



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

Third Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 11th December 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Have others recognised Christ's presence in me? What can I do during Advent and Christmas to witness to Christ's presence in the world?

## SANCTUARY LAMP

Did you know that this candle is one of the most important candles lit in Roman Catholic Churches? The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states: *"In accordance with tradition, near the tabernacle a special lamp should be kept alight to indicate and honour the presence of Christ in the tabernacle"*. It is a sign that the Lord is present in the tabernacle and a reminder of Christ's abiding love for us. This candle is continuously lit except from Holy Thursday evening - Holy Saturday night. Each candle lasts approximately 7 days before it is renewed. Would you like to dedicate the Sanctuary Lamp to a loved one, living or dead, or for a specific intention? The cost is just £5. If you would like a dedication for a week, place your £5 and the intention inside an envelope with SANCTUARY LAMP on the envelope and we will publish the intention each week in the parish newsletter.



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

(Monday 12 December)

The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in North America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left with him a picture of herself impressed upon his cloak. Devotion to Mary under this title has continually increased, and today she is the Patroness of the Americas.



## MARY'S MEALS - again this year

have their 'Double the Love' appeal. Until 31 January 2023, donations to Mary's Meals will be doubled thanks to a generous group of supporters, up to £1.5 million. This includes donations made through our lovely gift cards and life-changing gifts! You can place your order online or by calling on 0800 698 1212



Together, we can reach even more little ones with a nutritious meal [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Saturday 24 December

6.00pm Vigil of Christmas

9.00pm First Mass of Christmas



### Sunday 25 December 10.30am Christmas Day Mass

**MINISTRY OF READER** Fr Mark recently met our great team of Parish Readers who do an amazing job in feeding us with the Word of God at every Mass. We would love more people to join us to read each weekend and at Mass during the week. Please see Fr Mark for more details

**News from Nugent** Nugent are delighted to invite you to their Light up a Life services this year taking place as follows:



Sunday, 11 December, 3pm, St Teresa's Church, Upholland led by Father Philip Kehoe followed by refreshments and also Friday, 16 December, 12:30pm at the The Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool led by Bishop Tom Williams followed by refreshments. Light up a Life is an opportunity to sponsor a light on Nugent's Tree of Light in memory or in honour of a loved one. It is a chance to celebrate the life of someone special and make a difference to the lives of those Nugent are supporting this. If you would like to take part contact the Fundraising team by emailing [fundraising@wearenugent.org](mailto:fundraising@wearenugent.org) or calling 0734 186 4180, having your dedication name(s) and your debit or credit card details ready.

Finally, Nugent's Christmas cards are now on sale for collection from Nugent's head office 99 Edge Lane, Liverpool L7 2PE.

## ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" DECEMBER DRAW

1st	£20	No. 176	C McPhillips
2nd	£15	No. 10	R Poynor
3rd	£10	No. 56	L Lovelady
4th	£10	No. 157	M Potts



There are still spare numbers available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 10th December</b>	4.30pm Ray Downey
<b>Sunday 11th December</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am Joe Lovelady & Septimus Murphy 11.45am Baptism - Adam Kramek
<b>Monday 12th December</b>	10.00am Alec Barr
<b>Tuesday 13th December</b>	10.00am Fr Victor Bridges
<b>Wednesday 14th December</b>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 15th December</b>	10.00am Catherine Carney
<b>Friday 16th December</b>	10.00am Bob Stam & Michelle McMullen
<b>Saturday 17th December</b>	4.30pm Ian McLean Snr & Jnr
<b>Sunday 18th December</b> <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

## **Synodality and our Deanery Synodal Council** – a comment for our Parish News Letter

Synodality is both an old and a new way of being Church: walking together as equals, listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other's experience of trying to live Christianly. It is about seeking God's will for the kind of Church God wants us to be now, in our time and place. How can we discern together what we have got right and what is good and therefore should be kept going – and how can we work out what we need to let go of, as being less fruitful or even counter-productive in our context (however valuable it was in the past)?

I have been asked to be our parish representative on the Deanery Synodal council. The council has met 3 times and we are getting to know each other; we are learning about what our parishes are doing and offering; we are trying to see what the gaps are and how we can enhance and support the Christian faith of the people in our area; and we are taking on board the prompting of the diocese and the wider Church about all this.

There are many challenges to face and many graces to receive. Our synodal council is not about any grand plans we might have; it is more about listening carefully to where God is leading us in our local context.

We must not be put off by awareness of our shortcomings, nor by apathy or resistance or reluctance to join in, nor by the fact that people develop and deepen their faith at different speeds. We do need to be honest, transparent, realistic, prayerful, patient, brave and imaginative. With God all things are possible.

Behind all this synodal emphasis, is Pope Francis' belief that ordinary believers are not simply passive recipients of divine truths handed down by superiors, but instead we are given the grace – through our response to God in faith – to be actively involved in discerning what God wants of us and then putting this into practice, as best we can. This is something much bigger than being asked: "do you think X or Y is a good idea?" It is a call to be much more actively involved than we have been used to. It is for us a new way of being Church, but really it is more like it was in the early years of the Church.

I will ensure the minutes of our local deanery synodal council will be available at the back of church and on the parish website for everybody to see and then to comment. Please don't hesitate to speak to me before or after Mass or email me via the Parish email address. I will share plans as they develop and pass on your feedback and contributions

Warmest Regards

Jill Williams

## **SUNDAY THOUGHTS**

Isaiah saw an Israel that no one else could see. Scripture scholars tell us that today's first reading was written when the Jewish people were permitted to return to Jerusalem after years in exile, but found that the city had been utterly destroyed. But Isaiah saw blooming flowers where his compatriots saw a barren desert. He saw God's glory and splendour, not the desecration of the temple. 'Courage!' 'Do not be afraid,' he urged his neighbours, for God would save them. There are times and will continue to be times when we will look at the world, or the country, or our community, and see much to be pessimistic or downright hopeless about. But with the eyes of a prophet, with the eyes of faith, we can envision 'the splendour of our God' emerging from the doom and gloom.

But it is not easy. Witness John the Baptist. What happened to the unborn child who leaped in the womb in Mary's presence when she herself was with child? What happened to his memory of the Holy Spirit coming down like a dove when he baptised Jesus? What happened to his certainty we saw last week when he announced that the kingdom was at hand? Perhaps the four walls of Herod's prison acted like a barrier to his deeper vision. Or perhaps he questioned why a Messiah who healed the blind and deaf and even raised the dead failed to free the imprisoned. What happened to proclaiming liberty to captives? Had God abandoned him? Have we not wondered the same ourselves?

When James refers to 'the Lord's coming' in the second reading, he is speaking of Jesus' Second Coming, but it can be applied to the Lord's presence at any time. If he is really at hand, how are we not seeing it? How are we not feeling it? Be patient, James tells us. In today's world, where communication, information, and entertainment are immediately available any time, it takes patience and thoughtful consideration to recognise the Lord. In the busyness of these weeks before Christmas, let us take the time to ponder and discern the Lord's presence in our lives.

### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp  
for the coming week is for:

**'Ann Feeney'**



## **WARM & COSY CENTRES**

Just a reminder that the centres are welcoming people to enjoy free tea, coffee and biscuits and have free use of TVs and wi-fi in a safe space.

Our nearest Centres are: Our Lady of Walsingham & St Robert Bellarmine (Thursdays) & St Elizabeth's (Mondays) and they are open to everyone from 1.00-3.30pm.

The Irenaeus Project in Waterloo will also be open every Monday-Thursday 10.00am - 4.00pm for people to pop in. Holy Rosary Parish Hall in the Old Roan will be open from on Friday 12.00pm - 2.00pm with a warm lunch served at 12.30pm.

## **POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER**

### **Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations**

*We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation..*

*Lord in your mercy...*



## **At the Foot of the Cross – Podcast (Catholic Bishop's Conference)**

### **Advent Begins | Episode 8 - Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk)**

In this month's podcast, Fr Christopher Thomas, the General Secretary of the Conference, gives an update on the Bishops' plenary, there is a segment from the soon to be auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark – Monsignor Philip Moger and Bishop Paul Swarbrick gives a reflection on Advent.

### **Advent reflection**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/first-sunday-of-advent-2022/>

This Advent the Catholic Bishops Conference will be releasing a reflection each week focusing on the Sunday's gospel.

### **As the Light grows**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/as-the-light-grows/>

Each week there will be a reflection based on that week's Advent Candle. The video reflections will focus on six different people living different states of life and working in different roles within the Church.

## CHRISTMAS BINGO -

Please come and join us for the bingo this coming

**Wednesday 14th December at 7pm**

(doors open 6.30pm)

Tickets available at back of Church or pay on the door.

**"The Lord comes that we might find him in this world of ours."**

As the UN conference on Environment closed last week, we were reminded how the poorest countries are paying the highest cost for the environmental crisis. During advent, CAFOD is offering daily prayers to help us reflect on this season, and as we remember the Holy Family, how we too can respond to the call of the poor. More can be found at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-prayers>

### **LGBTQ+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool**

The next gathering and Mass will be on Sunday 11th December 2022 here at All Saints Anfield. There will be a social gathering after Mass. Mass will begin at 2.00pm. For more information, please contact Canon Stephen Maloney [frsmaloney@aol.co.uk](mailto:frsmaloney@aol.co.uk)

### **Liverpool Archdiocese Online Advent Calendar**

This Advent, the archdiocese will be running an online Advent calendar which will feature daily videos from various people across the archdiocese. The videos will include reflections, an insight of what Advent means to them and their plans for Advent.

To see our Advent calendar, please follow the archdiocese's social media channels:

[www.facebook.com/liverpoolarchdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/liverpoolarchdiocese)  
[twitter.com/lpoolcatholic](https://twitter.com/lpoolcatholic)

### **WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS**

**Songs we remember** - 2 - 4pm 14th December.  
A Christmas Sing-a-long.

**Carols by Candlelight** - 14th December. 7.30pm

**Nia Movement to Heal** - 21st December. 1.20pm

**Knit & Natter** - 10.30 - 12noon every Tuesday.

**Art & Meditation** 2-4pm every Thursday

For more information on these or future events please call Jenny on: 0151 949 1199



## GAUDATE SUNDAY



*“Rejoice in the Lord always; once more I tell you, rejoice! As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasises the joy which should be in our hearts over all — that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The often-repeated Veni (“Come”) of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Book of the Apocalypse: “Come, Lord Jesus,” the very last words of the Bible.*



Today is known as Gaudate Sunday. The term Gaudate refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, “Rejoice”. Rose coloured vestments are worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.



Our pensioners enjoyed some wonderful treats recently! They were entertained with Carols sung by the school children last week and had their lovely Christmas Dinner celebration in the Parish Hall on Tuesday !!



**WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY  
Adam Kramek**

Baptised Sunday 11th December



## CHRISTMAS CRIB 2022

Our Christmas stable and crib is now taking shape and the figures will be arriving very soon. This year the Crib offerings will go to the Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust.



Bethlehem, is a special place to a great many people in the world. It is special to Christians, to Judaism and to Islam. Many of Bethlehem's inhabitants can trace their ancestry back to the time of Christ. The world has an idealised view of Bethlehem. It is associated with Christmas and the events of 2000 years ago. Many forget that Bethlehem is also a living community facing the everyday challenges of everyday living in an emerging state – Palestine.

Bethlehem's healthcare system is underdeveloped and healthcare delivery is patchy. Cancer related illness is the second highest cause of death. One in eight of all deaths are cancer related. Those with other life limiting illnesses add to the numbers needing care.

Sixty-eight per cent of those first diagnosed with cancer are at a late stage. The average age of those who receive a cancer diagnosis is 55 years.

Family is strong in Bethlehem but without palliative support families are unable to help or comfort, their loved ones who suffer and too often die in pain. At the end of life when the load of symptoms is high families are not able to care for their loved ones as there is no system for home care available for the Palestinian patients. Patients are given little pain control.

Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust was established within the Catholic Diocese of Hallam, Sheffield, after Bishop John Rawsthorne, the former bishop, led a diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land and pilgrims came back touched by what they saw and wanted to help in a specific way.

The charity funds the training of professionals with the help of a hospice in Leeds and the faculty of medicine at Bethlehem University and the first group have now started work by visiting patients in their homes to offer palliative care. Fr Mark has been involved with the charity since its foundation and returns home from a brief visit to Bethlehem this weekend when he has met the team and seen the amazing work they are doing.



Once the crib is in place please give generously to our collection and play your part in this important act of witness to our Christian brothers and sisters in the city of the Lord's birth.

## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

As we are quickly approaching the end of this liturgical year, it may be good to cast our glance towards what is coming. Some of you may be aware that the year 2025 will be a year of jubilee, and the motto will be **“Pilgrims of Hope”**. A Jubilee Year takes place in the Catholic Church every 25 years, the last being the Great Jubilee of the year 2000.



In preparation for this jubilee year, Pope Francis wrote a letter in which he calls the Church to renew its awareness of the universal call to responsible participation. Hence, in 2023, we are invited to focus on the four major constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, and all the supporting documents. This new year liturgically started last week with the first Sunday of Advent, and non-liturgically in less than two months. Afterwards, we are to celebrate 2024 as a year of prayer in preparation for the jubilee year. The Pope's vision for 2024 is worth quoting in full, and worth praying with.

*“In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great “symphony” of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it. Prayer as the expression of a single “heart and soul” (cf. Acts 4:32), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God’s grace and to make the “Our Father,” the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.”*

Fr Mark is thinking of another pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year which will include a visit to the major Basilicas and walking through the Jubilee Door.

## CATHOLIC PIC

The December edition is now available from the church shop.



# Christmas Hamper Appeal

## Leave no one behind this Christmas

Help spread some festive joy by donating to Nugent's Christmas Hamper Appeal.

We're collecting donations to support children, young people, adults and families who are vulnerable and at-risk. To enable us to give them something extra special this Christmas, we need your help.

We are in need of gifts and tasty treats to deliver festive cheer to our beneficiaries as well as to our Food Pantry to help feed families this Christmas time.

Donations can be dropped off at reception at our Edge Lane site (99 Edge Lane, Liverpool, L7 2PE) until Tuesday 13th December. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

### Gifts needed (new)

- Chocolates
- Toiletries
- Craft items
- Puzzles
- Jigsaws
- Pyjamas
- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves

### Food items needed

- Mince Pies
- Christmas Pudding (non-alcoholic)
- Christmas Cake (non-alcoholic)
- Crisps
- Crackers for Cheese
- Biscuits
- Jam
- Chocolate or Selection Boxes
- Sweets
- Pasta
- Tinned vegetables

Get in touch with us to get involved:



**0151 261 2000**



[fundraising@wearenugent.org](mailto:fundraising@wearenugent.org)



[wearenugent.org](http://wearenugent.org)



Christmas with  
**nugent**