



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 15th January 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I be a better witness to the truth, to what I see with eyes of faith?

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.



CHANGE TO MASS TIMES

Please note that there is no Mass on Tuesday 17th January

Commissioning & Blessing of Parish Readers

A reminder for all readers to please attend Mass next Sunday (22nd) when Fr Mark will acknowledge their most important role by Commissioning and Blessing them during the Mass.



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB” JANUARY DRAW

1st	£20	No. 207	J McCambridge
2nd	£15	No. 218	B Whittaker
3rd	£10	No. 43	R Taylor
4th	£10	No. 5	L Lovelady



The Parish raised an amazing £2000 for Jospice last year - thank you to all those who support the 200 Club

Subscriptions are now due for the new year. Please see Myra.

Sunday, 15 January, is PEACE SUNDAY and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'.



He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?'

A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together.

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media.

Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

Archbishop Malcolm is National President of Pax Christi and sends this message:

'2022 has been a year of war and rumours of war. Lives lost, people displaced, fear and suspicion overwhelming many communities around the world. These wars are also contributing to the destruction of our environment. Sometimes it feels as though we have moved backwards in our efforts to bring peace and justice to our world.

"However, the constant, faithful voice of Pope Francis urges us to keep going. Whether he is speaking about Ukraine and Russia, Yemen or the Middle East, his message is always the same: No to war and no to the trade in weapons that fuel war. His All Saints Angelus message offers these questions: 'Brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves: are we peacemakers? In the places where we live, study and work, do we bring tension, words that hurt, chatter that poisons, controversy that divides? Or do we open up the way to peace?'

"I invite you to seriously consider making a donation to, the work of Pax Christi at this time as a way to make a practical contribution to continuing the work of peace



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 14th January	4.30pm Tom Willis
Sunday 15th January <i>2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Henry Simpson
Monday 16th January	10.15am James Brown
Tuesday 17th January <i>St Anthony</i>	NO MASS
Wednesday 18th January	NO MASS
Thursday 19th January	10.15am Vincent Scanlan 2.00pm Funeral service Kathleen Burgess
Friday 20th January	10.15am Maureen Jones
Saturday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i>	4.30pm Michael McDermott
Sunday 22nd January <i>3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45 Baptism Alexis Garvey

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Both Isaiah and John the Baptist were blessed with the eyes of faith, the wisdom to understand what they were seeing, and the will to proclaim it. Despite years in exile in Babylon, Isaiah saw the day when God's salvation would come to the whole world. John saw something like a dove descend upon Jesus and realized that this was the Holy Spirit. Baptized with the same Holy Spirit, we too are able to see with the eyes of faith: to recognize the Lord in the word of God just proclaimed, in the Eucharist we are about to share, and in each other and in our world. Do we recognize the Lord as Isaiah and John did?

"If you see something, say something" tells us to report something out of place or suspicious. John the Baptist followed this directive in a different way, however, when he saw Jesus coming toward him. He said something all right, but he said it to publicly testify that this was the Son of God, who came to take away our sins. With our eyes of faith we have seen the Lord as well—in the Eucharist, in this community gathered together in his name, and in the stranger in need. We are also called to testify to the presence of Christ where we see him.

Seven times in the first chapter of his Gospel John uses a form of the word witness to describe what John the Baptist has come to do. The word suggests a witness in a courtroom. Much later, when Jesus is called before Pilate to testify, he tells Pilate that he has come into the world "to bear witness to the truth" (John 18:37). John's Gospel itself is his testimony of the Lamb of God, willingly led to slaughter to take away the sin of the world. To be a Christian is to be called to witness to the truth we know in the Lord.

JOE BLANK RIP - many will remember Joe who was an altar server here for many, many years. Sadly Joe passed away last week. His funeral Mass will be on Monday 23rd January at 10.00am.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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. 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.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Lord in your mercy...



A STRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Throughout the Church's long history in England and the Isle of Man, there have been many changes in how the Church is structured, how it owns property and organises its affairs. Unlike other nations which retained Catholicism as the state religion, in this country our ancestors often had to be much more creative to provide places where people could hear Mass. In the 17th and 18th centuries, when Catholics weren't allowed to own property and Mass had to be offered in secrecy, properties were provided or owned by others. As catholic emancipation progressed, churches were able to be owned by priests or their benefactors, on trust for the Church. Eventually, following the restoration of the hierarchy and the return of bishops in this country, churches and schools could be owned by diocesan bishops. These properties were then transferred from incumbent priest to priest, or priest to bishop and so forth up to the twentieth century. Each Catholic Diocese in the UK is completely separate from its neighbours, and can operate as its bishop chooses. This reflects the position at canon law, which is set in Rome. In the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a trust was created in the 1960s, whereby a group of priests together with the Archbishop were to own all the property of the church in the Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan trust is a charity and is subject to UK charity law and must operate within that as well as canon law. However, that trust is ultimately a group of individual people.

More recently we have included in amongst the trustees lay trustees, to support the Archbishop and priests in the operation of the trust with their skills and experience from different professions such as accounting, surveying, safeguarding, education. This reflects best practice for any large charity. Following a review of our current operations the trustees took the decision to move from a trust model to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or a 'CIO'. A CIO is a charity version of a company, established and regulated by the Charity Commission.

The model agreed on in 1963 is no longer the best fit for us now, and many other dioceses are going through similar reviews. It will be 60 years since a similar process was last undertaken and this is only the second time since the 1850s that the archdiocese is having such a restructure. The aim is to make the operations of the archdiocese fit for purpose for our mission in the contemporary world, and to secure its future for those who are called to carry out its mission in subsequent generations. The transfer to the CIO took place on the 1 January 2023 and the new CIO is called 'Archdiocese of Liverpool'. We look forward to starting this next chapter in our story.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

There will be a meeting for Eucharistic Ministers on Monday 6 February, 7pm in church. Will all Ministers do their best to attend. Apologies sent to Fr Mark.

HOLY LAND COORDINATION GROUP

Fr Mark will be now be in Jordan for the annual meeting of the Bishops' Holy Land Coordination Group. This group of Catholic Bishops from around the world was formed by Pope St John Paul II in 1998 to show our Christian brothers and sisters our support, care and love. The Bishops travel to the Holy land on behalf of the Pope and the Catholic Church to meet Christian communities, Religious Leaders, Politicians etc and to advocate on behalf of the Christians when they return home. The Christian presence in the Holy Land is around 1% of the entire population and it's our job to support and encourage them to stay in the land where Jesus founded the Church.

The meeting this year will focus on the Christian community in Jordan and the important role they play in Jordanian society in supporting refugees from Syria & Iraq, the role of Christian schools and other Institutions and they will have meetings with Church Leaders, Christian Members of Parliament and Foreign Diplomats.

Fr Mark is the General Secretary to the group and it's his responsibility to set the agenda, prepare the meeting and liaise with the various people, organisations and the many different Bishops' Conferences around the world. The meeting begins next Saturday. You can follow proceedings by checking www.cbcew.org.uk

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

'Lucy Kennedy'



CHRISTMAS CRIB 2022



Our Christmas crib will stay in place until 2nd February and 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

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.



Could you be a Deacon?

Archbishop Malcolm will be hosting another Diaconate Information Evening on Wednesday 8th February, 7.30-9.00pm in the Parish Centre at St George's, Station Road, Maghull, L31 3DF, with refreshments available from 7.00pm.

The evening is open to anyone who would like to find out more about the diaconate, especially men who are wondering if they may be called to this ministry. Wives and supporting priests and deacons are also very welcome. For more information, email Fr Chris Fallon, c.fallon@rcaol.org.uk or Deacon Paul Rooney, p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 17 January



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Kathleen Burgess

Funeral service Thursday 19th January 2.00pm

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Antony 251-356

St Antony is the originator of the monastic life. He was born in Egypt: when his parents died, he listened to the words of the Gospel and gave all his belongings to the poor. He went out into the wilderness to begin a life of penitence, living in absolute poverty, praying, meditating, and supporting himself by manual work. He suffered many temptations, both physical and spiritual, but he overcame them. Disciples gathered round him, attracted by his wisdom, moderation, and holiness. He gave support to the victims of the persecutions of Diocletian, and helping St Athanasius in his fight against the Arians. He lived to be over a hundred years old, and died in 356.



The Gospels are full of wise sayings of Jesus that seem to be ignored, and one of the most poignant of these was in his meeting with that young man who asked over and over again, insistently, "What must I do to have eternal life?". When, in the end, Jesus told him that if he wanted to be perfect he would have to sell all that he had and give the money to the poor, the young man went away, sorrowing; because he was very rich. What could be more of a waste than that? You tell someone what he has to do, and he is afraid to do it. And yet... 250 years later, St Antony hears the story, and does give away all that he has, and becomes the founder of monasticism. And then again, over 1,000 years later, St Francis of Assisi hears the story, and gives away his possessions (and some of his father's) and revolutionises Christianity again.

Not all the words that we speak are forgotten, even though we cannot see their effects ourselves. Let us pray that those unknown effects may always be good ones.



Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714