



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday 20th March 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How am I like the fig tree that has not borne fruit? How can I bear fruit in the year ahead?

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.

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER CENTRE

The Meeting of a Disciple Sat 26th March 10am-3.30pm

The Prayer Day will be led by Fr John McCluskey. The day will begin with Mass at 10am. Cost £20. Please bring your own lunch. For more info and to book Tel:01704 875850

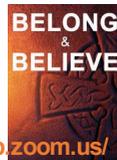
Email: theprayercentre.stj@psmgs.org.uk

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 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/meeting/register/tZ0ldO6oqD0sE9GOs3Eewqn1hNhwlxPPFpG6>

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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.

CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Missionaries of Charity

The annual Carrying of the Cross will take place on Saturday 9th April at 2PM The carrying of the cross will begin from Church Street, passing through Bold Street and finishing at St Luke's Church (bombed out church), and will be followed by a short service. Please join us from 1:45pm at the junction of Church Street and Lord Street, Liverpool for a 2pm prompt start.

UKRAINE APPEAL

There are a few ways to donate to the Archdiocesan appeal for Ukraine:

Text HELPUKRAINE to 70085 to donate £2
Text HELPUKRAINE to 70450 to donate £3
Text HELPUKRAINE to 70460 to donate £5
Text HELPUKRAINE to 70470 to donate £10

By bank transfer to
Account name: Archdiocese of Liverpool
Sort code: 40-29-12
Account: 01551493
Reference: Help Ukraine

Or by cheque made payable to “Archdiocese of Liverpool” and with “Help Ukraine” written on the reverse, these can be sent to the Finance Department:

St Margaret Clitherow Centre
Liverpool Archdiocesan Office
Croxteth Drive
Liverpool
L17 1AA

You can find more information on how we can help on the Archdioceses website: liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/ukraine-support

Pauline Books & Media is Church Street are praying the Angelus at 12.00 for peace in Ukraine. You are most welcome to join them.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB” MARCH DRAW

1st £20	No. 145	S Harper
2nd £15	No. 199	B Dunn
3rd £10	No. 52	D King
4th £10	No. 168	J Quinn



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Contact Myra on 928 1136

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	4.30pm Joe Condron
Sunday 20th March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am Ann & Harold Buck
Monday 21st March	10.00am Julie Cairns
Tuesday 22nd March	10.00am John McKeown
Wednesday 23rd March	NO MASS
Thursday 24th March	10.00am (in EM school) Jean Marsden
Friday 25th March <i>Annunciation of The Lord</i>	10.00am Colin Whittaker
Saturday 26th March	4.30pm Kathleen Askin
Sunday 27th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

LENT ACTIONS

A few ideas for Lent

- * Pray for those who have hurt you
- * 40 acts of kindness – e.g. phone calls to someone who maybe lonely
- * Think about a habit that has kept you from being whom God is calling you to be. Consciously give up that habit for Lent.
- * As a part of your Lenten almsgiving, make a point to learn more about a particular social issue e.g. Ukraine, immigration, human trafficking, racism, the environment, child poverty.
- * Give money to an organisation related to your chosen issue that supports the dignity of the human person.
- * Think of ways that you can be a rainbow in someone else's cloud
- * Think about what you usually spend your money on. Do you buy too many clothes? Spend too much on dinner out? Pick one type of expenditure that you'll "fast" from during Lent, and then give the money you would usually spend to charity.

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.

Bernie has signed up to take part again this year - if anyone would like to sponsor her walking in the wind and rain!!
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/bernie-walk-for-hunger>

Nugent Charity Shop is in urgent need of donations.

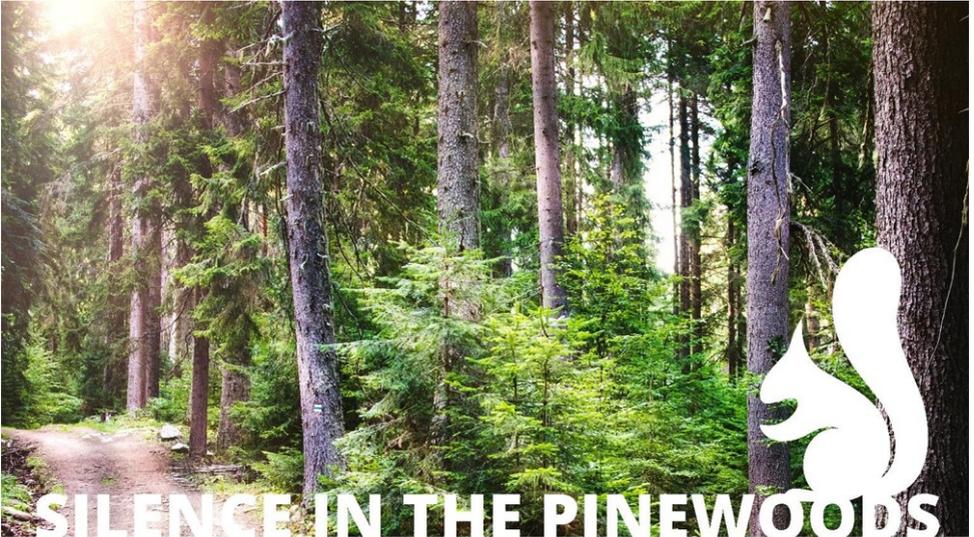
We accept the following donations: clothing, shoes, accessories, handbags, books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac.

We are unable to accept : toys, soft toys, furniture, electrical items.

Please kindly consider donating any items to our Charity Shop, which can be dropped off at: Nugent Charity Shop 73 Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 2DA

For more information, or to book a collection, please call: 0151 737 2951 or visit our website at: [Nugent Allerton Road \(Charity Shop\) - Nugent \(wearenugent.org\)](https://www.nugentcharityshop.org)

Our Charity Shop is open: Monday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm



SILENCE IN THE PINEWOODS

Opening to the presence of God

An Introduction to Contemplation through the gateway of Centering Prayer led by Fr Richard Sloan

Centering Prayer is a silent meditation method, rooted in the Christian contemplative tradition. It is accessible to all who want to open themselves, heart and mind, to the Ultimate Mystery. It is an intentional practice, founded on the gesture of surrender, a conscious letting go of thoughts, images and ideas in order to rest in a place of deeper spiritual attentiveness.

It is a methodology par excellence for nurturing the heart, the place where we come into alignment with Divine Wisdom and live authentically out of our true selves.

"It's not about knowing more but about more of you knowing" (Cynthia Bourgeault).

Whether you are new to Centering Prayer or already familiar with it, the day will offer some insights into this transformative method of meditation through:

- understanding the background to Centering Prayer
- introducing you to the Centering Prayer method
- experiencing 2 sessions of Centering prayer
- being with a like-minded group of seekers
- exploring how Centering Prayer offers a path of transformation gathering new insights to weave into your life.

Saturday 2 April 2022
10am - 4pm

St Joseph's Prayer Centre
Blundell Avenue, Formby, L37 1PH

Registration
<https://forms.gle/KSd8saSrTTP3HxAn9>

Suggested donation
£12 (please bring a packed lunch)

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...



FEAST OF THE WEEK ANNUNCIATION (March 25th)

If God is to become one of us then it is inevitable that one of us had to be chosen for the privileged role of being his mother. That role fell to Mary



Together with Jesus, Mary is the graced link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God and she shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. As the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God, she manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.



The Annunciation invites us to make Mary's response our own whenever we stand before God in prayer: 'Yes, Lord, let what you have said be done to me!'

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

This time of year we remember some of the priests who have faithfully served our parish community and whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:

Fr Bob Starkey - 3rd March (died 2004).

Canon Michael Culhane - 23rd March (died 2010)

Fr Anthony Fleming - 28th March (died 2011)

Canon Bill O'Sullivan - 23rd March (died 2013).

May they be rewarded for their faithful service and rest in peace.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

WHAT A FOOL!

Have you noticed how the media, particularly the television and cinema, treat the clergy of the Christian Churches? Actually, they treat them like fools. The Anglican is parodied as a harmless fop (think of the vicar in Dad's Army), the Catholic portrayed often as an alcoholic (as in Father Ted) and the Methodist or Free Church minister derided as a fun-hating misery.



By caricaturing the clergy like this you caricature the religion. And why do it? Because what Christians believe appears stupid. It doesn't make sense to anyone else. In fact, it seems sheer foolishness. That's why it frightens others and invites mockery.

Who in their right mind would believe in a God who is the creator and life-force of all that exists? Surely we all know that science has done away with the need for God?

Who apart from a madman or woman would believe that the baby born into the world two thousand years ago is actually the embodiment on earth of the divine being?

Only a fool would accept the teaching that says we have to die in order really to enjoy life. It's an idiot's creed to put others' needs before your own. Surely you need a feeble mind to see victory in the public and humiliating execution of your leader?

How can there be any mileage in following a man who turns the accepted values of society on their head, calling for the first to be the last, the leader to be a servant, for people to put relative store in what they enjoy here on earth because they're promised something even greater in an afterlife?



We need a Lenten reality check to realise that we are fools to many in our society. The teaching of Christ does not seek to be respectable but radical and it alienates just as much as it endears. St Paul gets to the heart of it saying, 'Here we are preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.'

Don't be fooled into thinking that your faith is seen as respectable. Most people think it's stupid.

CARE FOR UKRAINE

Resources, appeals and prayers for the tragic situation in Ukraine can be found under the 'news' tab on the Archdiocesan website:

www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Fr Taras, a Ukrainian priest ministering within our Archdiocese has sent the following message:

"If you know people who are not sure how best to express their support for Ukraine, the Ukrainian Institute in London has posted a list of suggested actions: www.ukrainianinstitute.org.uk

You will also find a lot of information from the International Affairs Department of the Bishops' Conference:

www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/international/countries/ukraine

Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.

FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

Two tickets have become available for the trip to the Empire on Friday 10th June to see 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. If anyone wishes to join us please give your name to the Parish Office.



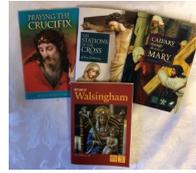
Wednesday 23 March

St Oscar Romero Parish Week of Prayer

7.00 pm in Our Lady, Star of the Sea church, Crescent Road, Seaforth, L21 4LJ. Vigil Mass for the Feast of St Oscar Romero with Blessing of Parish Romero Crosses. Celebrant: Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP. This is also the Annual Archdiocesan Romero Mass including contributions from local Justice and Peace, the Justice and Peace Commission and Cafod.



PIETY STALL We have got some lovely new books in the shop - many wonderful Lenten reflections. Most cost no more than £3.50. Come in and have a look at the new stock!! There are also some lovely First Communion gifts



LENT 2022



Sunday 4.00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Friday 9.40am Morning Prayer of the Church

The Carmelites friars from Portsmouth are offering a series of online retreats for Lent & Easter:

www.carmelite.uk.net/online-talks-retreats/lenten-easter-retreats/

Lenten Virtual Pilgrimage of Grace in the Holy Land. 15 minutes daily reflection from the Holy Land: www.magdala.org

EASTER BINGO!



Please come and join us on Wednesday 6 April in English Martyrs Hall for our Easter Bingo. Doors open at 6.30pm and 'eyes down' is at 7.00pm. Entry is £1 and tickets will be sold at the back of Church from next weekend or you can pay on the door

We are also holding a grand Easter Raffle. Tickets available at the back of Church from next weekend.

Please come and join us. It will be lovely to be all back together again after being apart for so long during COVID!!!





Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

MUSIC AT THE MET LENT 2022

Join us throughout Lent for a special programme of sacred music sung by our Cathedral Choir:

15:00

All are welcome

Sunday 13 March: *Crucifixus pro nobis* – *Leighton*

Sunday 20 March: *Les Sept Paroles du Christ en Croix* – *Franck*

Sunday 27 March: *Stabat Mater* – *Pergolesi*

Sunday 3 April: *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* – *Tallis*

Sunday 10 April (at 19:30): *the Office of Tenebræ*

Admission free (retiring collection)

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

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