



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 27th February 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can I do this Lent to bear fruit more fully in the world?

ADVICE TO PARISHES

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.

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.

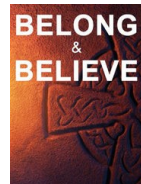


Following on from the success of our Pastoral Development Department's Advent Monday reflections, we are running Monday Reflections from 7-8pm on zoom using the Café resource: *Belong and Believe* during Lent.

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

March 7	Building Welcoming Communities
March 14	Growing in Faith Together
March 21	Renewed in the Holy Spirit
March 28	Caring for God's Creation
April 4	Evangelising with Love & Action



You can register for the Zoom reflections here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>

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.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

This Day of Prayer takes place this weekend and we encourage you to pray for all those who are unemployed. Maybe you can say the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

SLEEP OUT WITH NUGENT

Friday 4 March, 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.

Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult at a ratio of one adult to every two under 18's.

For more information, please visit Nugent's website at: <https://wearenugent.org/fundraising/sleep-out-with-nugent/> or contact: or 07833 091 852.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Macie Jo Green

Baptised Sunday 27th February 2022



NO GREATER LOVE

This Lenten Scripture course is now fully booked. It starts 7 p.m. promptly on Thursday in the presbytery

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 26th February	4.30pm Bridget McDermott
Sunday 27th February <i>Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Macie-Jo Green
Monday 28th February	10.00am Patricia Carroll
Tuesday 1st March <i>St David</i>	10.00am Bob Lambert & Nicola
Wednesday 2nd March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12.00 noon Parishioners 6.00pm Perpetual Mass list
Thursday 3rd March	10.00am Norah & Freddie Foster
Friday 4th March	10.00am Paul Nickson
Saturday 5th March	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 6th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am Ann Henderson 11.45am Baptism - Jake Armitage

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH



A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.
Lord in your mercy...

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa, halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

This year the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland have prepared the service. They encourage us to celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here.



The theme is, *"I know the plans I have for you"* – and the invitation is for everyone – men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer Service on Friday March 4th at 11:00a.m. at All Saints Church, Rawlinson Rd, Southport.

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.



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.

PROGRAMME FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Retrouvaille is hosting a virtual weekend for married couples on 3-6 March. The weekend is aimed to support couples and bring a positive focus to help grow their marriage.

The programme has helped thousands of couples who have experienced difficulties in their marriage. Retrouvaille can be contacted on: 07887 296 983, retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or more information can be found on their website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk.



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

LITHERLAND HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society are pleased to announce the following talks which will take place in the Parish hall:

Tuesday 1st March - Dating your family history - Roger Hull

Tuesday 5th April - 'Sit-coms' from the 50's, 60's and 70's - Ray O'Brien

Tuesday 3rd May - An everyday story of country folk in Lydiate - David Russell

Talks start at 10am and £2 entry fee includes refreshments. All are welcome.

PASSION PLAY

'This is our story' at Liverpool Cathedral
11th April 6.30pm-8.30pm
The Liverpool Passion Play tells the story of the Last Supper, as well as Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. Using the Cathedral's architecture and artwork as a backdrop, the audience will 'walk with Jesus' through his story, starting as a young boy, and witnessing his entry into Jerusalem, his betrayal by Judas, and his trial and crucifixion. Entry is free but we welcome your donations to support the choir tour fund.
For more information
www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/events

LOURDES 2022

After 3 years the Liverpool Archdiocesan 2022 pilgrimage to Lourdes will be taking place from 22 - 29 July and will be led by Archbishop Malcolm. The cost will be from £599 which includes return flights, 7 nights accommodation in your selected hotel, full board and a full religious programme. To book, contact Joe Walsh Tours on: 0808 1890 468. Sick & Assisted pilgrims are asked to contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office:
lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk
Can you help? We urgently need: doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, adult helpers (age over 18), musicians and singers. Contact the Pilgrimage Office for more details.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

It's timely that today we hear Jesus use the word 'hypocrite' when teaching his disciples, for we will hear him say that word again and repeatedly in Ash Wednesday's Gospel.

There is something very distasteful about pretending to be something that you're not, whether it's pretending to be a better person than you really are or refusing to see your own flaws. Further, the hypocrite imagines that everyone else must be faking it just as they are, so rationalises that they are doing just what everyone else does. In fact, they are happy to find bona fide splinters in others' eyes, for, blinded by their own pride, they confirm their apparent superiority. Let us learn the lesson a few days early: Hypocrisy blinds us to both the goodness in others and the flaws in ourselves.

On the night before he died, Jesus told his disciples that he was the vine and they were the branches and that they would bear much fruit if they remained in him and he in them. Jesus remains in us as well and if we remain in him, if we remain committed disciples, we too can bear much fruit. Sirach tells us that fruit we bear shows the care we've had. Let us nurture the Lord's care and bear the kind of fruit that helps grow the kingdom and shows the goodness in our hearts.

None of us want to bear rotten fruit, but do we realise that avoiding doing so is not enough? How many of us are actually bearing no fruit at all? Have we produced something good and valuable over the last week that we have generously given to someone else? Let us do more than avoid bearing rotten fruit. May we produce fruit that causes our family, friends, co-workers, classmates, and strangers to appreciate what we generously provide.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

DAVID, PATRON OF WALES (March 1st)

Hollalluog Dduw, a elwaist dy was Dewi, yn dy gariad at dy bobl, i fod yn oruchwylwr ffyddlon a doeth ar dy ddirgeleddau: yn drugarog caniat, fod i ni, gan ddilyn purdeb ei fuchedd a'i sŵn dros holl Efengyl Crist, dderbyn gydag ef dy wobr nefol; trwy Iesu Grist ein Harglwydd, y bo iddo gyda thi air Ysbryd Gl'n bob anrhydedd a gogoniant, byth bythoedd. Amen.



Almighty God, in the love you have for your people you called your servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries: in your mercy grant that we may imitate his purity of life and his zeal for the whole Gospel of Christ and so with him receive the reward of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom let there be all honour and glory with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Appeal of His Beatitude Sviatoslav to the Sons and Daughters of the Ukrainian People in Ukraine and Abroad, and to all People of Good Will

We've been asked to share the following message:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The recognition by the president of the Russian Federation of the “independence and sovereignty” of the self-proclaimed LNR and DNR creates serious challenges and threats for the entire international community and for international law, on the basis of which today people and their nations exist and cooperate. Irreparable damage has been done to the very logic of international relations, which are called to safeguard peace and the just order of societies, the supremacy of law, the accountability of state powers, the defence of the human being, human life and natural rights. Today all of humanity has been placed in danger—that the powerful have a right to impose themselves on whomever they wish, with no regard for the rule of law.

In its decision the government of the Russian Federation unilaterally withdrew from a lengthy peace process, tasked with ensuring the restoration of dignified conditions for life on the territories controlled by Russia in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, for those impacted by Russian military aggression. The war, initiated against our people in 2014, has inflicted deep wounds on many of our fellow citizens: thousands killed, wounded, left in solitude. Yesterday's step taken by the president of the Russian Federation destroyed foundational principles for a long-term process of restoring peace in Ukraine, created the path for a new wave of military aggression against our state, opened the doors for a full scale military operation against the Ukrainian people.

We consider the defense of our native land, our historical memory and our hope, our God-given right to exist to be the personal responsibility and sacred duty of the citizens of Ukraine. The defence of our Fatherland is our natural right and civic duty. We are strong when we are together. Now has come the time to unite our efforts in order to defend the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Ukrainian state. The duty and responsibility of all of humanity - to actively work to avert war and protect a just peace.

We are convinced that the world cannot develop and find answers for the challenges of today by resorting to might and violence, by showing disdain for shared human values and the truth of the Gospel. I call upon all people of good will to not ignore the suffering of the Ukrainian people, brought on by Russian military aggression. We are a people who love peace. And precisely for that reason we are ready to defend it and fight for it.

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Today we call out in prayer to the Almighty Creator, with a special appeal for wisdom for those entrusted with making important decisions for society, in whose hands lies the fate of humanity. We ask the Heavenly Father for assistance in restoring a just peace on Ukrainian land.

We pray especially for those who defend Ukraine, who in these days are for us an example of loving sacrifice and dedicated service to their people. May the merciful Lord protect them from every danger and crown their efforts with the victory of truth and good.

We call for the gracious blessing of a loving God and Creator upon Ukraine and its people!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

+Sviatoslav

Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Kyiv, Ukraine

“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/

YOU ARE CALLED

Do you have young people in your family currently in Year 8 of High School? Would they like to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this year? Registration is open until 21st March:



