



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 23rd January 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what ways am I poor, oppressed or held captive? How does the Lord's promise speak to me? How can I bring glad tidings to those who are poor and oppressed?

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.

SHOULD I COME TO MASS?

The statement released by the Bishops' of England & Wales last Autumn reflected the pastoral situation of public worship in the light of the pandemic at this time. The Bishops have asked for all Catholics to reflect on their pastoral circumstances with respect to their attendance at Mass on Sunday. Questions have been raised regarding the status of the Sunday Obligation. The Code of Canon Law states that '*Sunday is the primordial holy day obligation*' (Can. 1246.1) and '*the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass*' (Can. 1247).

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Bishops recognised that the participation in the Sunday Mass was prevented due to grave cause because of the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic and stated that the Sunday obligation could not be fulfilled due to the inherent danger of people gathering in churches for Mass. On 23rd March 2020, the Government mandated the closure of places of worship.

The Bishops, now having reflected on the current situation recognise that the causes and effects of the pandemic are still present to such a degree that the *absolute* duty for all to freely attend Sunday Mass cannot yet be fulfilled.

As such, they have asked all Catholics now reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist to their own life of faith and take into consideration their personal circumstances and the reasons as to whether they can now attend Sunday Mass or otherwise.

Should a person feel that they still cannot genuinely attend Sunday Mass, there is no sin associated with their non-attendance and they are encouraged to devote themselves to prayer at home. This may be achieved either through personal prayer or be participating with a live-streamed celebration of Mass from a 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.

PARISH OFFICE.

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday of this week.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
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-Hall
Monday 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	10.00am Funeral Mass - Ann Hall
Tuesday 25th January <i>Conversion of St Paul</i>	10.00am Mgr Austin Hunt
Wednesday 26th January <i>Sts Timothy & Titus</i>	NO MASS
Thursday 27th January	10.00am James Corcoran
Friday 28th January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	10.00am Barry Hoare
Saturday 29th January	12.00pm Baptism - Thomas Hart 4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 30th January <i>Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Feliksas Targonskas 11.45am Baptism - Annabelle Hollywood

Masses & Services for week commencing 29th January

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 29th January	12.00pm Baptism - Thomas Hart 4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 30th January <i>Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Feliksas Targonskas 11.45am Baptism - Annabelle Hollywood
Monday 31st January <i>St John Bosco</i>	10.00am John Bragg
Tuesday 1st February	10.00am Peggy O'Dea
Wednesday 2nd February <i>The Presentation of The Lord</i>	NO MASS
Thursday 3rd February	10.00am Bob Lambert & Nicola
Friday 4th February	10.00am Robert Aindow
Saturday 5th February <i>St Agatha</i>	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 6th February <i>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Stephen McQuade 11.45am Baptism - Pixie Seanor

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:

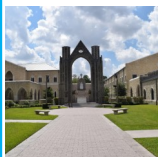


Standard rooms - £282 (there a very limited number of these singles)
En suite rooms - £327

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. 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.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Amaya Barbakis-Hall

Baptised Sunday 23rd January 2022



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 this 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.

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!

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Tuesday the 18th to the 25th January.

The Theme this Year is *We Saw His Star in the East*. The star that shone in the East, (the Middle East), two thousand years ago still leads us to the manger, to where Christ was born. It draws us to where the Spirit of God is alive and active.

There is a joint Ecumenical Service in the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 23rd January at 3 pm with the Church leaders and the choirs of both Cathedrals. All welcome

"A LIFE LIVED WITH GRACE"

On 2 June 2022 choirs throughout the four nations of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth are being invited to join in a unique musical celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 'Churches Together in England' is encouraging churches, congregations, parishes and individuals throughout England to get involved. For more info visit www.cte.org.uk/song-for-the-commonwealth/

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

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

Ann Hall

Funeral Mass Monday 24th January - 10.00am



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

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Sunday of the Word of God

'...At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I proposed setting aside "a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people". Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world...

'Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity...

'On this Sunday, it would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasise in the homily the honour that it is due. Bishops could celebrate the Rite of Installation of Lectors or a similar commissioning of readers, in order to bring out the importance of the proclamation of God's word in the liturgy. In this regard, renewed efforts should be made to provide members of the faithful with the training needed to be genuine proclaimers of the word, as is already the practice in the case of acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Pastors can also find ways of giving a Bible, or one of its books, to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of *lectio divina*.'



The Apostolic Letter "Aperuit Illis" of Pope Francis

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Thomas Aquinas (28th January)



Thomas Aquinas lived in the 13th century and is arguably one of the finest minds that the Church and the world have ever known. He tried to show that faith and intelligent reason should not be in conflict. One way in which he did this was to try and give five 'proofs' for the existence of God. Here's a modern way of saying what he taught:

1. Things everywhere move. Think of a train where each carriage is pulled along by the one in front of it. But there must have been one unit that started the pulling without being pulled by others: the engine. God is the engine, the prime mover.
2. I have a picture of myself with my father and grandfather. My father 'created' me, my grandfather did the same for him, and so we go back to the first human being. Who caused the first life (however primitive or subhuman) to come about? It had to be someone who was not created themselves. God is that first cause.
3. Things come and go. There are things that last for a while (contingent beings) and then die off or are destroyed while other things (necessary beings) make more passing things. Not everything can be passing; there has to be some original thing that gives rise to the things that come and go. God is that necessary being.
4. When I look at paintings or sculptures I say that one is more beautiful than another. This supposes that there is some sort of grade of beauty (or truth or goodness, etc) involved. There has to be a top and a bottom of this scale. We say that the thing that possesses the fullness of beauty etc is God.
5. When a surgeon opens the body of a patient on the operating table, he or she is faced with an incredibly complex network of nerves, muscle, vessels and tissue that are interdependent in the most marvellous way. It is not possible that this has happened by complete luck or chance. There is a pattern or intelligence to it. The intelligent designer is God.

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

