



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 6th February 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When have I felt frightened or foolish by doing something I felt called to do? How has God reassured me and given me confidence?

WEEKDAY MASS

A Funeral Mass for Ann Maley will be celebrated on Tuesday 10.00 am. May she rest in peace.

Please not - Mass on Thursday will be at 9.30 a.m.

ADVICE TO PARISHES

We ask you to keep in mind the rules that are still in place in places of worship:

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 throughout the building.

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.

The Sign of Peace is restored to its traditional form but it's left to people whether they offer a hand shake or simply bow to people around them. Please be sensitive to people's wishes.

Holy Water is now restored and in the stoups in the church porch.

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.

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.

CATHOLIC PIC

February
Catholic Pic is
available at
the back of
Church



FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Josephine Bakhita

Born in Darfur, Sudan, in 1868 she was kidnapped by slave traders when she was only nine. Having been abused terribly she was rescued by the Italian consul and taken to Italy where she worked as a maid. Eventually she became a Christian and took the name Josephine as a sign of her new life. She entered the convent of the Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice and spent fifty years as a Sister with a great reputation for holiness and ended her life in 1947. She is thought to be the only canonised saint originally from Sudan. Her feast day is on Tuesday.



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 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
Monday 7th February	10.00am Brenda Davenport
Tuesday 8th February <i>St Josephine Bakhita</i>	10.00am Funeral Mass - Ann Maley
Wednesday 9th February	NO MASS
Thursday 10th February <i>St Scholastica</i>	9.30am Eileen Wright
Friday 11th February	10.00am Barry Moore
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

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...

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE** trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk



Received this week:

‘Dear English Martyrs Family - we would like to take this time to thank you greatly for all the support that we have had and continue to receive from yourselves for the last few years. Your support has allowed us to continue to help lots

of families in the surrounding areas with the need of food and toiletries. Chris always hears our prayers when our food stock is running low. Once again thank you so much for everything you do, it would not be possible to continue without support from people like yourselves and for that we are forever grateful.

Paula, Nicola and Jan and all at ‘In your shoes’

Donations of food and toiletries can be left at the back of Church and these will be taken to ‘In your shoes’ on Moss Lane. Financial donations for the purchase of fresh fruit and veg can also be made direct to Moss Lane.

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!

OUR LADY OF LOURDES



The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place on Friday 11th February, 7.30 p.m. at Christ the King, Childwall. All are welcome.

Thursday 10 February 'Jesus Christ, the Universe and ourselves – a pattern of relationships.'

Reflections on Paul's Letter to the Colossians led by Father Chris Thomas. 10.30 am to 12.00 noon on zoom. Bookings email: jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

"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/

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

Ann Maley

Funeral Mass Tuesday 8th February - 10.00am



CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

CAFOD in Liverpool

A Focus on Food

Each year, more and more people around the world are going hungry, despite there being enough food in the world to feed everyone. The way we grow and distribute food is broken, so people go hungry while the planet suffers, and the climate crisis makes the situation even worse. This year, through our appeals, campaigns and communications, we will be highlighting the reasons people go hungry and what we can do to play our part in addressing the causes and symptoms of our broken food system. Thank you for being with us on this journey.



Have you signed up for the [Walk Against Hunger](https://walk.cafod.org.uk/) yet? If you have, thank you so much. Can you ask friends, family members or other parishioners to [sign up](https://walk.cafod.org.uk/) to Walk Against



Hunger too? We hope thousands of people all over England and Wales will challenge themselves to walk 200km in Lent, get sponsored and raise funds to help stamp out hunger one step at a time. Sign up at

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

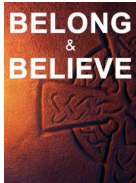
What links Isaiah and the disciples of today's gospel? They were both overawed when faced with the presence of God. Isaiah had a vision of God and the overwhelming feeling was one of holiness. Angels kept singing the word 'holy', making Isaiah feel even more unclean and sinful. Similarly, when Peter, James and John saw how many fish they'd netted they were overcome with awe. This wasn't because they'd caught lots of fish but because they realised they were in the presence of someone special.

Holiness is God's trademark. Yes, there's love, mercy, justice, compassion etc. But it's holiness that marks God out as special. In fact, holiness means being set apart, being different from, being completely other. Some people never grasp the holiness of God. They practise their religion as if they were doing God a favour. After all, they could stop coming to church and offer their services to some local or national charity instead. I'm sure the Hospice Shop or Rotary would welcome them with open arms. But this is to miss the point.



True faith comes as a response to God's holiness. It's a result of realising the immenseness of God's glory and grandeur, of his 'otherness'. And to glimpse God's holiness means to be drawn into the only possible response: to try and be as like God as is humanly possible. When Isaiah had his moment his reaction was first to say 'I'm a man of unclean lips' and only later was he able to say 'Send me.' Peter's reaction to the holiness of Jesus was to shout out, 'Leave me, Lord; I'm a sinful man' and only later follow him.

When we attend church we're not doing God a favour. We're not showing others how good we are, how loyal is our brand of Christianity. We come because we've experienced something of God's holiness in our lives and feel moved to react. That's why at our liturgy we first listen to God's 'holy' word and only then respond in praise. It's not so much what we do as what we allow God's holiness to provoke within us. We can only worship God when we've been overcome by holiness.



BELONG & BELIEVE

*How our **Celtic past** can help us today. Refreshing our communities and renewing our ministries.*

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/84461212345>

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

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



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



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Pixie Seanor

Baptised Sunday 6 February 2022



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

