



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Feast of The Baptism of The Lord

Sunday 9th January 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How has the Holy Spirit, whom I received in baptism, influenced my outlook and my actions?

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.

THANK YOU

A big thank you from Fr Mark for all the Christmas presents and cards he has received over the last few weeks. He will offer Mass for those people over the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our church look beautiful and ready for Christmas. We are lucky to have talented and committed people in our parish.

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

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 8th January	<p style="text-align: center;">12.00pm Baptism – Frankie, Archie & Rosina Johnson 4.30pm Michael McDermott</p>
Sunday 9th January <i>Feast of The Baptism of The Lord</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism – Isobel McLoughlin</p>
Monday 10th January	<p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Amy Rose Shaw</p>
Tuesday 11th January	<p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Special intention (JM)</p>
Wednesday 12th January	NO MASS
Thursday 13th January	<p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Martin Culkin</p>
Friday 14th January <i>St Kentigern</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Maureen Clark</p>
Saturday 15th January	<p style="text-align: center;">4.30pm Mary & Chris Maloney</p>
Sunday 16th January <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">10.30am People of Parish</p>

FEAST OF THE WEEK

ST KENTIGERN/MUNGO (January 14th)

Glasgow's coat of arms contains the four symbols of Mungo (or Kentigern), the sixth century saint. They are a bird, a fish, a bell and a tree:



The bird commemorates the pet robin owned by Saint Servanus, which was accidentally killed by monks who blamed it on Mungo. He took the bird in his hands and prayed over it, restoring it to life.

The fish was one caught by him in the Clyde. When it was slit open, a ring belonging to the Queen of Cadzow was miraculously found inside it. She was suspected of disloyalty by her husband, and thought to have left with his ring. She has asked Mungo for help, and he found and restored the ring in this way to clear her name.



The bell may have been given to Mungo by the pope. The original, which was tolled at funerals, no longer exists and was replaced by the justices of Glasgow in 1641. This one is preserved in the People's Palace.

The tree is a symbol of an incident from Mungo's childhood. Left in charge of the holy fire in Saint Servanus's monastery, he fell asleep and the fire went out. However he broke off some frozen branches from a hazel tree and miraculously re-kindled the fire. The feast of St Kentigern is a principal feast of our Archdiocese.

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

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Fr Mark asks Ministers of the Eucharist to check if they have borrowed pyx's from the sacristy and have not returned them as we have only one left. In particular we are missing a small silver pyx which is used for gluten-free hosts and a large pyx and its pouch. Many thanks.

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.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

True Human Fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Lord in your mercy...

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.

EPIPHANY BLESSING 2022

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) and the days before or after. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

There is a card at the back of church with the following inscription:
20 + C + M + B + 22.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The " + " signs represent the cross and 2022 is the year.

Marking the doorway to one's home is rooted in the Old Testament. Scripture reminds us that God has commanded his people to mark their doors. The Shema Yisrael:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 9)

As you put the card near your front door say this:
The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-two years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then say the following prayer:
Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may show your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

The Justice & Peace Commission is delighted to confirm that Dr Lorna Gold will be joining them on Zoom 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).

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Archie, Frankie & Rosina Johnson

Baptised Saturday 8th January 2022

Isobel McLoughlin

Baptised Sunday 9th January 2022



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!

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Life seems to become more and more privatised as the days go by. For whatever reason, we don't see many children playing games together in our streets or our parks. Buses and trains are full of people who don't talk to each other because they sit glued to their phones and with headphones in their ears. Young people are said to spend many hours a week by themselves in their bedrooms on the computer. And families claim that life is so frenetic that they have to make a special effort to eat a brand of gravy together once a week.

Of course, there are some people whose religion is exactly the same. It's about them and God, about them getting holy and going to heaven. If others can do the same, all well and good; but they don't actually affect them in any way. These are the sort of people who prefer a 'private' wedding or a 'private' funeral. After all, it's about them, not the rest of the parish. Or is it?

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord turns all of this on its head. For it reminds us that at our own baptism we were anointed by the priest or deacon. We were anointed with oil so that we could become 'priests-prophets-kings (or queens).'

To be a priest means that we offer every moment of our lives to God that they may become sanctified and profitable.

To be a prophet means that by our words and actions we are to speak out to our world as spokesmen and women. We are to say what God wants the world to hear.

To be a king or queen means to accept responsibility for our world as well as for the kingdom of God. The world we have been given is on loan to us; we are to watch over it, to protect it and hand it on to the next generation in even better condition.

Our religion is the expression of our baptism. We are baptised into a living, believing community that worships collectively, that publicly makes its stand for the power of God's word in our world and is ready to come to the aid of those whose human dignity is under threat. That's because our baptism calls us to be other Christs in our world. Far from being a private hobby it is a reminder that our vocation is to be part of the ever-advancing People of God. And if we're to be part of a people, then we need others.

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

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. 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

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

CHRISTMAS CRIB

It is wonderful to have our parish Christmas Crib back after the scaled down version last year. 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 this Christmas.



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

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

