



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 29th January 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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[www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For whom do I find it difficult to have empathy? How can I strengthen my empathy toward those who are not like me?

## 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.



## LGBTQ+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool

Message from Canon Stephen Maloney “The next gathering and Mass will be on Sunday 26th February 2023 at St Bede’s, Appleton Village, Widnes, WA8 6EL.

Please do let me know if you are able to attend. 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).

**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! Together, we can reach even more little ones with a nutritious meal [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk). You still have time to donate and have your donation doubled!



## **A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS**

### **Discover the Beauty and Riches of the Mass**

The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

The words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass are rich in meaning. Everything we say and do in the Liturgy is steeped in biblical language. A Biblical Walk Through the Mass explores the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

This 5 week course will take place throughout Lent beginning on Monday 27 February, 7pm in the Parish Hall. Please register at the Parish Office. and make this part of your Lenten devotions.

**MASS TIMES - Please note there is NO MASS THIS TUESDAY 31st**

**MAY SHE REST IN PEACE**

**Maureen Jones**

Funeral Mass Thursday 2nd February 10.00am



## **PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

Open Doors releases its annual World Watch List 2023 confirming that one out of every seven Christians in the world suffers high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

North Korea is first in the list -more than 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith closely followed by Afghanistan - Nigeria - Myanmar Mozambique - and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We hold them in prayer, knowing how blest we are that we can freely practice our faith and come to Mass every day if we want, knowing we are safe.



## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 28th January</b>	4.30pm Mr & Mrs McInerney
<b>Sunday 29th January</b> <i>4th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45 Baptism - Cody James Murphy
<b>Monday 30th January</b>	10.00am Carmel Casey
<b>Tuesday 31st January</b>	NO MASS
<b>Wednesday 1st February</b>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 2nd February</b>	10.00am Funeral Mass - Maureen Jones
<b>Friday 3rd February</b>	10.00am John Cherry
<b>Saturday 4th February</b>	4.30pm People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 5th February</b> <i>5th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Michael O'Neill 11.45 Baptism - Henry Oliver McMahon

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The prophet Zephaniah lived during a difficult time for the Jewish nation. Israel had already fallen to the Assyrians and Judah had basically submitted to their control. In an effort to stave off conquest and destruction, the king, Manasseh, had pledged loyalty to pagan gods and abandoned God's covenant. Out of fear, much of the population did the same. At what scholars suspect was an important temple liturgy, Zephaniah courageously took a stand. He condemned those who had abandoned the faith, starting with the leaders, prophesying that one day the Lord would destroy what was left of their nation. But he assured them that a remnant of the people would remain—those who stayed faithful, who sought justice and humility before the Lord.

Time and time again, a people and their leaders fall away from the ideals of God's covenant with humanity. Selfishness or arrogance, fear or hate, sin or evil lead people to turn toward self-preservation. It happened in Zephaniah's day under Assyrian influence. It happened in Jesus' day under Roman influence. It can happen in ours. The Beatitudes can turn us back to living right. Poverty of spirit and meekness, righteousness and mercy, peace-making and purity of heart can do this by shifting the focus away from ourselves and onto others. Empathy teaches us to show mercy, to make peace, to work for justice, to be humble. The kingdom of heaven awaits those who are empathetic.

This lesson had to be important. Jesus had just called his disciples and traveled with them around Galilee, healing the sick and proclaiming the gospel, as we heard last Sunday. Soon he was drawing huge crowds, people eager to hear the words of the prophets come alive in their presence. But now, he elevates his message. Literally, for he ascends a mountain (not named, but apparently one of significance), symbolizing his authority and his closeness to God. He will go on to teach dozens of lessons - we will hear more over the next few Sundays - but he begins by teaching the people how to live.

## 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 FEBRUARY

#### For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Lord in your mercy...



## ANNUAL CIVIC MASS

On Sunday 19 February at 11am are welcome to the Metropolitan Cathedral for the annual Civic Mass to celebrate community leadership and civic life across Merseyside.



Guests in attendance will include The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, The Mayor of Liverpool, The High Sheriff, the Honorary Recorder of Liverpool and members of the Judiciary and Consular Corps.

There will also be representatives from all walks of life in the City, including the universities, the Armed Services, Police & Fire Services, Catholic societies and schools.

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### St John Bosco (1815-1888)



He was born in Piedmont of a peasant family, and he was brought up by his widowed mother. He became a priest, and his particular concern was for the young. He settled in Turin, where, as in so many cities in the 19th century, the industrial revolution was bringing enormous movements of population and consequent social problems, especially for the young men who came there to work. John Bosco devoted himself to the care of the young, first of all by means of evening classes, to which hundreds came, and then by setting up a boarding-house for apprentices, and then workshops for their training and education. Despite many difficulties, caused both by the anti-clerical civil authorities and by the opposition of some senior people within the Church, his enterprise grew, and by 1868 over 800 boys and young men were under his care. To ensure the continuation of his work, he founded a congregation, which he named after St Francis de Sales (a saint for whom he had great admiration), and today the Salesians continue his work all over the world.

The feast is celebrated on Tuesday

## 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.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

**Cody James Murphy**

Baptised Sunday 29th January 2023



## COME AND SEE

4th February 2023

10am - 4pm

**Called to be a  
Merciful  
Church**

Led by David Wells



4th March 2023

10am - 4pm

**Called to be an  
Involved Church**

Led by David Alton



Book now with  
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk  
or tel: 0151 949 1199

Bring a packed  
lunch.

## COME INTO THE QUIET

**An Individually directed  
silent retreat**

6pm 22nd - 10 am 27th February 2023

Directed by Chris Thomas and Moira Meeghan

A time to spend in silence for a few days. When we cut ourselves off from social chatter and the endless flow of notifications coming from our phones and computers, we are given the opportunity to redirect our attention inward. We can notice our thoughts and process them in a constructive way. It can take a few days in a silent, supportive environment for the mind to settle so that deep calm, clarity, and awareness become accessible.

During the retreat there is the opportunity to meet with one of the directors each day. They will help you to listen to God in the quiet of your heart, share resources and suggest ways of praying.

For more information and to book a place contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or tel: 0151 9491199



**LOURDES 2023** 2023 will see the 100th anniversary of the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. The archdiocese hopes to take one of the largest groups of pilgrims they have ever taken and it would be great to have a large youth pilgrimage contingent as well. Young people should apply through [www.liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk) The deposit will be £40.

## SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**'Thanksgiving for good news'**





## CHRISTMAS CRIB 2022



This is your last chance to make pay a visit to the Crib as it will be taken down over the coming days and thank you to those who look after this. This is also you last opportunity to make a donation towards the Crib Collection which is going 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](mailto:c.fallon@rcaol.org.uk) or Deacon Paul Rooney, [p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk)

## UNWANTED GIFTS?

If you have any unwanted gifts please pass them in to the Parish Office. They will be a great help for our fundraising activities this coming year.



Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum.

Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or

email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

## 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,

## CAFOD's Big Lent Walk

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday on 22nd February. CAFODs challenge is to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty. You can walk, run, skip, or stroll your 200km, (5k a day) when and where you choose, alone or with friends. You'll be among thousands of people up and down England and Wales conquering your 200km targets in time for Easter. Remember: every step you take is a step closer to a fairer world. Let's tell poverty to jog on! Why not form a group in the parish who will walk together once a week? Sign up [www.walk.cafod.org.uk](http://www.walk.cafod.org.uk)



## CONFIRMATION 2023

Any young person who is year 8 and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation can register for Sacramental preparation at [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk) The website for registration closes on the 17th March. While the registration period is open, Animate will visit schools in the diocese to promote the Sacrament. At the same time schools will teach about the Sacrament of Confirmation in RE classes.



## Nugent Sahara Desert Trek!

This year Nugent have teamed up with Tribal



Tracks to bring you the opportunity of a lifetime whilst fundraising for Nugent! Departing on 12 November 2023, you will embark on the most amazing 7 day adventure, trekking through stunning desert landscapes by day and camping under the stars at night. Experience the varied terrain and the wildlife of the Sahara Desert and trek over plateaus and sand dunes and through valleys, gorges, and stunning oases. The experience will be fully supported with camels and desert guides and cooks! Find out how you can support them by contacting Stacey Ellison, Fundraising Coordinator, Nugent. [stacey.Ellison@wearenugent.org](mailto:stacey.Ellison@wearenugent.org)

# VIVALDI GLORIA

*At Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral*

**25th March 2023, 7pm**

*Performed by a 'Come and Sing' choir and  
the Universities Group Festival*

**Director: Joe Watson Organ: James Luxton**

**Audience Tickets £5 from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)**



Singers of all ages and abilities are invited to join the Come and Sing Choir. Follow the link above for participation tickets (£5)

*U18s and Students Free*



**Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool**

Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714