



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 16th January 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What gifts that the Spirit gives me can I use to make a transformation in my life or for those I know?

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 2021 HM Government 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.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JANUARY DRAW

1st £20 No. 114 M Quinn
2nd £15 No. 110 S Harper
3rd £10 No. 19 B McCambridge
4th £10 No. 134 M Johnson



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Can those people who have not yet paid their annual subscription for the new year please contact Myra.

Thanks to Myra's tireless work the Parish raised an amazing £1600 last year - please see the letter on the notice board at the back of Church.

WRAP UP WARM!

Please remember that we have to follow Government guidance about ventilation during this time of Covid. Whilst the heating is on in church, we still have to keep doors/windows open so please wrap up warm for Mass.

LGBT+ Social Group in the Parish of Sts Agnes and Aidan Huyton for members of the LGBT+ community. This group gathers regularly on every third Sunday of the month at 6pm in the Sr Elizabeth Kelly Room at St Agnes RC Church, 82 Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, L36 5SQ.

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
Saturday 15th January	4.30pm Mary & Chris Maloney
Sunday 16th January <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 17th January <i>St Anthony</i>	10.00am Henry Simpson
Tuesday 18th January	10.00am Margaret Matthews
Wednesday 19th January	NO MASS
Thursday 20th January	10.00am Elizabeth Evans
Friday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i>	10.00am Hazel Dempster
Saturday 22nd January	4.30pm Thomas Hughes
Sunday 23rd January <i>Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45 Baptism - Amaya Barbakis

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Antony (17 January)



St Antony is the originator of the monastic life. He was born in Egypt: when his parents died, he listened to the words of the Gospel and gave all his belongings to the poor. He went out into the wilderness to begin a life of penitence, living in absolute poverty, praying, meditating, and supporting himself by manual work. He suffered many temptations, both physical and spiritual, but he overcame them. Disciples gathered round him, attracted by his wisdom and holiness. He gave support to the victims of the persecutions of Diocletian, and helping St Athanasius in his fight against the Arians. He lived to be over a hundred years old, and died in 356.

UNWANTED GIFTS? We would be very grateful for the donation of any unwanted gifts that can be used in our future fundraising efforts. Thank You!

NUGENT CARE

On Saturday 5 February 2022, Nugent will be asking supporters to give up their bed for the night to experience just a fraction of the challenges of what it is like to be homeless. The event's venue is Strawberry Field based in Woolton where today it provides sustainable employment opportunities for young people with learning difficulties. By taking part in Sleep Out with Nugent, you will help to raise money for our New Beginnings project which aims to provide good quality temporary accommodation for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have support needs.

The funds raised will provide support packages for those who have been suffering from homelessness when transitioning into their accommodation. It will provide the basic essentials such as pots, pans and towels, items which we often take for granted. To help raise money for Nugent, you can set up a free fundraising page with Local Giving where you can keep track of your donations, have your own fundraising link and thank your supporters. Visit the link for more info www.wearenugent.org/fundraising/sleep-out-with-nugent

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 11-14 JULY 2022



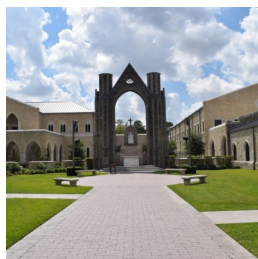
We have now received our allocation of rooms and the prices for the pilgrimage next year. The total price includes travel, accommodation, meals and a full day visit to Sandringham Estate on Wednesday 13 July. Prices are:

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.

Thank you to those who have paid deposits this week. We **MUST** have final numbers by the end of January so please call to the office if you have not already confirmed your request for a place.



If anyone wishes to make instalment payments to cover the balance due please call to the office and we can give you a payment card.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays 4.00p.m- 4.25pm

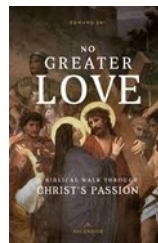


ST BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

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.

NO GREATER LOVE

Following on from the Scripture Study Course last Autumn, a new course will be offered as part of our Lenten journey.



Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Siri guides participants through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, biblical symbolism and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you - grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

The course will begin on Thursday 3rd March and will run for five weeks. Numbers are limited so please give your name to the Parish Office.

New Year's Resolution – Volunteer for CAFOD

A vital aspect of church is people being willing to share their talents, experience and energy. Could your New Year's resolution be volunteering for CAFOD? We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

In the parish - where you will be highlighting CAFOD's work to support communities globally who are living with injustices and in poverty

In local schools – where you'll deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided.

Coordinating volunteers to help us support, encourage and bring together a small group of volunteers.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with Colette on

cbyrne@cafod.org.uk / 07779 804 242.

CAFOD
Just one world

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

The Justice & Peace Commission is delighted to confirm that Dr Lorna Gold will be joining them on Zoom on 16 January 2pm-4pm for what promises to be a very relevant and timely talk looking at the environment in relation to Synodality for the Memorial Lecture 2022. There will be opportunity for Q&A and discussion. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuf-mvrzwuG9PD06IFRwfu8PF66XLA4B8d>

Dr Gold is director of movement building with FaithInvest. Prior to her current role, she led Trócaire's policy, research and advocacy activities in Ireland for almost two decades. She holds a PhD in economic geography from the University of Glasgow, is chair of the board of the Laudato Si' movement and a member of the Vatican Covid-19 Commission Economic Taskforce. Her newest book, *Climate Generation: Awakening to Our Children's Future* (NCP 2018), was described by Naomi Klein as "an anguished journey into the heart of the climate crisis." It tells her personal story of waking up to the ecological emergency as a mother, academic and activist. Her academic research interests include the just transition, civil society movements and the role of faith groups in climate activism and she lectures part time at Maynooth University, Ireland. She is a leading voice on faith-consistent investing within the Catholic Church and supported the Irish Bishops' Conference to divest from fossil fuels in 2018. Other publications: *New Financial Horizons – The Emergence on the Economy of Communion* (NCP 2011).

ANIMATE YOUTH

It's Back ! Lourdes 2022

Be part of the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Ages 15-22 yrs. old Thursday 21st July 2022 – Sat 30th July 2022 Online applications www.liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk/ For more info Tel Fr Simon Gore 01704740467

Sefton Coach 7 is welcoming applicants for this year's Lourdes pilgrimage from Thursday 21st July - Saturday 30th July.

The cost is £540 (which can be reduced by fundraising). If you are between the ages of 15-22 please go to liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk or contact: coach7@animateyouth.net for more information.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Strange, isn't it, how we don't know the names of the couple who were getting married at Cana? In fact, we hear nothing about them at all, not even when the chief steward compliments the groom on the quality of the wine.



St John's emphasis is on the presence of Jesus at the wedding. All throughout the Old Testament the prophets had spoken about God's relationship with his people as that of a bride and groom. God speaks about taking Israel as his bride in a wedding feast that would outshine all others and in a love that was everlasting and unparalleled.

So when St John gives his account of Jesus's first miracle (or 'signs' as he calls them) he is trying to tell us that the marriage between God and us has now begun. The changing of water into wine is a 'sign' that the kingdom of God is now among us.

Sometimes people have used Mary's request to Jesus as an indication of her power with her Son. But there is really something deeper going on in the story. Mary represents the Jewish people or humanity that is about to learn of the explosion of the kingdom upon the earth. She is about to learn that the real groom is Jesus, whose wedding with humanity is just beginning and will be consummated in his death and resurrection. In Jesus God has visited his people to take it as his spouse and lead it definitively into a life of everlasting love.

At Cana, Jesus of Nazareth reveals himself for the first time in John's gospel as the Son of God with all the creative power that was needed to fashion heaven and earth. And the changing of water into wine is a 'sign' of this revelation.

What about today? Whose wedding is Jesus at? Well, he's at yours and mine. By coming among us, as one of us, Jesus invites the Church to be his bride. It's our wedding that he wants to celebrate daily, our wedding with him, with the Father and the Spirit. It's to us that he proposes marriage; it's our water that he promises to turn into wine. And each time we eat and drink the bread of his body and the wine of his blood we renew our marriage vows with him.

CHRISTMAS CRIB

It is wonderful to have our parish Christmas Crib back after the previous scaled down version. The crib 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.

Please give as generously as you can



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.

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. **Up to the end of 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. For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove
Thank you.



Universal Synod on Synodality

Submissions: 10 January 2022 – 10 March 2022

Synod 2021-2023 for a synodal church: communion, participation, mission called by Pope Francis for 2023 was opened on 9 October 2021. Due to the proximity of the launch of our own Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, the start of our reflection process was delayed in Liverpool until the New Year.

As an archdiocese, we are providing opportunities to participate, albeit in a somewhat “lighter” way than our recent Synod 2020 listening and discussion processes. Resources and submissions are online from Monday 10 January – Thursday 10 March 2022. The submissions received for the universal Synod will be combined with those from Synod 2020 and will form our archdiocesan response.

We have streamlined the submission process as much as possible without losing the breadth of focus that has been provided by the Vatican Synod Office. The preferred method of submitting responses is online www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/synod2023 although email and postal submissions are, of course, possible. The deadline for all responses is **10 March 2022**.

A summary of the process and the themes are available to view and download on the diocesan website. Further information and resources are on the Bishop's Conference site: www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/ or the Vatican website www.synod.va

The coordinators for the Archdiocese are Fr Philip Inch (philipinch@rcaol.org.uk) and Helen Jones (h.jones@rcaol.org.uk). The email for all universal synod enquiries: vaticansynod@rcaol.org.uk

Dementia Awareness Session

A zoom session, 7pm 8th February 2022

Have you ever wanted to know more about Dementia - how it affects people? How we can relate to someone with dementia?

This session will be approximately 45 minutes, led by Sr. Moira

We will explore issues of Dementia and how you can help someone to live well with Dementia?

For a link contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

We are re-starting the Theatre Group with a visit to the Empire in June to see one of our favourite musicals!!



The newly updated version of the London Palladium Production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' is booked for Friday 10th June. Hopefully by that time the world should be back to a bit more normality and we can enjoy our wonderful theatre trips again.

With stars from The London Palladium **Linzi Hateley**, **Jac Yarrow** and **Jason Donovan** (who doesn't love a bit of Jason?!!) the show features songs that have gone on to become pop and musical theatre classics.

Price including ticket and coach is £55. You can pay in instalments if that helps. We need to confirm numbers by 14 Feb.

Fr Mark has seen the new show in London and says it is brilliant.

Please come and join us for a lovely night of musical entertainment

