



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday

Sunday 19th March 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What keeps me from seeing the truth? What keeps me from acknowledging what I see?

HOLY COMMUNION

The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have announced that the distribution of Holy Communion from the chalice will resume starting at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

There will be a short meeting for all Ministers of the Eucharist on Tuesday 4 April, 7pm in church.

CATHOLIC PIC

The March edition is now available in the Parish Shop, free of charge. Fr Mark has written the main feature this month on his recent meetings in Jordan.



REST IN PEACE



We were very sad to hear of the death of Tony Coady last week. Tony was a faithful member of our parish community who had numerous roles within church and will be very sadly missed. His Funeral celebration will take place on Tuesday 28 March 9.45am

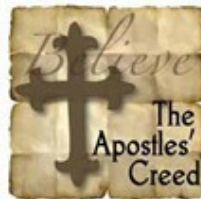
BRITISH SUMMER TIME Clocks go forward one hour next weekend for the start of British Summer Time.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2023

| | | |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
| Holy Thursday | Mass of the Lord's Supper Watching at the Altar of Repose Night Prayer | 7.00 pm 10.00pm |
| Good Friday | Solemn Celebration of the Passion | 3.00 pm |
| Holy Saturday | Easter Vigil & 1st Mass of Easter | 8.30 pm |
| Easter Sunday | Mass of Easter Day | 10.30am |

The Apostles' Creed

During the Seasons of Lent & Easter, the Apostles Creed is said:



I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.



LENTEN SUNDAYS

Stations of the Cross and Benediction is being celebrated each Sunday of Lent at 4.00pm Please make every effort to come along to this special Lenten devotion.

LENTEN ALMS

We are encouraged to make a financial contribution during the 6 week period of Lent. You will find the Lenten Alms box near the Lady Chapel at the front of church.

Masses & Services for the coming week

| DATE | MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES |
|---|--|
| Saturday 18th March | 4.30pm Marie Stone |
| Sunday 19th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> | 10.30am People of the Parish |
| Monday 20th March <i>St Joseph</i> | 10.00am James Brown |
| Tuesday 21st March | 10.00am Sick & Housebound |
| Wednesday 22nd March | NO MASS |
| Thursday 23rd March | 10.00am Alec Barr |
| Friday 24th March | 10.00am Joseph Allen |
| Saturday 25th March <i>Annunciation of The Lord</i> | 12.00pm Baptism - Reggie Crierie 4.30pm People of the Parish |
| Sunday 26th March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> | 10.30am John Dunn 11.45 Baptism - Violet Rose Donnelly |

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated Saturday 4.00p.m- 4.25pm

SUNDAY THOUGHTS



As wonderful as it is that Jesus heals people or puts an end to their physical disabilities, it is every bit as important that he welcomes them into full participation in society. Recall that when he encountered those who were lame or had leprosy, it was outside the synagogue, for they were considered unclean. The blind man was considered unclean as well—“totally in sin,” as the Pharisees assert (John 9:34). Jesus not only gives him sight, he gives him admittance to the synagogue. Or would have, had the Pharisees not thrown him out for his assertion that Jesus must be sent from God. But Jesus does not walk away from that exclusion, even though the physical part of the cure is complete. Just as the Good Shepherd goes out to find the lost sheep, Jesus immediately goes and finds him and brings him back into the fold. The man he healed could once again fully participate in his faith, albeit not inside the synagogue, but - even more intimately - in the very presence of the Lord.

When we witness something unimaginable, we face a fundamental question. Do we accept it, changing our minds to accommodate it, or do we refuse, denying what we have just witnessed? The Pharisees in today’s Gospel choose the latter. They refuse to change their attitudes about keeping the Sabbath or the sinfulness of the one born blind. The man’s parents choose the latter as well, though likely out of fear. They choose to deny what they saw rather than risk being expelled from the synagogue. But not the blind man himself: He accepts this miracle worker as the Son of Man. It wasn’t only his literal vision that was changed.

“While I am in the world, I am the light of the world,” Jesus asserts. That did not end two thousand years ago. Jesus is still in the world—here in this gathering, in the Eucharist, in our brothers and sisters in need, and within ourselves as we act in his name. May we “live as children of light,” as Paul told the Ephesians, opening the eyes of others and guiding them to what is good and righteous and true.

INCE BENET RETREAT DAYS IN LENT

During Lent there will be various opportunities for groups and individuals to make the most of the season of prayer and renewal. Please make enquiries for further details / bookings to ince.benet@gmail.com or phone Martin and Maria Bennett on 07931902346

Quiet days in Lent: [Friday 24th , Monday 27th March]

Individuals can spend a day or half a day organising their own prayer / reading or make use of suggested scripture passages suitable for Lent / Holy Week and walk in the woods.

Lent as a season of growth: [Wed 22nd March]

Guided day of reflection and sharing, reflecting on how the disciplines of prayer and fasting were an integral part of Jesus' life helps us to see Lent as a period of growth.

Eden to Gethsemane via the desert: [Thursday 23rd March]

Guided day of reflection and sharing: Temptation in the two gardens. A day spent in the two scriptural gardens to understand the nature of temptation and ways of responding to it in the light of Jesus' 40 days in the desert.

Lourdes centenary year – we need your help

As you know, this summer will mark 100 years since the archdiocese's first pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We would like to mark this special occasion by asking people across the archdiocese to share their memories of the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and any photographs or video clips you may have taken on any trips there over the years. We will collate these memories and use them on the archdiocesan website, social media channels and the Pic.

It could be that generations of your family have travelled to Lourdes, you could have photos from decades ago or even that a member of your family went on our very first pilgrimage in 1923.

If you have anything you are happy for us to share publicly or if you would even like to record a video message for us, then please email any details to communications@rcaol.org.uk and lourdespilgrimage@rcaol.org.uk and include your name, parish and year(s) you travelled to Lourdes.

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.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Joseph

Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of his son we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. To those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration. His feast day will be celebrated on Monday.



ST OSCAR ROMERO MASS

To mark the feast of St Oscar Romero, there is a Mass followed by talk *“Responding to the Cry of the Poor Today”* at 7:00pm on Thursday 23 March 2023, in Saint Edmund of Canterbury Church, Waterloo. After the Mass, there will be refreshments and a talk by Peggy Healy.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

Wishing all our mums a very happy Mother’s Day as we thank God for you and ask Him to bless and protect the gift of love that He has given you. Have a happy day!

IRENAEUS FOOD CUPBOARD

Thank you for all the support and donations you give for the Foodbank and huge thanks to Chris & Mary for coordinating our efforts.

The Irenaeus Project in Waterloo has contacted Fr Mark to ask for help in replenishing their food cupboard which is open to anybody in need and especially families in difficult situations. They are particularly wanting the following:

Tins of custard, rice pudding, fruit, tuna, Heinz tomato soup, corned beef, ham and chopped pork.
Sugar, coffee, cereal, biscuits.
Household cleaning items, washing tablets, washing up liquid.
Shampoo and toothpaste.

For more information on the food cupboard: [www,irenaeus.co.uk](http://www.irenaeus.co.uk) and click on 'our outreach'.

Deanery Synodal Council Update (DSC)

Following our Archdiocesan Synod, Archbishop Malcolm invited each deanery to set up a Deanery Synodal Council. This was to “Embed synodality in every aspect of archdiocesan life.” In other words, to find, through synodality, a way of listening to God and one another, that will help us to renew the way we work together for the building of God’s kingdom.

Our DSC has been meeting now since last June. We have spent a lot of time listening in prayer and sharing with each other the gifts and challenges of our own parish communities. This has helped us to think seriously about our Synod’s recommendation that we establish ‘Families of Parishes.’

Families of Parishes are groups of parishes, generally three to six, sharing resources to advance the mission of the Church.

During the coming weeks our DSC and clergy will spend time thinking about how these families will work in our deanery and what they will look like. These are exciting times when we are being invited to celebrate our catholic life and heritage. Our Families of parishes will help us to serve the needs of the broader community with renewed energy and to play our part, as disciples of the Lord, in our area.

RETIRING COLLECTION

A collection is taken this weekend for Nugent Care. The origins of Nugent Care date back to Victorian Liverpool and the pioneering work of Father James Nugent (1822-1905) in relation to child welfare, relief from poverty and social reform. Through his ministry, Father Nugent witnessed first-hand the suffering caused by poverty and appalling conditions and took action to remedy the situation. By the time of his death, Father Nugent had given homes and valuable skills to thousands of children, and laid the foundations for the work currently undertaken by Nugent Care. Allied to the Archdiocese of Liverpool, Nugent Care has provided care and support for those in need for over one hundred and forty years. While our values have remained constant, our services have adapted to meet the changing needs of today's society.



LAETARE

The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as 'Laetare Sunday' because of the old Latin entrance song for Mass that invited people to 'rejoice'. Some churches changed from the purple or violet colour to a rosy-pink colour for the vestments and fittings on this day



Elsewhere this Sunday was known as 'Refreshment Sunday' since the rejoicing led to a relaxation of the fasting rules and people baked cakes with fruit in them. In some places this cake was called 'Simnel Cake'. An even older custom associated with today is 'Mothering Sunday' (not to be confused with Mothers' Day which is a later American commercial event). It was customary for people to return to their 'Mother Church' on this day, the church where they had either been baptised in or grew up in. People who did this were said to be going 'a-mothering'. With the passing of time servants and domestics were allowed this day off to return and visit their families. So there's plenty of going on today!

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

At a recent meeting of the Deanery priests they decided to offer the sacrament of the sick after Friday Mass each week in Lent. This is not for multiple anointings - it is to awaken awareness of this wonderful healing sacrament and to invite anyone who is sick, going into hospital, anxious or mentally frail to come and receive Gods help and strength. Every Friday after morning Mass (about 10.30am).



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



'Thank you for prayers answered'

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

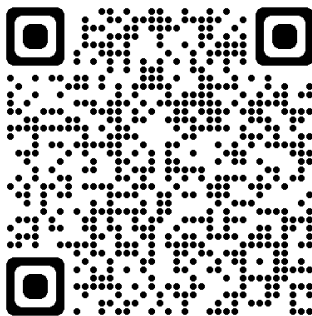
The annual Carrying of the Cross will take place on Saturday 1st April 2023 at 2pm. The carrying of the cross will begin from Church Street, passing through Bold Street and finishing at St Luke's Church (bombed out church), and will be followed by a short service. Please join us from 1:45pm at the junction of Church Street and Lord Street, Liverpool for a 2pm prompt start. Stewards are required and please contact Jim Ross on jimmy.ross7@gmail.com

Nugent donations

The Nugent Charity shop on Allerton Road is looking for donations such as clothes, shoes, handbags and toys. They can arrange pick up. If anyone can donate the contact number is 0151 737 2951.

CAFOD's online Lent Calendar

CAFOD have a lovely online calendar available for Lent which has reflections, readings and prayers for each day. Scan this QR code on the camera on your smart phone and it will take you to each day. You can also 'catch up' on previous days.



UNWANTED GIFTS? If you have any unwanted gifts please pass them in to the Parish Office. Donations of bottles also gratefully accepted please for our fundraising activities this coming year.

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk

It is still not too late to register for CAFOD's challenge to walk 200km to help people overcome poverty. Remember: every step you take is a step closer to a fairer world. Let's tell poverty to jog on! Sign up www.walk.cafod.org.uk. Bernie is still walking daily come hail (lots of it!), rain (lots of that too!) or shine (not much of that!) and is currently just over half way through her 200km. If you would like to help her achieve her £200 target donation you can do so - <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/bernadette-coxon>



Faith and dementia conference - Wednesday 17 May, Liverpool Dementia Action Alliance will be hosting a faiths and dementia conference at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre. More details can be found at www.faithsanddementia23.com.

REGULAR GIVING TO THE CHURCH

The best way to give regularly to the parish is with a Standing Order so that your contribution is paid by your bank to the parish account. This reduces the cash that has to be handled. Envelopes will always remain available but please consider the use of Standing Orders. Please contact the parish office if you would like one. If you are a tax payer please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme as this is a way of increasing our income without having to ask people for more money. For every £1 you give 25p extra will be claimed back by the parish.

WHAT'S ON AT THE IRENAEUS CENTRE

CRAFT WORKSHOP 1pm-4pm 20th March

WALKING IN HOPE A journey through Lent Tuesday evenings in March 7pm-8.30pm

KNIT AND NATTER 10:30 - 12 noon Tuesdays

GODLY PLAY 12 Noon Tuesdays Praying creatively

SONGS WE REMEMBER Wednesday 22nd March '23 2pm - 4pm

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT 1.30pm Thursdays

ART AND MEDITATION 2-4pm Thursdays

MASS EVERY WEDNESDAY NOON





Johann Sebastian Bach

St Matthew Passion

Bach's setting of St Matthew's account of the Passion of Christ features two choruses and two orchestras. The Singers and Players of the Collective will include eight vocal soloists: Barbara Ruzsics & Annamarie Newton *sopranos*, Daniel Townley & Angelina Dorlin-Barlow *altos*, David Woods & James Botcher *tenors* and Stuart O'Hara & Armand Rabot *basses*, who will be joined by Nicholas Mulroy as Evangelist and Lawrence White as Christus.

The performance will be given in a liturgical context, and admission will be only by ticket (for which there is no charge). Tickets will be available from 25 February online at www.eventbrite.co.uk (on the home page, search for St Matthew Passion or by date). Any unallocated tickets will be available at the door.

Saturday 25 March 2023 at 7.00pm

at the Church of Our Lady & St Nicholas (Liverpool Parish Church)
Old Churchyard, Liverpool L2 8TZ



LIVERPOOL BACH COLLECTIVE

Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714