



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th February 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What specific action can I take this week to reflect the light of Christ to 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 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.

CHRISTMAS CRIB 2022

Thank you so much for the wonderful offerings given to this year's Christmas Crib collection. The wonderful sum of just over £600 has been sent to the Bethlehem Hospice & Care Trust which will bring much needed care to the Christian community in Bethlehem in need of palliative care.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alice Power as we celebrate her Funeral Mass on Monday 10:45am and we send our prayers and love to John & Donna.



Also pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Dave Melly, Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico, who died last week. 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.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 4th February	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 5th February <i>5th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Michael O'Neill 11.45 Baptism - Henry Oliver McMahon
Monday 6th February	10.45am Funeral Mass - Alice Power
Tuesday 7th February	NO MASS
Wednesday 8th February	NO MASS
Thursday 9th February	10.00am Ann Buck
Friday 10th February	10.00am Frances McDonagh
Saturday 11th February	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 12th February <i>6th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am James Dean

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Over and over again, St Paul insisted in his letters that it was the message and not the messenger that inspired the Christian communities all round the Mediterranean. He himself could not stay in one place forever; nor could he be everywhere at once. Indeed, that is why he kept writing all those lengthy letters! But both his message and the Holy Spirit could remain in one place forever and could be everywhere at once.

Once inspired, Christian communities became lights to shine the power, the love, and the mercy of Christ for others all around the world to see. May our community do the same.

Last week we heard Jesus teach the Beatitudes, declaring whom God has blessed. Uniting that passage with today's adds another dimension to what we are called to do. We can enlighten others with the lessons of the Beatitudes like a light on a lampstand. Choosing to make peace rather than seek conflict inspires others to do so as well. Witnessing to our faith in eternal life with a merciful God comforts others who mourn. Working for justice and righteousness inspires solidarity with others who hunger for those ideals as well. Let us live out the Beatitudes openly, so that others may see their value and follow suit.

If we are the light of the world, as Jesus tells his disciples, it is because we are reflecting the light of Christ, who also told them that he was the light of the world and all who followed him would have the light of life. When we were baptized we were given a candle, lit from the Easter candle, and told to always walk in the light of Christ. Throughout our lives, we should be conscious of that flame burning in our hearts, which we reflect to the world when we shine that light into the shadows of sin and injustice, shadows of poverty and evil, shadows that Christ's light can dispel.

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.

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?



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.

Columban Missionaries School Media Competition

The Columban Missionaries have a competition for students aged 13 to 18 to submit an original piece of writing or image on the theme, 'Building Peaceful Futures'. First prize will be £300. Final deadline will be 10 February 2023. For more info visit:

www.columbancompetition.com

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
Henry Oliver McMahon

Baptised Sunday 5th February 2023



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

5 February is Racial Justice Sunday. The theme is **“All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together”**. It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year’s Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis’ visit to Canada in July 2022 when he spoke about looking towards a future of ‘Justice, healing and reconciliation’.

A Prayer for this Day

God of our past, present and future, you created each one of us in your image and likeness, help us to recognise you in each person.

As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another and work together, so that we create a future based on justice and healing, where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

‘Margaret Jean Maloney



LITHERLAND HISTORY SOCIETY - the next meeting is Tuesday 7th February at 10.00am . Elaine Allen will speak - ‘Normans to Windsors—The Royal Family’. All are welcome. £2 admission includes refreshments.

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947)

Josephine Bakhita was born near Jebel Agilere in South Darfur (Sudan).

Kidnapped when still very young, she experienced the cruelty of slavery as she was sold several times in slave markets of Africa. Finally she was rescued by an Italian family and brought to Italy where she not only became a Christian but also felt the call to consecrate her life to God as a sister. She joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity and lived the rest of her life at Schio, a small village near Vicenza. She died on 8 February, 1947. She is the patron Saint of Human Trafficking and her feast is celebrated on Wednesday.



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

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, 26th 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.

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. CAFOD's 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



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

NIA MOVEMENT TO HEAL

7th February 1:15 pm – 2pm and then every other Tuesday

GENESIS SCRIPTURE EVENINGS (on Zoom) Tuesdays 7th, 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

HOT POT SUPPER AND FILM NIGHT 6pm 8th February '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