



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

1st Sunday of Lent
Sunday 6th March 2020



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What will I do this Lent to take the focus off myself and put it on God and on other people?

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.

REST IN PEACE

Mass on Monday is a Funeral Mass, 10.45am for the late Mary O'Hanlon. We heard the very sad news last week of the death of Michelle McMullen, a wonderful and active member of our parish community. Michelle's funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 16 March at 1.45pm. We keep both families in our thoughts and prayers and may Mary & Michelle rest in peace.

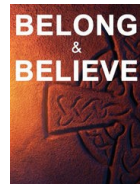


Following on from the success of our Pastoral Development Department's Advent Monday reflections, we are running Monday Reflections from 7-8pm on zoom using the Café resource: *Belong and Believe* during Lent.

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/9121212121>

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY This Family Fast Day, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie's daughter Lombeh did in Sierra Leone or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your small act of love can make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent

LENT 2022



Sunday 4.00pm

Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Monday 7.00pm

'No Greater Love' - Lent Scripture Course
(give your name to the Parish Office)

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

Donate to 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**

Texts will cost the donation amount
plus one standard network rate message.

All funds will go to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the
Holy Family of London to support the people of Ukraine.



Archdiocese of
Liverpool

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 5th March	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 6th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am Ann Henderson
Monday 7th March	10.45am Funeral Mass - Mary O'Hanlon
Tuesday 8th March	10.00am Michael O'Neill
Wednesday 9th March <i>St Frances</i>	NO MASS
Thursday 10th March	10.00am Sarah Everard & family
Friday 11th March	10.00am John Coyne
Saturday 12th March	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 13th March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am Sick & housebound 11.45am Baptism - Jacob & Isaac Ball

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...

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>



FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Frances of Rome (9th March)

She was born in Rome in 1384 and was married at the age of 13. Although she had wanted to be a nun, she was happily married for 40 years and had three sons. She distributed gifts to the poor and ministered to the sick. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience in adversity (including her husband's banishment, the death of two of her sons from plague, and the loss of all her property). She was a mystic and contemplative, part of the great flourishing of mysticism in that period, and after her husband's death she retired to a convent she had founded, where she died on 9 March 1440.



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

This Lenten Scripture course has been moved to a Monday evening, 7pm in the parish hall in order to allow a few more to join. Please give your name to the Parish Office. The first session is this coming Monday 7th. We are asking for a donation of £10 please toward the cost of the individual resources that you will keep for the course.



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

IRENAEUS & UKRAINE

At the Irenaeus Project, 32 Great Georges Road, L22 1RD, Tel: 0151 949 1199, we are collecting for Ukraine. These are the items that we need:

Foil survival blankets, Toys, Nappies, Sanitary towels, Crayons, Towels, First aid kits, Sleeping bags, Metal cups, Thermal clothing, Hair brushes, Shampoos, Toothbrushes, Bandages and children's clothes.

Feel free to bring them at any time.

Thank you for your continued support. J

CATHOLIC PIC

The March edition of the 'Pic' is now available from the piety stall



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.



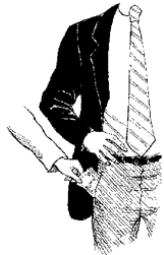
SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The problem with temptation is that we only recognise it after it's over. When we are actually being tempted we see what's on offer as completely normal. That's why the smoker really believes that this little after-dinner light-up will not get them hooked once more, why the gambler is convinced that this bet on the cert means he'll never need to worry about money again, and the woman passing the pub is confident that she can enjoy this tipples without stepping onto the downward spiral.

When the Spirit led Jesus out into the desert he was tempted by the devil. It's reassuring to know that even Jesus was tempted. But how was he able to resist the temptations? He could do it because he wasn't there alone; he was living in the Spirit. It was this close link with the Spirit that allowed him to refuse to give in.

Our society is hooked on the idea that we can improve ourselves by our own merits. Buy a self-help book and you'll be able to levitate, speak Yiddish in three days and cook gourmet meals while composing your latest harpsichord sonata. All you have to do is pull yourself together and make the effort.

Sometimes Christians are guilty of borrowing this flawed attitude and applying it to the way we relate to God and the way we deal with the spiritual challenges of our lives. So we end up thinking that when it comes to temptation the only solution is to be firm, to exercise our willpower and everything will fall into place. This is usually referred to as the 'muscular Christian' syndrome.



But however many little victories we may win by using this method, the only way to defeat temptation permanently is recognise that we need God's help, God's grace, the life of his Spirit. We cannot save ourselves; only Jesus Christ can. We cannot flex our spiritual muscles and overcome sin; only God's grace can do that for us. If it were otherwise, then there would have been no need for Christ to die on the cross.

As this Lent begins we are reminded that temptation is part of daily life. But we are offered another forty days to seek out God's Spirit, to look for his life, to find the grace to resist temptation. And when we see others who have fallen at the hurdles of temptation, we become aware that there but for the grace of God go I.

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.

CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Missionaries of Charity

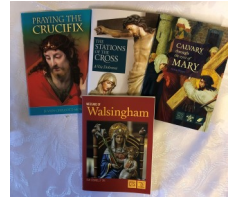
The annual Carrying of the Cross will take place on Saturday 9th April at 2PM The carrying of the cross will begin from Church Street, passing through Bold Street and finishing at St Luke's Church (bombed out church), and will be followed by a short service. Please join us from 1:45pm at the junction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

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY - 18th MARCH

Have a wardrobe clear out and recycle anything that has been hanging there for too long! You may have noticed the recycle bin by the school gate. If you use that then school receive a donation from the company



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!!



LENTEN ALMS

Lent is the ideal time to do a little bit more in remembering the needy. The call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on **"almsgiving,"** which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says is, *a witness to fraternal charity* and *"a work of justice pleasing to God."*

A box for financial donations will be available at all Masses during Lent for you to make a contribution. This money is sent to the Diocese and will go to the Ukraine appeal..

You can also help in donating items for our local Food Bank which we regularly support and will be greatly appreciated. Items for food can be left 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/

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: www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk



The three essentials for our Lenten journey are: prayer, fasting and almsgiving and we are encouraged to practice all three during the Lenten journey. Fasting is not just about abstaining from food and Pope Francis has recently suggested other ways we can fast:

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- * Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- * Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- * Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- * Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- * Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- * Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- * Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- * Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- * Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- * Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

