



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 12th December 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I spread the joy in my family, my neighbourhood, my world?

ADVICE TO PARISHES

After a meeting of the Archbishop's Council last week the following guidelines have been agreed upon.

We are still living with the Pandemic - in spite of the actions of many it has not gone away (and may even get worse). We, therefore, still need to be very cautious when coming to church.

People are asked to wear a face mask over their nose and mouth in church. Regardless of our own personal opinion, face masks, are worn to keep ourselves **and others safe**. We are reminded by the advice given to parishes earlier this year:

"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 must ensure that the church building is well ventilated by keeping doors and windows open even in winter months.

Mindful that the causes and effects of the pandemic are still present to such a degree that not everyone can attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration at Mass, the Bishops of England and Wales have asked that all Catholics now reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist to the life of faith and take into consideration their personal circumstances and the reasons as to whether they can now attend Sunday Mass or not.

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

Alice Sass

Baptised Sunday 12th December 2021



LISTENING TO THE MARGINS FOR HOPE

This event on the 15 January, 1.30-4.30pm, will celebrate the contribution of three Liverpool-based priests, all deceased, to a synodal church during their ministries. These priests are Fr Tom Cullinan, Fr Kevin Kelly and Fr Austin Smith. The title is 'Listening to the Margins for Hope' and will explore the impact that each of the priests had on those who will attend the day. The keynote speaker is Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, who knew all three of the priests. The venue is SFX Church. The event is free but registration is necessary. To book a place please email: prophets.disciples.teachers@gmail.com

FESTIVAL CAROL SERVICE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER 5PM

All are welcome to join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir for a mix of seasonal music and

readings as well as congregational



carols. We can arrange transport at a cost of £5 per head if enough people are interested. Please give your name to the office

by Tuesday 14th December

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. Details of final talk below:

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

'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'.



FEAST OF THE WEEK St John of the Cross (1542-1591)



He was born in Fontiveros, in Spain, in about 1542. He spent some time as a Carmelite friar before, in 1568, Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task and a dangerous one: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities. He died at the monastery of Ubeda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm

His works include two major mystical poems – he is considered one of the great poets of the Spanish language – and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926. His feast day is celebrated on Tuesday.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" DECEMBER DRAW

1st £20	No. 135	F Cavanagh
2nd £15	No. 15	M Vondy
3rd £10	No. 115	M Phillips
4th £10	No. 201	R Hilton



Many thanks to all members for their continuous support which has enabled Myra to donate £1600 this year to St Joseph's Hospice.

Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

With every good wish for Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 11th December	4.30pm Joseph Corrigan
Sunday 12th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Alice Sass
Monday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i>	10.15pm Funeral Mass - Joan Pemberthy
Tuesday 14th December <i>St John of The Cross</i>	10.00am Joseph Lovelady & Septimus Murphy
Wednesday 15th December	NO MASS
Thursday 16th December	10.00am Tommy O'Toole
Friday 17th December	10.00am Teresa Henderson
Saturday 18th December	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 19th December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am Angela Reece

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 11-14 JULY 2022

We have now received our allocation of rooms and the prices for the pilgrimage next year. The total price includes travel, accommodation, meals and a full day visit to Sandringham Estate on Wednesday 13 July.

Prices are:

Standard rooms - £282 (there a very limited number of these singles)

En suite rooms - £327

Can those who are joining us please call in to the office to complete a booking form which will secure your place on the pilgrimage. The form asks for details of those people who are sharing a room. The number of single rooms is very limited so please do your best to find someone to share with.

We are also asking for a deposit of £50 to be made before the end of January to secure your place.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

From 11th December, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturdays
4.00p.m- 4.25pm



ST BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

The Bishops of England and Wales will welcome a pilgrimage of the relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes, which will take place in September and October next year. More details to follow.

CTS SUNDAY MISSAL 2022

CTS Missals are now available from the office or piety stall at a cost of £7.95

IRENAEUS CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 16th December,
7.00 pm - 8.30 pm. For a zoom link please email Jenny
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING!!

Please come and join us after Mass on Sunday for a drink and a mince pie and have a look at some of the bargains on our bring and buy table!! We will also be drawing the two raffles.



PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA

The Daughters of St Paul relocated their Pauline Books & Media Centre from Bold Street to 84 Church Street. This new Centre is a wonderful visible presence of Christianity in our city. It offers a wide range of religious books, gifts, cards and religious objects. It features an attractive children's area, a conference room which will eventually be available for meetings and venues as well as a Chapel where everyone is welcome to visit. The Sisters will be delighted to welcome you and offer a tour. Please support this new apostolate in our archdiocese.



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 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/)

CHRISTMAS 2021

Advice given to parishes from Archbishop's Council regarding Christmas Masses is that we must remain cautious in light of the Pandemic and the emergence of the Omicron variant.



People must wear face masks when coming to Christmas Masses and churches must be mindful of the number of people in church.

With this in mind Fr Mark has decided that the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6.00 p.m. will be **ticket only** which can be obtained from the church door or parish office. You must be seated by 5.55 p.m. as we will then give your place to anyone who comes to church without a ticket.

Times of Masses over the Christmas period:

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

6.00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass Ticket only
9.00 p.m. First Mass of Christmas

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.30 a.m. Mass of Christmas Day

Sunday 26th December - Boxing Day

10.30 a.m. Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family

Monday 27th - Friday 31st December

12:00 p.m. Mass
No Mass on Wednesday 29th December

Saturday 1st January - New Year's Day

12:00 p.m. Mass
No 4.30 p.m. Mass


Sunday 2nd January - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

10.30 a.m. Mass



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

'The only way we can talk about God is by treating him as if he were like us. This isn't as stupid as it sounds, since if we are made in the image and likeness of God then all good things about us must reflect something of the nature of God, albeit dimly.

Yet we tend to think of God as ever so serious. Surely God would never be caught having a belly-laugh, enjoying a good party, singing or dancing?
 Well, the answer, of course, is yes he would.

Our Advent God is a God of joy. Jesus said he wanted us to know all about the Father so that we could share in his joy. And time and time again during Advent the keyword of our songs, psalms and prayers is joy.

So it comes as no surprise today when we hear from the Prophet Zephaniah that God is quite capable of letting his hair down. Zephaniah has been prophesying doom for a people who have given in to moral decline and decay. But God knows that there is a small minority, a 'remnant' that is trying to remain faithful to the agreement between God and Israel. And this alone makes him want to celebrate.

In fact Zephaniah tells us that God breaks out into song and dance at the thought of his faithful people: 'He will sing with joy over you...he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.'

When during Advent we pray and sing, 'O come, Emmanuel' we run the risk of calling upon a rather boring and predictable God to show himself. For we tend to put God into a category where we worship him but do not find him very exciting company. This is because we don't really know him. How many times have you heard someone say that they've just seen another (more human) side to Mr or Mrs So-and-So? Maybe this Advent will really come alive when we recognise that God is bigger than our view of him.

And when that happens, there's sure to be a song and dance!



CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Sunday 12th December, 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The Boy Choristers of the Cathedral will perform Benjamin Britten's much-loved carol sequence. All are welcome.



ST BARNABAS SOCIETY

St Barnabas Society is a Catholic Church Society, founded in 1896 to support converts to the Catholic Church, especially former Anglican Ministers. Our work is as important today as it was then. We continue to support increasing numbers of converts every year as they join our Church and many commence ministry, often having given up both financial security and friends. The demand for our support is as great as ever and has continued to rise during the pandemic. So we are marking our 125th anniversary this year with an appeal for current and future funding so that our mission might be protected for the next 125 years too. If you would like to make a donation please send it to: St. Barnabas Society, Windsor House, East Point Business Park, Sandy Lane West, Oxford. OX4 6LB. For more information take a look at our website: www.stbarnabassociety.org.uk

CAFOD FUN RUN

The event takes place on Bank Holiday Monday 27th December 2021 at Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, L15 4LE. Registration is from 10am for an 11am run! We'll have our jazz band, The Rioters, performing live as usual to bring some festive cheer and hot drinks available to warm you up! If you can't make it on the day, we'd love for people to participate virtually and run wherever and whenever they like! Sponsorship and donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/campaign/cafodchristmasfunrun

MARY'S MEALS

Have you heard the Good News? Mary's Meals seeks to bring joy to those who are marginalised; those who feel like they have been overlooked and forgotten. From November to January, every gift given to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. Your kindness will help us serve life-changing school meals and will bring joy to more than two million children around the world – including those affected by natural disasters, conflict and the ongoing Covid pandemic. There are many ways to donate, including choosing Mary's Meals gift cards as a meaningful gift this Christmas, or setting a virtual place at your Christmas table. For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove



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.

