



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 19th December 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

How might I bear Christ to others this Christmas season? How will I make room in my life for the Prince of Peace?

### **ADVICE TO PARISHES**

With the continuing threat of the Omicron variation, the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales have issued new guidelines to parishes.

From Friday 10 December HM Government has made the wearing of face masks mandatory in Places of Worship. However, there will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are genuinely unable to wear face coverings and are exempt.

With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in all churches:

That people displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.

That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.

That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church.

There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. Wearing a mask must be done properly i.e. over mouth and nose.

That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.**

**Peter Daley**

**Funeral Mass Monday 20th December - 10.00am**



## **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](mailto: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.



## **PARISH OFFICE**

The office will close for its Christmas break from Tuesday 21st December and reopen Tuesday 4th January 2022.

## **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
<b>Saturday 18th December</b>	4.30pm People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 19th December</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am Angela Reece
<b>Monday 20th December</b>	10.00am Funeral Mass - Peter Daley
<b>Tuesday 21st December</b>	10.00am Pauline Lloyd
<b>Wednesday 22nd December</b>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 23rd December</b>	10.00am Elizabeth Tunney
<b>Friday 24th December</b>	6.00pm Private intention 9.00pm People of the Parish
<b>Saturday 25th December</b> <i>The Nativity of The Lord</i>	10.30am Perpetual Mass list
<b>Sunday 26th December</b> <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	10.30am People of Parish

## Masses & Services for week commencing 25th December

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 25th December</b> <i>The Nativity of The Lord</i>	10.30am Perpetual Mass List
<b>Sunday 26th December</b> <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
<b>Monday 27th December</b> <i>Feast of St John</i>	12.00pm Joseph & Kathleen Willis
<b>Tuesday 28th December</b> <i>Feast of Holy Innocents</i>	12.00pm Christine McCormack
<b>Wednesday 29th December</b> <i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 30th December</b>	12.00pm Mary Coughlin
<b>Friday 31st December</b>	12.00pm John Dunn
<b>Saturday 1st January</b> <i>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</i>	12.00pm People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 2nd January</b> <i>Second Sunday after Christmas</i>	10.30am Janet Walsh

## 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.



## 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.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



## WELCOME

To Br. Pradeep Lakra, a Franciscan Capuchin Brother, who will be staying with Fr Mark for a few days next week. Pradeep is studying at Oxford University and will be ordained in the next couple of years. We hope he has a restful and happy holiday in Liverpool.



## A MASSIVE THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and supported the coffee morning last Sunday. The final amount raised was an amazing £700!!!! Thank you also to our 'crafty' ladies who raised £100 from the wreath making. There are still a few wreaths left in the piety stall if you want to add to your decorations

## 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.



## CHRISTMAS CRIB

It is wonderful to have our parish Christmas Crib back after the scaled down version last year. The crib will be blessed by Fr Mark on Christmas Eve and will be in place until Wednesday 2nd February. It is customary to make a donation to the 'Crib Collection' which this year will go to The Rosary Sisters School in Gaza. This Christian School run by the Sisters was badly affected in the bombing of Gaza earlier this year. people from across the Archdiocese have donated nearly £3000 to help rebuild the school and community. Fr Mark knows the community well and he knows how grateful they will be of our help this Christmas.



## 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...*



## 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 scriptures are strangely silent during Advent about Mary right until the last moment. And then she takes centre stage. Suddenly we are faced with a whole barrage of emotions and attitudes that surround Mary and act as a challenge to us.



Mary was a woman of faith. She had no idea how it could be possible for her to be having a baby. Yet she believed that God could do anything and bring good out of it. What sort of faith do I have and how does Mary challenge me in this?

Her life was clearly about to be thrown into turmoil. An unmarried mother, no one knows who the father is, having to flee as refugees, to watch as her son was stalked and eventually condemned... and yet she willingly surrendered her life to the will of God. Do I hand over my life to God's will or do I get upset when I can't control everything by myself? How much am I prepared to hand myself over into the hands of God?

Mary was immersed in God's word and her natural response was to praise and bless God. In fact, Mary uses the words of scripture in order to praise God for the impending births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Do I really know God's word or am I limited to a few bible stories that I hear in church? Do I listen to the voice of God speaking to me in daily events? Am I naturally a person of praise and blessing?

Mary had every reason to boast, to put herself in the limelight and to consider herself of importance. But she didn't. She was clear about her need for God and her dependence on him. Do I really need God or can I get on quite well with only a nodding acquaintance?

It was being the type of person she was that made Mary fit to bear the Son of God. Because of her faith, attentiveness to God's word, openness, submission to God's will...And what about me? Will I give birth to Christ this Christmas?

## NEWSLETTER

This will be the last Newsletter until 9th January. Mass Intentions until 2nd January are in this edition and Intentions from Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th January will be posted on the notice boards and on the parish website.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove)



## **Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool**



Christmas is a special time, and at the heart of our celebrations is the fact that God became man for us. Two thousand years ago there wasn't a feast of Christmas yet there was still expectation as people longed for the coming of the Messiah to transform their lives. We don't always get what we expect at Christmas and two thousand years ago people didn't expect that the Messiah would be born in poverty, to a refugee family forced to leave their home to take part in a census for an occupying power. Homeless, with nowhere to stay they found refuge in a cold, dark stable with only the farm animals for company. Yet lives were about to be transformed.

I am sure celebrations were far from the minds of shepherds on a cold, bleak hillside and yet suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them, there was light, and glory shone around them – no wonder they were terrified. The first words of the angel to them were 'Do not be afraid...' as they went full of joy to Bethlehem to greet the new born king. So many of us need those words of the angel today: 'Do not be afraid...' Weighed down with the cares of life we fear for the future, but Christmas gives us hope as we know that Christ is with us. The Prince of Peace comes to us to bring his peace and healing and to give us hope.

Christmas is a time for precious memories too. Memories of Christmases past - maybe recent or long ago. Memories of loved ones, just by thinking of them we are saying, 'we love you...you are still with us in our hearts...' There may be tears too, 'Do not be afraid' of them, they are fine because they are a sign of love.

The message of peace and goodwill means it is a time for us to reach out to others, especially to those in need. So many people work in the weeks before Christmas to help those in greatest need. We see people giving up their time to feed the hungry, and to provide a place of refuge for those who are lonely. Those who work in our essential services are there for us too. During the pandemic we have renewed our spirit of care and generosity – we have reached out to others and offered them hope and readily give thanks to those who care.

For Christians the joy of Christmas is found in the Eucharist and the crib. We give thanks to God for the gift of his Son who cried out from the manger to remind us of the continuing plight of the homeless, refugees and those escaping terror. When we gather as far as restrictions allow us, we remember what it is to be a family no matter how few we are or how distant we are from each other. The Holy Family was only three people yet proved to be the source of a great love which has overflowed into our lives two millennia later. May our families have the child Jesus at their centre as a source of love and a true source of strength.

May this Christmas time be happy, blessed and peaceful.

*Happy Christmas!*

*May the peace and light which only the  
Child of Bethlehem can bring, fill your  
hearts this Christmas and in the New Year.*

*Fr. Mark*

