



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 28th November 2021



# ADVENT

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I prepare myself for the coming of Jesus, at Christmas and at the end of time?

**Please note that Mass on Thursday is at 1.00pm and is a Funeral Mass for Ann Henderson. May she rest in peace**

## 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 DECEMBER

### Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Lord in your mercy...*



## WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

**Etta Elsie Dowd**

Baptised Saturday 27th November 2021

**Finley Jude Ellis**

Baptised Sunday 28th November 2021



This year, Jospice are looking forward to welcoming you all back to the hospice for this very special evening. Light Up A Life is for anyone who would like to remember the special people they have lost and to celebrate their lives, to say thank you or to mark a special occasion or birth. The Light Up A Life Christmas tree will be decked with lights which will switch on during the evening. Each light represents someone's friend or family member and you can dedicate your own light to a loved one too. During the evening, we will sing carols and there will be prayers and readings from local clergy and singing from a local choir. You will also be served a mince pie and a hot drink to keep you warm. Please note this is an outdoor service and suitable clothing and footwear is advised.



### **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 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](mailto:p.ross@rcaolp.co.uk)  
Admission is free and all are welcome!

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOK**

'Christmas Voices from the Holy Land' is now available from the piety stall at a price of £7.99 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'.



## **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
<b>Saturday 27th November</b>	12.00pm - Baptism - Etta Dowd  4.30pm Doreen Corness
<b>Sunday 28th November</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish  11.45am Baptism - Finley Ellis
<b>Monday 29th November</b>	10.00am  Sick & Housebound
<b>Tuesday 30th November</b>	10.00am  Pious List
<b>Wednesday 1st December</b>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 2nd December</b>	1.00pm  Funeral Mass - Ann Henderson
<b>Friday 3rd December</b>	10.00am  Elizabeth Williams
<b>Saturday 4th December</b>	4.30pm  Scott Nelson
<b>Sunday 5th December</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am  People of the Parish  11.45am Baptism - Rosie Hughes

## 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

Christmas Bingo at St Elizabeth's Social Club on Thursday 9th December. Eyes down 8.00pm Due to Covid restrictions admission is by ticket. Tickets can be obtained by ringing 07833226501.

All money raised will be donated to local charities

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



## 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.

## 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-](http://www.luc.edu/ips/continuing-education/certificateinpastoralministryfortheunit-)

## 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.



## GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND COFFEE MORNING!!

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 holding a Christmas Coffee morning with a couple of stalls and lots of mince pies!!

Please come and join us



## 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 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/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-conference-synodal-process/)

## SYNOD2020 PASTORAL PLAN

On this 1st weekend of Advent, the beginning of a new Church year, we are delighted to be able to receive the pastoral plan. As the Archbishop has said: *"This is to chart the way forward for the archdiocese in the years to come."*

The Plan will be available online at:

<https://liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk/>

or you can arrange to purchase it from Pauline Books and Media, 84 Church Street, Liverpool at a cost of £2 per copy.

There is a summary document for you at Mass this weekend and a postcard for you to take home containing some of the key words from the plan and details of how to access the pastoral plan online.

To find out more, you are welcome to any of these open meetings:

Saturday 4th Dec 11.00am – 12.30pm in St Mary's Church, Leyland

Tuesday 7th Dec 7.00pm – 8.30pm in Holy Rosary Church, Aintree

Thursday 9th Dec 7.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom.

The link is: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJJQT09)

[pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJJQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJJQT09) .

Meeting ID: 864 2151 2557 Passcode: 132667

## 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.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

**Ann Henderson**

Funeral Mass Thursday 1st December - 1.00pm





## SUNDAY THOUGHTS CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN?



Christians seem to have lost any sense of expectation that Christ's second coming should feature in their daily lives. The Jews longed for the 'anointed one of God' who would come and lead them into prosperity, but we're detached from any sense of urgency when it comes to Christ, the Messiah, returning among us.

Is this because we think the odds are stacked against it happening during our lifetime? Is it because we just don't care? Or is it perhaps because we haven't really understood what the coming of Jesus really means?

It's easy to think that Advent is simply a time for contemplating the end of the world. But, of course, it isn't. It's about preparing for the definitive establishing of God's kingdom on earth. When we celebrate the liturgy of Advent we are not simply recalling the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and vaguely acknowledging that he will come again. This is not true worship. It's simply cosy remembrance of the past and insurance brokering for the future of our souls. It's not worship from the heart.

Our Advent liturgy demands that we take our baptismal promises seriously and that we act. What are we doing to bring Christ into our world? How do we make him present in the little worlds of our existence: family, work, friends etc?

All our Advent prayers and songs are discordant if they do not reflect what's going on in our lives. We can, and must, make Jesus come again by the way we live. Instead of thinking about fanciful scenes in the moon and stars, ought we not to realise that Christ comes again when his kingdom is established? And if we're not wholehearted about being part of this then what value do our prayers and songs have?

We can sing 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' until the cows come home, but it will be empty worship if we are not pledged to co-operate with God's Spirit in ushering in the kingdom by the way we live. Liturgy is about life. And Advent liturgy is about the kingdom coming. **NOW!**

### THE DAY OF THE LORD

The Bishops of England and Wales met for their twice yearly meeting 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](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December.

Help spread some Christmas joy this year by contacting [fundraising@wearenugent.com](mailto: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](https://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.



# Light up a Life 2021

## THIS YEAR, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT **MORE THAN EVER!**

Our annual Light up a Life Service is an opportunity for you to make a dedication for a loved one you have lost, to someone you have missed seeing, to say thank you to someone who is important to you or to celebrate a milestone, birth, marriage or event special to you.

Dedicating a light is a chance to remember those we hold dear, whether they have been in the hospice or not, and to celebrate and say thank you to those still with us. The service will be held on **Sunday 5th December 2021** from **4pm** in St Joseph's Hospice Grounds.

**Pick up your dedication form in our shop  
or visit us online at [stjhospice.org.uk](http://stjhospice.org.uk)**



Tel: **0151 932 6044** | Email: [events@stjhospice.org.uk](mailto:events@stjhospice.org.uk) | [www.stjhospice.org.uk](http://www.stjhospice.org.uk)    