



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 13th February 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

What part of my life am I complacent about? How do the Beatitudes call me to change?

While the law concerning COVID rules have changed, Archdiocesan guidelines dictates that face coverings must still be worn in church for all those who come to church for all occasions.

The call of Christian charity requires us to be concerned for each other and, in particular, those who are most vulnerable or who may be anxious. We will therefore continue with the current systems that have served us so well over these last months.

A Funeral Mass for Lilian Matthews will be celebrated on Monday 9.15 am. May she rest in peace.

Mass on Thursday will be at 9.30 a.m.

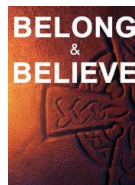
A funeral service for John Sinnott will take place at 11.45am on Thursday. May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Following on from the success of our Pastoral Development Department's Advent Monday reflections, we are running Monday Reflections from 7-8pm on zoom using the Café resource: *Belong and Believe* during Lent.

There will be opportunity to reflect and discuss and although the course will be run online. If you need more information, contact the PD department:

pd@rcaol.org.uk

April 4 Evangelising with Love & Action



You can register for the Zoom reflections here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91251112000>

Or on the website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/pastoral-development

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.

LENT 2022

Lent begins this year on Wednesday 2nd March, Ash Wednesday. Two Masses will be celebrated at midday and 6.00 p.m. with the distribution of ashes.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at each Sunday of Lent at 4 p.m. followed by Benediction.

SIDE BY SIDE

"Are you prepared for this adventure?" Pope Francis

As a synodal Church, Pope Francis is inviting us to journey together, encountering each other and listening deeply to one another as we walk side-by-side. A meeting to see how this can be achieved is taking place:

Saturday 19 March: 10.00am – 4.00pm at St Margaret Clitherow Centre,
Croxteth Drive, L17 1AA (formally known as LACE).
or

Sunday 20 March 12 noon – 6.00pm at the same venue (There will be Mass at 11.00am on the Sunday celebrated by the Archbishop)

On these days we will consider how deepening our practice of accompaniment will help our Catholic community be recognised as relevant and impactful, and how it will offer us hope for the growth of our parishes and communities.

"The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this "art of accompaniment" which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other." Pope Francis

How do we accompany people better?

We'll learn together how we can each grow in our confidence, experience and skill of walking alongside others.

Registration by 6th March: registration@rcaol.org.uk

SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL

Come to the most exciting St Albans Scripture Festival -

godwhospeaks.uk/our-dioceses/st-albans-scripture-festival

The Society of St. Gregory is offering these Scripture workshops:

Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7.30-9pm: Scriptures for Lent (Canon Patrick Hartnett)

Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7.30-9pm: Scriptures for Eastertime (Mgr Kevin McGinnell)

These are online interactive sessions, with lots of practical help and tips. £10 per person, or £25 if you book for more than two workshops. Bookings, together with all the details, are available on their website - www.ssg.org.uk

On 11th May, Mgr Kevin McGinnell will lead us in a bonus session, 'Shadows in the Gospel', for which there's no charge. You can reserve your place when booking for the other sessions online.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 12th February	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 13th February <i>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Michelle McMullen 11.45am Baptism - Joel McGee Fleming
Monday 14th February <i>Sts Cyril & Methodius</i>	9.15am Funeral mass - Lillian Matthews
Tuesday 15th February	10.00am Jennifer Dowd
Wednesday 16th February	NO MASS
Thursday 17th February	9.30am Tom Deegan 11.45am - Funeral service John Sinnott
Friday 18th February	10.00am John Fairclough
Saturday 19th February	12.00pm Baptism - Darci & Shea Elson-Mott 4.30pm Fr Harris
Sunday 20th February <i>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Ethan Kesterton

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY



Religious Sisters and Consecrated Women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Lord in your mercy...

Could you be a Deacon?

Having received our Synod Pastoral Plan which sets out concrete actions to change our ways of working so that our Church becomes more inclusive, more welcoming and more engaged with those on the margins, the ministry of deacons will continue to evolve alongside the presbyteral ministry in the service of the priesthood of all the baptised.

If you would like to hear how this is working out and you feel this may be your calling too, please join Archbishop Malcolm and the diaconate team in an evening meeting for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as deacons and what the formation involves. Wives and supporting priests or deacons are also welcome.

Tuesday 22 February 2022 7.30pm-9pm
(refreshments from 7pm)

St Gregory's Parish House, Weldbank Lane,
Chorley, PR7 3NW

If you are interested in the diaconate but unable to attend this evening, please email diaconate@rcaol.org.uk for more information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Archdiocese of Liverpool now has official accounts on Facebook & Instagram. Please follow us for the latest news, updates and events from across the archdiocese.

CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger Lent Challenge

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition.

This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km and help give hunger its marching orders.

Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger.



To take part go to cafod.org.uk/walk.

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!

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" FEBRUARY DRAW

1st £20	No. 151	F Bennett
2nd £15	No. 59	K Lovelady
3rd £10	No. 97	B Phillips
4th £10	No. 207	J McCambridge

Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month.

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.

"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/

Congratulations Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald OBE

Did you know that we have a Cardinal living in Liverpool?

His Eminence Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald was born in Walsall near Birmingham in 1937 and was ordained a priest for the Society of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in 1961. He studied Arabic and started teaching Arabic & Islamic studies in various universities & colleges. In 1987 he was appointed to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in Rome and became its President in 2002 with Pope John Paul ordaining him a Bishop with the title of Archbishop. Pope Benedict appointed him as the Nuncio to Egypt before he retired in 2012 and moved to Jerusalem. He then moved to St Vincent's parish in Liverpool City Centre as an Assistant Priest and in 2019 Pope Francis created him a Cardinal. Fr Mark works closely with him in the work of Christian - Islamic dialogue.



This year Her Majesty the Queen appointed him Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to interfaith and inter church partnerships.

You can hear from Cardinal Michael as he will be delivering a distinguished lecture on human fraternity – a proposal and a project for relations between Christians and Muslims. The lecture is on Thursday, 17 February at 5.30pm at Liverpool Hope University. All welcome. Email to register at rectorate@hope.ac.uk

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER CENTRE

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, St. Joseph's Prayer Centre, Freshfield, is again open for visitors. We offer a warm welcome for people to enjoy a place of peace, harmony, and hospitality. We provide accommodation for residential retreats (for weekends or longer), meeting rooms for day groups, and we also welcome individuals seeking a quiet space for prayer and reflection. The Prayer Centre is located within the beautiful National Trust Nature Reserve at Freshfield, Merseyside. Further information is available on our website: www.stjosephsprayercentre.com

LIVERPOOL NOTRE DAME ASSOCIATION

Liverpool Notre Dame Association are hosting an afternoon tea, to be held at St Mary's Woolton 12.30 to 3.30pm on 19th Feb. The cost is £10 to be paid in advance by BACS or cheque. Please contact Bernie Shaw on 0161 483 0173 or 07891 645785 or email berniemshaw@hotmail.com for details.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

When we read the Beatitudes we can find ourselves becoming cynical. Do we really want to be poor? Do we yearn to weep? Do we long to be hated and hungry? Probably not. So how do we make sense of what Jesus is teaching his disciples? Do we simply pass the Beatitudes off as nice spiritual thoughts, maybe for nuns and monks enclosed in their monasteries, but thoughts that we really don't want to embrace ourselves?



Often we misunderstand the words that Jesus is using. Take 'poor', for example. The word does not refer to economic conditions but to an attitude of mind. Instead it means someone who is devoted, who knows their absolute dependence on God. The opposite word, 'rich' means self-reliant, self-sufficient or satisfied. So what Jesus is saying is not that poor people are better off than those with money but that it's better to rely on God than to think we can go it alone. Those who know that the Lord holds them in the palm of his hand at every moment already possess the kingdom of God.

Our translations sometimes say 'Happy are you...' or 'Blessed are you...' The happiness of the Beatitudes is something that is not affected by circumstances. It is the bliss that God enjoys, one that is profound and unchanging. To believe in the promises of the Beatitudes means to be so centred on our relationship with God that the troubles and strife of this life cannot shake our faith.

So the obvious question for us when we listen to Jesus today is 'Are we really happy?' Do we experience a great joy and comfort from our faith or do we find it a bind, an extra burden that non-believers are spared? Would life be easier for us if we didn't have to practise our religion? Would we miss it if it weren't there or would we be relieved?



When Jesus says that the kingdom of God 'is' ours he is speaking on two levels. Our perseverance will win us eternal happiness in heaven. But it's also ours here and now. Living the Beatitudes means enjoying the kingdom day in and day out. So the final question is clear: Do you feel blessed and are you happy?

LGBTQ+

The next LGBTQ+ Mass, with a social afterwards, is on Sunday 20th February 2022 at 2.00pm at St Richards, Mayfield Street, Atherton. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Fr Maloney on 0151 287 8787 or email frsmaloney@aol.com.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2022

This special day of prayer is for all Christian churches to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the gifts and beauty of human diversity, and to commit to end all acts of racism and discrimination.

Racial Justice: What's it got to do with me?

This is very much a call for all Christians to engage in the right struggle for racial justice because we are called to treat everyone as images of God and as our brother and sister no matter where they come from.

The Bible has a lot to say about justice because as God's Word, it reflects God's heart for justice. It can be argued that we should love justice because God does! Racism and racial discrimination are justice issues because they deny basic justice and human dignity to women and men who are made in the image of God. Equally, they are sinful because, among other issues, they assume all are not equal before God and are not part of God's family.

The theme this year is **"In the Image and Likeness of God"** celebrating different presentations of the Holy Family from different cultures and countries. The theme builds on that of the previous year's Racial Justice Sunday 'A Time to Act', which reflected on the importance of everyone recognising themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the life of the Church. Our aim, in 2022, is to continue these conversations about how we see others in the "Image and Likeness of God".

We encourage to say the following prayer from Pope Francis:

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.



Praying for Peace in the Ukraine

Catholic bishops in Europe have expressed support for Ukraine and appealed to Christians to pray for peace.

"At this extremely delicate time, we ask Christians to pray for the gift of peace in Ukraine so that those responsible may be filled with, and radiate, a peace that is 'contagious' and that the crisis will be overcome exclusively through dialogue."

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Saints Cyril & Methodius (Monday 14th February)

Both brothers were born in Thessalonica and educated in Constantinople before they went to Moravia to preach the faith. They translated liturgical texts into the Slavonic language and invented the Glagolitic and possibly also the Cyrillic alphabet. They were called back to Rome, where Cyril died on 14 February 869. Methodius then went to Pannonia, where he was assiduous in the work of evangelisation. In the complicated international politics of the time he suffered much from attacks by his enemies, but he was always supported by the Popes. He died on 6 April 885.



FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK YOUR TICKET!!!!



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

