP

For more information, please contact **Peter Ross** - p.ross@rcaolp.co.uk
Admission is free and all are welcome!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOK

A new book called 'Christmas Voices from the Holy Land' has been published and Fr Mark has ordered some copies. The book contains poems and reflections written especially for the Holy Land by Fr Richard Nesbitt with contributions from Christians living in the Holy Land.



Proceeds of the book will go to 'Friends of the Holy Land'. The book is £9.99 and you can order your copy from the Piety Stall or Parish Office and they will arrive in time for the start of Advent.

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."

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.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

The Archdiocese has asked Parish Priests to remind people that any work undertaken on church or parish hall premises must have the agreement of the Parish Priest. Work, especially any maintenance, must not be carried out without his consent and knowledge.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 20th November	12.00pm Knights of Holy Sepulchre Remembrance 4.30pm Ann Burns
Sunday 21st November <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Thomas Lane
Monday 22nd November <i>St Cecilia</i>	7.00pm Mass of Remembrance
Tuesday 23rd November	10.00am Ruth Richardson
Wednesday 24th November	NO MASS
Thursday 25th November	10.00am Mary Begg
Friday 26th November	10.00am Pious List
Saturday 27th November	12.00pm - Baptism - Etta Dowd 4.30pm Doreen Corness
Sunday 28th November <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Finley Ellis



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Thomas Jaxon Lane

Baptised Sunday 21st November 2021



DEANERY CHANGES

From Sunday 28th November changes regarding deaneries within the Archdiocese come into effect as the Synod2020 Pastoral Plan is presented and takes effect. Our parish will come under a new deanery called '**Sefton Inland**' which includes the following parishes:

Our Lady & the English Martyrs, Litherland. Our Lady of Walsingham, Netherton. St Benet, Netherton. St Elizabeth, Litherland. St Robert Bellarmine, Bootle. Holy Rosary, Old Roan, St. Catherine, Lydiate. St. George Maghull. St. Mary, Aughton & St Kentigern, Melling.

Fr Mark will give further information nearer the time.

CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

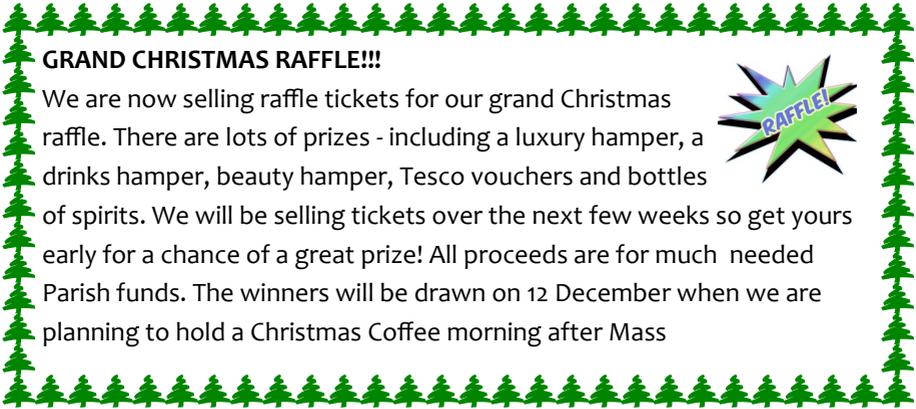
This online course, offered by Loyola University and delivered by tutors from across the UK, is aimed at those already in pastoral roles in our schools and parishes, or those contemplating pastoral involvement. The next intake begins in September 2022, and it is hoped that a 'taster' module will be offered to those interested during 2022. The cost is around £2000. Please contact us for further details if you are interested. There is also a diploma option in cooperation with Liverpool Hope University. More information: www.luc.edu/ips/continuing-education/certificateinpastoralministryfortheunit-edkingdom/

CTS SUNDAY MISSAL 2022

The ideal companion for the liturgical year, the CTS Sunday Missal 2022 features the Order of Mass and readings for all Sundays & Solemnities, all helpfully presented in calendar order. If you would like to order a copy please give your name and £7.95 to the Piety Stall or Parish Office and we will order them ready for the beginning of Advent at the end of November.

BIBLE STUDY.

The rest of the course will take place on:
Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th December



GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!!!

We are now selling raffle tickets for our grand Christmas raffle. There are lots of prizes - including a luxury hamper, a drinks hamper, beauty hamper, Tesco vouchers and bottles of spirits. We will be selling tickets over the next few weeks so get yours early for a chance of a great prize! All proceeds are for much needed Parish funds. The winners will be drawn on 12 December when we are planning to hold a Christmas Coffee morning after Mass



UNIVERSAL SYNOD

Many will be aware of the launch of what we came to affectionately call the “Universal Synod” to distinguish it from the archdiocesan Synod 2020. Pope Francis opened the Synod on the 10th October, and on the 17th, all dioceses in the world commenced their own processes. Archbishop Malcolm held vespers that evening in our cathedral to mark this moment and to give thanks for our own synod.

As we are on the brink of launching the new Pastoral Plan, the fruit of Synod 2020, we decided to postpone any activity regarding the Universal Synod until January 2022. We need to give space and time to the Pastoral Plan first, and then gather any additional voices that may need to be heard in the Vatican. This will be possible via an *online* feedback system we will set up for the 10th of January, and the closing date for all contributions will be on the 10th of March. (Anybody wishing to make a *written* submission will be directed to the Vatican synod office.)

We will consider any additional material as a living part of all our Synod 2020 contributions, which will also inform our feedback to the Bishops Conference. This will then in turn be the material used to prepare documents for the 2023 Synod of Bishops called For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. For more information, see www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-conference-synodal-process/

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY 2021

This annual day of prayer for young people takes place this weekend and a collection will be taken this weekend for Animate Youth, the Archdiocesan Ministry for Young People. Please give generously.

God ever young, we bring before you the gifts and needs of the young people of our parish. Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities of their lives.

Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know they are valued and valuable people.

Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know they are needed in this world.

Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike.

Guide us, as we continue to grow in our appreciation of the many gifts of young people, in the ministry opportunities we offer to them, in the journey of faith we walk with them and in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

NOVEMBER MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

A Mass of Remembrance for our loved ones, those mentioned in the Book of Remembrance and for those who have died in the last 12 months will take place on **Monday 22nd November at 7.00 p.m.** The names of parishioners who have died in the past year will be read out and candles lit in remembrance. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall after Mass. All are welcome. There will be **NO** morning Mass that day.

LITHERLAND HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society have resumed their meetings in the Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. Upcoming talks are:

Tuesday 7th December 9.30am - Naomi Horlock - Linacre Mission - New Albert Walker Hall. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF START TIME**

All are welcome. £2 admission includes tea and biscuits

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Jesus tells Pilate that if his kingdom belonged to this world, his people would fight to prevent his persecution. Because his kingdom is not of this world, he does not have followers fighting to save him. His only weapon in his fight against this terrible injustice is truth. Jesus came to testify to the truth. As his disciples, we belong to the truth, so we are called to listen for his voice, seek the truth, and fight against injustice. In so doing, we can be, as the author of Hebrews wrote, made into a kingdom by Christ Jesus.

We know that Pilate refused to accept the truth, but a few hours earlier another weak man also failed to face the truth. That man was Saint Peter. Peter's fear of what might happen to him won out over his love of Jesus, his loyalty, and the truth. Pilate's desire for power prevented him from accepting the truth, but fear also made him ignore the pursuit of truth and justice. He feared that the mob could lead to his downfall with his superiors. We talk of speaking truth to power as if that would change minds, but it does not always succeed. Peter eventually faced the truth, weeping in remorse, but Pilate chose to ignore it to the end.

Embracing the truth no matter where it leads us can be challenging. What truths has Jesus taught us? He calls us, not to personal glory or power, but to serve others. He tells us to sell all we have and give it to the poor, then follow him. He instructs us to deny ourselves and take up our cross. He claims that the kingdom comes to the poor in spirit. Jesus has testified to the truth and it is revolutionary.

A PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

The parish pilgrimage to Walsingham in July 2022 is now fully booked. The cost of the trip will be announced next week.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

From 4th December, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturdays 4.00p.m- 4.25pm



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to those who have given their time to attend the wreath making on Wednesdays. The 'fruits of their labour' are now available to purchase in the Piety stall!! We are asking for a minimum donation of £5 for these lovely additions to your Christmas decorations. Have a look!



Nugent charity has a number of festive initiatives including:

Christmas Cards

Light up a Life Services 2021 at The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool and St Teresa's Church, Upholland

BTR Liverpool Santa Dash

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Appeal



For more details, please visit: [Christmas with Nugent \(wearenugent.org\)](https://wearenugent.org)

Make a difference this Christmas:

Support Nugent's Christmas Hamper Appeal this Christmas by donating a range of items, which will be enjoyed by the children, adults and families we support who are most vulnerable or at-risk.

Nugent are looking for a range of items such as toiletries, mince pies, chocolates and sweets, puzzles and craft items to be dropped off 6th-10th December.

Help spread some Christmas joy this year by contacting fundraising@wearenugent.com for a full list of items you can donate and for drop off information.

You can also donate to Nugent's Christmas appeal at www.localgiving.com/nugentschristmasappeal

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

On 29th November the Archdiocesan Development Department invite you to a zoom time of reflection and discussion for an hour each Advent Monday from 7pm. Set in this time of waiting and preparation we will focus prayerfully on some aspects of the newly launched Pastoral Plan. Please register for your Zoom link on: <https://forms.gle/ygGnFTySdvNZZ2776> All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

'This is a beautiful act of solidarity.' Fr David Neuhaus SJ

When Fr Mark spoke to a gathering of priests in the Holy Land, they all expressed their profound thanks for the Christmas Cards sent from the Archdiocese of Liverpool to the parishes in the Holy Land. In recent years we've sent cards to the Seminary community in Beit Jala. This year Fr Mark has decided to send cards to a parish in Jordan. The parish he has chosen is the parish of **Christ the King in Al-Misdar, Jordan.**

The region of Misdar was known in the Bible as Ammon or the Ammonite Kingdom. Rabbath Ammon, great city of the Ammonites in the Old Testament, was the capital of the kingdom and famous for its springs and citadel. King David sent Joab, head of the Israelite army, to besiege Rabbath, after being insulted by King Nahash. On taking the town, King David burnt many of the inhabitants alive in a brick kiln.

During the Roman period, Herod took the city in 30 B.C. and it became an important centre along the trade route from Syria to the Red Sea. By the early 20th century there were only about 2000 inhabitants and for almost a century it became little more than a stopping place on the Damascus to Medina railway. Until 1948, Misdar was a village of closely huddled houses but the floods of Palestinians, escaping or ejected from the newly formed State of Israel, doubled the city's population in just two weeks. Makeshift camps to house the refugees were set up on the outskirts. Later, following another huge influx of refugees from the West Bank occupied by Israel in 1967, creeping development began to merge the areas together to form the city's sprawling suburbs.

The parish is one of the poorest parishes in the Holy Land and is well known by Fr Mark. The Parish Priest is Fr Marwan Hassan, the first Seminarian to stay with Fr Mark some years ago. The parish also has an Assistant Priest, Fr Wajdi Twal, ordained in 2020 and Fr Mark has known him since he was a young child.

There are 230 families within the parish and we would love to send a Christmas Card to each of these families.

Can you help? Can you ask your family, friends, neighbours to help?

Simply write a card in the normal way, add your name and an email address, take one of the slips of paper with the Arabic greeting from the back of church and bring the card back to church and place it in the box by **Sunday 12th December.** Thank you.

