



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 4th December 2022



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can I do to bring harmony to my family,
my neighbourhood, 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 par-



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.



ABDALLAH DABABNEH

Abdallah was one of this year’s Holy Land Seminarians who stayed with us in July. Please pray for him as he will be ordained to the Diaconate next Friday at 9.00am in the parish of Beit Jala near Bethlehem and Fr Mark will be attending. Hopefully his ordination to the priesthood will be in Summer 2023.

Conversations about The Letter: A Message for Our Earth: The Diocesan Pastoral Development team is putting on a series of “drop in” events. These are short 15-45 minute opportunities to find out about the work of the team and respond to issues of the day. Register www.LetterSocialActionLiverpool.eventbrite.com.

NEWS FROM JOSPICE



Jospice are taking part in 'The Big Give Christmas Challenge' and aiming to raise £10,000. This amount will then be matched by local businesses and Individuals. The Challenge is from midday on Tuesday 29 November to midday on Tuesday 6 December. If you donate during this period your donation will be doubled. You can donate at www.stjhospice.org.uk and click on the link to 'The Big Give'

Light up a Life - this ever popular service is on Sunday 4 December at 4pm. You can sponsor a light on the Jospice Christmas tree and dedicate it to special loved ones you have lost. Again this can be done via the website www.sjthospice.org.uk

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 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	4.30pm Thomas Francis Toolan
Sunday 4th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Jessica Roberts
Monday 5th December <i>St John Almond</i>	10.00am Rita Courtney
Tuesday 6th December	10.00am Derek Checkland
Wednesday 7th December	NO MASS
Thursday 8th December <i>Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.00am Bill Clark
Friday 9th December	10.00am Barry Almond
Saturday 10th December	4.30pm Ray Downey
Sunday 11th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am Joe Lovelady & Septimus Murphy 11.45am Baptism - Adam Kramek

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



A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS A magical night of Christmas Carols and seasonal favourites. Featuring The Metropolitan Cathedral Choir, The Rock Choir and Knowsley Catholic Children's Choir. Saturday 10th December at 7pm in Metropolitan Cathedral. Tickets £8 or £15 for family from www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

Witnesses to Hope - The Prayers and Readings for the Sundays of Advent

Fr John Deehan is offering a series of talks on the Prayers and Readings of Advent via Zoom. The series, hosted by the Agency for Evangelisation, Diocese of Westminster. Please click here to register on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/witness-to-hope-the-prayers-and-readings-for-the-sundays-of-advent-tickets-429217229287>

- 8th December - Waiting in Expectation: The Gospel Readings

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY
Jessica Roberts

Baptised Sunday 4th December 2022

Society of St Gregory Wednesday Workshops for Advent

7 December - The Word of God at Christmas – Whose story is it? Monsignor Kevin McGinnell

Sessions will take place from 7.30-8.45pm, via Zoom. There is a charge for these workshops of £10 per person.

More details here
www.ssg.org.uk/wednesday-workshops-Autumn-2022

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The wolf does not become the lamb, nor the lamb the wolf. In Isaiah's vision, animals that are natural enemies are able to get along, not by ceasing to be what they are, but by changing their behaviour. Note the lion eating hay, embracing a vegetarian diet in order to coexist with the ox. Also note that in each pairing, one is gentle and often young: a lamb, a calf, a baby. Possibly the presence of such a harmless creature on God's holy mountain tames the fierce one. We are called to be the peaceful ones, finding ways to reduce tension and reconcile with those with whom we've failed to get along.



John the Baptist is the first to refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God, though that comes only after he sees him, not in today's Gospel. Jesus, the Lamb, is put to death after a threatening crowd, like a pack of ravenous wolves, demands that he be killed. Isaiah's vision of the world after the Son of David, the root of Jesse, arrived was not realised. The world carried on with its injustices, its poverty, and its aggression. And it still does. Yet, the vision of God's peaceable kingdom sustains our hope. John's first words provide a path: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand!". To reach that kingdom, where all will live in harmony, we need to repent. All of us are called to be sorry and atone for our sins. And it begins with me.

The qualities of the spirit of the Lord that Isaiah lists at the beginning of this passage may sound familiar, for they are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which were bestowed on us all at confirmation. The Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of the Lord when we make the effort to use those gifts for the benefit of each other. In doing so, we produce good fruit (as John the Baptist calls us to do) and harmonise with one other (as Paul tells the Romans).



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp
for the coming week is for:

'Celia Byrne'



WARM & COSY CENTRES

The Archdiocesan trustees approved for our parish centres to be used as 'warm and cosy' centres during the winter months. The centres will be 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 will be 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)

www.cbcew.org.uk/podcast/vatican-ii-constitutions-episode-7/

“In preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ the Catholic Church has two preparatory years. During 2023 we will examine the four constitutions. In this episode of At the Foot of the Cross Rev Canon Christopher Thomas gives a short overview on the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council. Sacrasanctum Concilium on the Sacred Liturgy, Lumen Gentium on the Church, Dei Verbum on Divine Revelation and Gaudium et Spes on the Church on the Modern World. Patrick O’Dowd, CEO of Caritas in Salford talks about the cost-of-living crises and the impact on people in the northwest and finally Bishop Patrick McKinney our Lead Bishop for interreligious Dialogue gives a reflection on the importance of dialogue with followers of other religions.”

CHRISTMAS BINGO - Please come and join us for the bingo on **Wednesday 14th December at 7pm**. Tickets now available at back of Church or pay on the door..

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - tickets also now on sale for our grand Christmas raffles. First prize a luxury hamper and many other lovely prizes in the main raffle. We also have a separate **amazing** drinks hamper raffle.

"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

**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
twitter.com/lpoolcatholic

WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS

Reminiscence Afternoon - Lancashire memories with Jimmy O'Donnell. 2 - 4pm 7th December.

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

CHURCH REGISTERS

Our parish registers contain information which reveals a person's religion and personal details, so we can't send copy of entries to people who are simply asking for a friend or relative's information. We can only send copy of entries to the person whose information we have. This is because of data protection law. This means we can't give out information from our registers without checking who is asking. Parish Priests have recently been given further information on this issue.



All parishes must now ask anyone who requests information from our parish registers to provide evidence of their identity so that we can be certain that we are giving the information to the person who received the sacrament.

If you need copy entries such as a baptism certificate for a child under 12 we must ask for evidence of the parent's identity and a copy of the child's birth certificate. A person over 12 must ask for the information themselves or write authorising the release of the information to the person asking. Both people would need to supply proof of identity.

By evidence of identity we mean, driving license, passport, bank statement, credit card statement or a letter from a government agency. Parishes will not keep any proof but will be handed back to the person or the proof will be destroyed.

If you need a certificate for someone who has died we must ask for a copy of their death certificate.

Where 110 years have passed after the date of baptism or confirmation, or 100 years after marriage, the person who received the sacrament is presumed to have died. As data protection law does not apply to the information of those who have died, we can provide information without needing to check identity. If the sacrament was received more recently, then we need to ask for a copy of a death certificate before any information is shared.

What's On at our Cathedral

NSPCC Carols by Candlelight. This will return to Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral on Tuesday, 6 December at 7pm. The event is sponsored by Home Bargains and has an array of performers from across Merseyside including the PopVox Choir, Metropolitan Cathedral Youth Choir, Connected Voices Choir and Wirral Schools' Concert Band.

'Come away to a quiet place for a while'

Advent reflection days at Ince Benet Retreat Centre

Christmas Presence 1: Enthusiasm and hope in the world. A day of reflection on responses to John the Baptist, then and now. People came to the River Jordan to prepare for the coming of the Messiah; they returned to daily life full of enthusiasm and hope. We can repeat the journey, Sunday, 4 December, 10.30am- 3.30pm.

Christmas Presence 2: 'Be it done unto me according to your word'. A day of reflection on Mary's doubts and response to God's call. Mary had many good reasons to say, 'Not me, Lord', but said 'Yes'. We can respond either way to our call to bring Christ into the world. Wednesday, 7 December, 10.30am-3.30pm.

Ince Benet, in Ince Woods 3 miles from Crosby, is a beautiful and convenient place to accept Jesus' invitation to 'Come away to a quiet place' at a busy time of the year. See the website, www.incebenet.co.uk to see the facilities and the surrounds. If you wish to turn the day into a retreat, accommodation is available for one or more nights.

For further information or to book for either or both of these days contact Martin and Maria Bennett or Canon Rod Garner: phone: 07931902346 email: ince.benet@gmail.com Suggested donation for the retreat days: £10 per person. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch. Martin Bennett writes weekly reflections on Scripture, leads Scripture groups and gives talks and retreats on living the Gospel in daily life.

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 school meal. www.marysmeals.org.uk

mary's
meals

a simple solution
to world hunger

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.”

CATHOLIC PIC

The December edition is now available from the church shop.



Carols by Candlelight Can those people who are joining us at the Philharmonic on 20 December please now pass your payment (£45) in to the office

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



wearenugent.org



Christmas with
nugent