



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

Feast of The Baptism of The Lord

Sunday 8th January 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Are we open to seeing the Holy Spirit acting through unexpected people or guiding us in unexpected ways?

## 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.



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you from Fr Mark for all the gifts, cards and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. God bless you all.

Thank you also to the lovely team of parishioners who got our church ready for the Christmas Season in many different ways. Your talents

**THANK YOU!** and time are greatly appreciated!

## HELLO & GOODBYE

It has been a pleasure to welcome Yousef Ibrahim, a Seminarian from the Holy Land, who has been staying with us for the past week. Yousef is 27 years of age and is from Zababdeh, a Christian town in the north of Palestine. He should have visited last Summer but his visa didn’t arrive in time so he has spent the last 12 days with us before his visa expires on Thursday. Please keep him in your prayers as he leaves us on Monday and as he progresses towards ordination very soon.

### **POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT**

Archbishop Malcolm will celebrate Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Tuesday 10th January at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

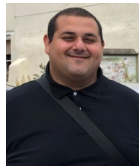


### **ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS KELLY**

Please keep Archbishop Patrick in your prayers as he is currently in hospital after falling at home before Christmas and has fractures in his neck. After a time in Southport hospital, he was transferred to The Walton Centre in Aintree Hospital. He was due to have an operation on 2 January, but having been seen by a specialist spinal surgeon, she decided not to operate. Earlier this week under the guidance of the surgeon they elevated his bed so that he is at least partially sitting up and will be able to eat and drink more easily than before. It is hoped that the swelling impinging his spinal cord will continue to reduce and this will result in feelings coming back to his hands and legs and he may well have a long road of recovery ahead of him. He appreciates the prayers and support that has been offered to him.

### **REV MICHAEL ALTHIB**

Michael, one of the Holy Land Seminarians who stayed with us last Summer will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on Thursday 2pm (Uk time) in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Amman. He will be ordained alongside Yazan Bader who should have accompanied him last Summer. Please keep both in your prayers. Fr Mark will be participating in the Ordination Mass.



### **CHANGE TO MASS TIMES**

**Please note that weekday Mass from Tuesday 10th January through to Friday 20th January will be at 10.15am as we welcome back Fr Stephen**

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 7th January</b>	4.30pm People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 8th January</b> <i>Baptism of The Lord</i>	10.30am The Nickson Family 11.45 Baptism Harley Paul Graham
<b>Monday 9th January</b>	10.00am Mary Lester
<b>Tuesday 10th January</b>	10.15am Lil Bowling
<b>Wednesday 11th January</b>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 12th January</b>	10.15am Derek Forrest
<b>Friday 13th January</b>	10.15am Michelle McMullen
<b>Saturday 14th January</b>	4.30pm Tom Willis
<b>Sunday 15th January</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Henry Simpson

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Life seems to become more and more privatised as the days go by. For whatever reason, we don't see many children playing games together in our streets or our parks. Buses and trains are full of people who don't talk to each other because they sit and stare at their mobile phones. Teenagers are said to spend many hours a week by themselves in their bedrooms on the computer. And families claim that life is so frenetic that they can't even eat together.

Of course, there are some people whose religion is exactly the same. It's about them and God, about them getting holy and going to heaven. If others can do the same, all well and good; but they don't actually affect them in any way.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord turns all of this on its head. For it reminds us that at our own baptism we were anointed by the priest or deacon. We were anointed with oil so that we could become 'priests' 'prophets' and 'kings'. To be a priest means that we offer every moment of our lives to God that they may become sanctified and profitable. To be a prophet means that by our words and actions we are to speak out to our world as spokesmen and women. We are to say what God wants the world to hear. To be a king or queen means to accept responsibility for our world as well as for the kingdom of God. The world we have been given is on loan to us; we are to watch over it, to protect it and hand it on to the next generation in even better condition.

Our religion is the expression of our baptism. We are baptised into a living, believing community that worships collectively, that publicly makes its stand for the power of God's word in our world and is ready to come to the aid of those whose human dignity is under threat. That's because our baptism calls us to be other Christs in our world. Far from being a private hobby it is a reminder that our vocation is to be part of the ever-advancing People of God. And if we're to be part of a people, then we need others alongside us.

## 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 travelling to Jordan on Wednesday 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](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**'McGee family'**





## 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](mailto:c.fallon@rcaol.org.uk) or Deacon Paul Rooney, [p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk)



**WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY  
Harley Paul Graham**



Baptised Sunday 8th January 2023

## CATHOLIC PIC

The January edition is now available from the church shop, free of charge. The main feature reports on the new Irenaeus centre in Waterloo



**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

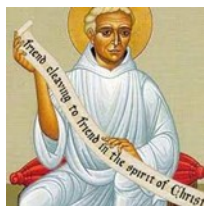
Reference: Help Ukraine

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 Aelred of Rievaulx (1110 - 1167)



Aelred was born in Hexham in around 1109. His family was well connected and at an early age he was sent into the service of King David of Scotland. There he rose to the position of Master of the Royal Household. In time he became attracted to the religious life, but he

was also much attached to the life he lived at court and to King David himself. It took a considerable personal struggle for him at the age of 24 to give up his secular pursuits and to enter the newly founded Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx in Yorkshire in 1133. At 34 he moved from there and took charge of a new foundation in Lincolnshire. But within four years he had returned to Rievaulx as Abbot where he remained for the rest of his life. He died in 1167.

Aelred is remembered both for his energy and for his gentleness. His writings and his sermons were characterised by a deep love of the Scriptures and by a very personal love of Christ 'as friend and Saviour'. He was sensitive and understanding in his dealings with his fellow monks and under his direction the monastery at Rievaulx grew to an extraordinary size. He did not enjoy robust health and the last ten years of his life were marked by a long and painful illness. His position as Abbot required him to travel on visitation to monasteries not only in England and Scotland but even in France, and the physical suffering and exhaustion which this incurred seems to have been considerable. A contemporary account of the last year of his life describes him as being left helpless on his bed unable to speak or move for an hour after celebrating his morning Mass.

Aelred was a singularly attractive figure, a man of great spiritual power but also of warm friendliness and humanity. He has been called the St Bernard of the North. His feast day is celebrated on Thursday.



Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714