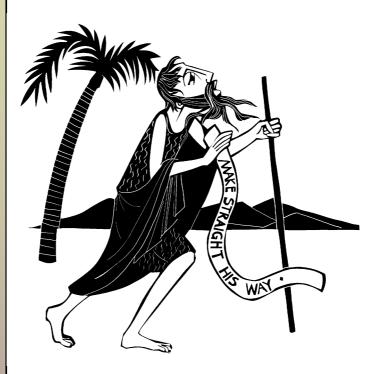


Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

Second Sunday of Advent Sunday 5th December 2021



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For what do I need to repent? Whom do I need to forgive?

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

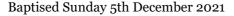
Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy...



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Rosie Hughes





Please note that Mass on Monday will be celebrated at Noon

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICES

From this month, the Liverpool
Archdiocesan Offices (formally known as LACE) will be renamed to St Margaret
Clitherow Centre. The building has been renamed in line with the launch of the pastoral plan as we focus on the six areas of development to strive towards "becoming the Church God is calling us to be." We chose the name St Margaret Clitherow Centre as it links to the history of our building. Before becoming our offices in 2001, the building was St Margaret Clitherow High School. We are proud to rename the building after a northern saint.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please keep in your prayers the first group of children who will make their First Reconciliation this week. May they come closer to God the Father through this very special sacrament.



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 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** - <u>p.ross@rcaolp.co.uk</u> 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'.

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.

CATHOLIC PIC

December's issue which focuses on the launch of the pastoral plan is now available from the church porch.



FEAST OF THE WEEK

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 8th)

The angel Gabriel addressed Mary as 'full of grace' (or 'highly favoured'). This means that Mary received the divine help necessary for her task. The Church was led by the Spirit to realise that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the incarnation called for the special

involvement of God in her whole life. The Church taught that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. This great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus, and the incomparable holiness of Mary shows the incomparable goodness of God.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 4th December	4.30pm
	Scott Nelson
Sunday 5th December	10.30am
Second Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
	11.45am
	Baptism - Rosie Hughes
Monday 6th December	12.00pm
	John Williams
Tuesday 7th December	10.00am
St Ambrose	Leo Connor
Wednesday 8th December	NO MASS
Immaculate Conception	
Thursday 9th December	10.00am
	Margaret Rigby
Friday 10th December	10.00am
	Dorothy Whiston
Saturday 11th December	4.30pm
	Joseph Corrigan
Sunday 12th December	10.30am
Third Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
	11.45am
	Baptism - Alice Sass

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.

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

CTS SUNDAY MISSAL 2022

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AND COFFEE MORNING!!

There is still time to get your raffle tickets for our Grand Christmas raffle. Lots of prizes and the winners will be drawn on 12 December at the Christmas Coffee morning. Please come and join us for a drink



and a mince pie and have a look at some of the bargains on our bring and buy table!!

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

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/

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. 9.00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass Ticket only

First Mass of Christmas

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.30 a.m. Mass of Christmas Dav

Sunday 26th December - Boxing Day

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

Monday 27th - Friday 31st December

Mass 12:00 p.m.

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

Wait till your father gets back' is a dire threat that has rung in the ears of many a naughty child. What will happen when the other parent returns home? Will it all end in tears?

Some Christians talk about Advent and the Day of Christ as if it were like a looming menace that hangs over the Church and the world. Their prayers and hymns are full of apocalyptic references to the end of times and their preaching is geared to frightening people into moral change in order to stave off a vengeful judgement.

If we buy into this way of thinking it's easy to end up either terrified or presuming that we're on the side of the good and everyone else is 'going to get it' when Christ comes again. So we either shrivel as Christians or we have a sense of smugness about what is going to happen at the second coming. We'll be alright but they'll get it in the neck?

If Advent is a season of joy then it's because we are waiting for our God to come not to condemn us but to set us free. Christ will come as a liberator not a dogcatcher. If Jesus reveals the type of God that we have, then why should we be afraid when he comes to take us to that same God?

Our Advent liturgy encourages us to be joyful in our celebration. We can hardly sing 'Come, Lord Jesus' if we think we are ushering in an execution! But at the same time we are not Christian Cheshire cats or professing Polyannas whose worship is removed from real life.

Celebrating the joy of Advent only takes place authentically when we are doing all in our power to make God's kingdom a reality in our lives. That's why St Paul today urges the Philippians to keep trying to become pure and blameless in preparation for the Day of Christ. Joyful active preparation for the Day of Christ produces genuine worship. Anything else is Advent idolatry.



SYNOD2020 PASTORAL PLAN

The Pastoral Plan for the archdiocese was launched by the Archbishop last weekend. You can access the full plan in PDF and audio format on liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk.

To find out more, you are welcome to any of these open meetings (no booking required):

Tuesday 7 December 7pm – 8.30pm in Holy Rosary Church, Aintree L10 2LG

Thursday 9 December 7pm – 8.30pm on Zoom. You can access the zoom meeting via a link on the pastoral plan website:

liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk or directly via

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?

pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJJQT09 . Meeting ID: 864 2151 2557 Passcode: 132667

You can also buy a copy of the plan from pauline Books & Media at a cost of £2.

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)

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^{th} -10 th December.

Help spread some Christmas joy this year by contacting <u>fundraising@wearenugent.com</u> 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

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.



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

