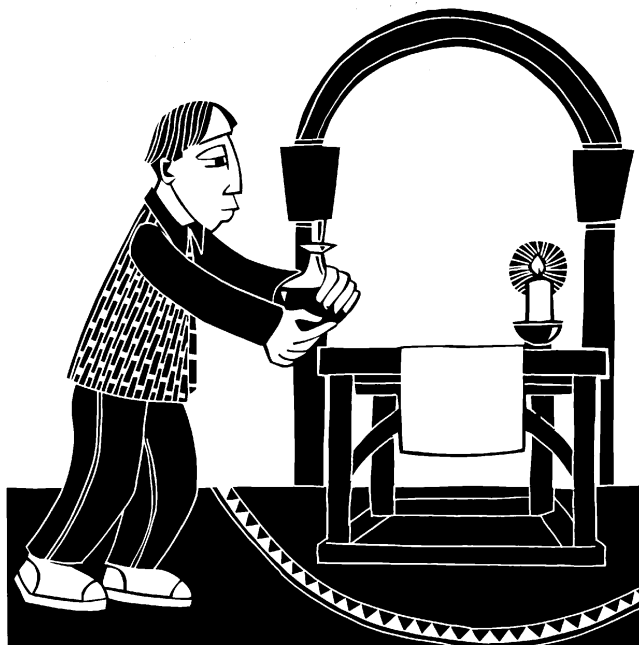




Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 12th February 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I need to be reconciled with anyone? How can the Holy Spirit guide me in doing the right thing?

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.

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.



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.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - Online

An opportunity to deepen your life and faith as a couple through this retreat. The next date available is 13 and 14 May 2023. The programme is delivered by experienced laity couples and a priest and is supported by the Bishops Conference. Full details of these experiences can be found on their website: <https://wwme.org.uk>

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Olive Thama Forrest as we celebrate her Funeral service on Thursday 1:30pm



Please pray also for the repose of the soul of Fr Dave Melly, Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico. He was a much loved priest in his parish, the Liverpool presbyterate and in the schools across the Archdiocese through his work as a Diocesan Inspector of Christian Education. He will be hugely missed. His funeral will take place on 20 February in the Cathedral.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 11th February	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 12th February <i>6th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am James Dean
Monday 13th February	10.00am Lin Brennan
Tuesday 14th February <i>Ss Cyril & Methodius</i>	10.00am Margaret Collins
Wednesday 15th February	NO MASS
Thursday 16th February	10.00am Maureen Ney
Friday 17th February	10.00am Peter McLean 1.30pm Funeral service - Olive Forrest
Saturday 18th February	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 19th February <i>7th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Mary Hoban 11.45 Baptism Harrison & Edward Akers

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

In today's gospel, Jesus is speaking to the Jewish community, his own people. They seem to be questioning whether Jesus' teaching is in opposition to the Law that they live by. Jesus is clear; he has come to complete and fulfil the Law. He is not inviting people to leave behind their faith but to enter more deeply into it. To quote an 80's pop song – "It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it." Too many people followed a pattern of faith that skimmed the surface of the Law, outwardly pious but inwardly self-protective. Jesus teaches that, to be a disciple, our lives must, above all, be lived in love. Love of God and love of neighbour as ourselves.

The examples that Jesus uses are just as relevant today. It may be easier to celebrate the sacraments, to believe that we are good people and make good choices. But is that enough?

As Christians, we are reminded that we cannot say we love God if we do not show love to our brothers and sisters. Love is shown in service, and in doing what we can to build the Kingdom of God. St Therese of Lisieux tells us, "Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing."

We are moving towards the season of Lent, a time when the Christian tradition is to put faith into action. Let us be aware of what our faith means and find ways to live it to the full. It is not about Law; it is not just what we have to do. It is a question of how much we can do, how much we can love.

CARMELITE FRIARS ONLINE LANTERN RETREAT:

Thursdays from 23rd February to March 30th 2023 via Zoom at 7pm – 7:45pm To register, visit:

<https://www.carmelite.uk.net/online-talks-retreats/lenten-retreat-2023>

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 all 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.

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.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND LITERATURE –

A festival which celebrates fiction and non-fiction with a faith perspective

Taking place on Saturday 25th February 2023, speakers include Rowan Williams, Stephen Cottrell, Jo Browning Wroe, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Francis Spufford, James Runcie and many others. Online tickets are available at a cost of £50:

<https://faithandliterature.hymnsam.co.uk/programme/saturday-25-february-2023/livestreamticket/>

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

The February Focus is on Preparing for Lent with many resources -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/lent-and-eastertide/resources/



There is also a lovely new Bible and Art video on Jesus washing Peter's Feet - www.godwhospeaks.uk/video-jesus-washing-peters-feet

And have a look at 'Women in Scripture Art Reflections':

There are 16 Bible heroines in this series -

www.godwhospeaks.uk/women-in-scripture-podcast

These are all interesting resources that help us prepare as we move into Lent

Prayer for those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

God of mercy,

We pray for the people of Türkiye and Syria following the recent earthquakes.

We mourn the death and destruction.

and pray for those who have died and those who grieve.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

We hold in our hearts those who are injured,

and those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Sustain and guide all responding to this disaster.

Grant those affected courage and resilience,

as they rebuild their lives and communities.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Inspire us to unite in solidarity,

acting swiftly and generously,

so that help may reach all who need it.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Amen.



CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

Living Laudato Si':

Your Parish and Your Planet

Zoom Weekend, 17-20 February Can healing the planet start with the parish? This is a repeat of a popular weekend for those who missed it the first time around.

This zoom retreat will be led by Sr Margaret Atkins, an Augustinian Canoness, Trish Sandbach, who worked in Oxfam Education and is an assessor for the CAFOD LiveSimply award and John Paul de Quay, founder member of the Ecological Conversion Group, there will also be a panel discussion for sharing advice on practical projects.

What will happen? A long weekend of talks and discussions on zoom, and practical activities, on living the message of Laudato Si' in and through the parish.

Who is it for? Any interested parishioner is most welcome to join. The weekend is aimed especially at people with parish responsibilities or who are part of or want to start a relevant parish group.

Times: Sessions will be on Friday night, Saturday morning and night, Sunday afternoon and night and Monday night (leaving people free during the day on Monday).

Cost: Voluntary donations gratefully accepted, but there will be no fee for the weekend.

To apply simply email Sr Margaret Atkins: margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

We have received this message from the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust following our Christmas Crib donation:

'Thank you very much indeed for the generous donation of £614.50 from Our Lady & English Martyrs. It is very much appreciated.

It has also come at a very opportune time as we are in the process establishing our first 'at home hospice service'. This is done in partnership with a local hospital which benefits by making beds available for other patients.

Thank you again and may God bless you and all your parishioners.'

Best wishes

Graham

Treasurer

Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust





SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

'Francis & Elizabeth Morgan'



Come and Sing

The cathedral is hosting a come and sing event for singers of all ages and abilities in March. Why not come along on Saturday, 25 March and join a massed choir under the baton of archdiocese Choral Director Joe Watson?



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

A 'come and sing' choir is a group of individuals (or sometimes an established choir/singing group) that joins together with other like-minded people to form a special choir for a day. On Saturday, 25 March, all of our singers will come together for the first time in the afternoon, rehearse together, and then perform in the evening! YouTube rehearsal links are provided to all participants so that they can practice and familiarise themselves with their parts ahead of the day. Reading music is not a prerequisite as music can be learnt with the YouTube links.

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

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



AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS PODCAST - cbcew.org.uk/podcast

Have a listen to the latest podcast from Bishops' Conference: Benedict XVI Rest in Peace (Episode 10). Canon Christopher Thomas and Cardinal Vincent Nichols offer personal reflections on Pope Benedict as well as give a moving description of the Lying in State and Requiem Mass in Rome.

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 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.

WHAT'S ON AT THE IRENAEUS CENTRE

GENESIS SCRIPTURE EVENINGS (on Zoom) Tuesdays 14th & 21st February 7pm

KNIT AND NATTER 10:30 - 12 noon Tuesdays

GODLY PLAY 12 Noon Tuesdays Praying creatively

SONGS WE REMEMBER Wednesdays 8th & 22nd February '23 2pm - 4pm-

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT 1.30pm Thursdays

ART AND MEDITATION 2-4pm Thursdays

AGAPE MASS 7pm 2nd March '23

MASS EVERY WEDNESDAY 12 NOON

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**



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