



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday 2nd April 2023



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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In whom am I challenged to see Jesus? How can I help carry Christ's cross by carrying my neighbour's cross?

MINISTERS ROTA FOR EASTER - all ministers should have received a copy of the rota for the Easter period. There is a copy on the notice board at the back of Church.

CATHOLIC PIC

The April edition is now available in the Parish Shop, free of charge. The main feature this month is the Synod report on care for the priests.

THANK YOU We celebrated a lovely Funeral Mass for Tony Coady last Tuesday with a packed church. Thank you to everyone who made a donation at the end of the Mass in his memory. £1000 was collected for the Motor Neurone Association!

THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2023

Holy Monday	Mass	10.00am
Holy Tuesday	Mass	10.00am
Holy Wednesday	Chrism Mass Metropolitan Cathedral	7.30pm
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
Easter Monday	Mass	12 noon

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

A short but important meeting will take place on Tuesday 4 April, 7pm in church. This is to discuss and plan for the re-introduction of Communion under both kinds.

POPE FRANCIS

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,
With the news a few days ago that the Holy Father has been hospitalised at the Gemelli Polyclinic with a pulmonary infection and has experienced difficulty breathing in these last days, we commend his health and continued ministry among us to Our Blessed mother for a speedy recovery as Holy Week approaches.
With my prayers for you,
+Malcolm



CHRISM MASS

This very special occasion in the life of the Archdiocese takes place on Wednesday 7.30pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral. Bishops, Priests & Deacons will gather with Archbishop Malcolm to participate with him as he blesses the sacred oils. The Church makes use of three holy oils: the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil. The first two are blessed, and the Archbishop consecrates the third. The oils are then distributed to all the parishes in the Archdiocese to be used until Easter 2024. This will be the first full scale Chrism Mass since 2019 so please go along and be part of this wonderful celebration.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens. .

Lord in your mercy...

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 1st April	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am Ann Henderson
Monday 3rd April <i>Holy Monday</i>	10.00am Margaret & Septimus Murphy 2.00pm Funeral Mass - Honor Cronley
Tuesday 4th April <i>Holy Tuesday</i>	10.00am Josie Callaghan 11.45am Funeral service - Margaret Collins
Wednesday 5th April <i>Holy Wednesday</i>	7.30pm Chrism Mass in Metropolitan Cathedral
Thursday 6th April <i>Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	7.00pm Private intention (MM) 10.00pm Night Prayer
Friday 7th April <i>Good Friday of The Passion of The Lord</i>	3.00pm Solemn Service of the Passion & Death of the Lord Jesus
Saturday 8th April <i>Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</i>	8.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 9th April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10.30am Private intention (MM)

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Throughout his Gospel, Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses. Matthew alone begins his Gospel with Jesus' genealogy, linking him to the entire Jewish lineage back to Abraham. He also is the only evangelist to report that Herod ordered the murder of all the male infants, as Pharaoh had in Moses' time. Jesus' teachings are arranged in five lengthy discourses, a kind of new Torah, traditionally thought to be authored by Moses. In Matthew, Jesus is steeped in the tradition, the writings, and the laws of the Hebrew people. Now, through his ultimate sacrifice, he leads his people from the slavery of sin to the promised land of eternal life with the Lord. This new covenant, bound by Jesus' own blood instead of the blood of animals, is established by his death on the cross.

People's behaviour changes when they're a part of a crowd. The anonymity of a crowd makes it dangerous, for it gives its members license to do things they know they wouldn't otherwise get away with. Also, it is much easier to do something or shout something when you have immediate support from like-minded people around you. Witness Judas. When he arrives to betray Jesus, he is accompanied by a large crowd, making it easier for him to go through with his plan. But later, when he is alone, he regrets what he has done and returns the thirty pieces of silver. Later, it is not a single witness who comes forward to condemn Jesus, but a crowd that cries out as one. Would any member of that crowd stand up alone to call for his death? Perhaps not. But together, they do exactly that. We can see that kind of mob mentality play out today as well. Something that one single person wouldn't dare do alone becomes a natural course of action when a mob is whipped into a frenzy. It behoves us to be aware of this dynamic and how it can affect our own behaviour. Going along with a crowd does not absolve us of individual responsibility.

When Jesus first told his disciples what would happen to him in Jerusalem and they reacted with shock and horror, he told them that everyone who wished to follow him must also carry their own crosses. As Jesus was willing to carry his cross, shameful and horrible and lethal as it was, he calls upon us to carry our own painful and difficult crosses. Remember, the cross he carried was not for himself. He carried his cross for everyone else - for Peter and Judas; for the woman at the well and the man born blind; for Pilate, Barabbas, and the revolutionaries crucified with him; for you and for me. We are called to carry crosses for others as well, to ease the burdens on our neighbour. As Jesus gave of himself for our benefit, we are called to give of ourselves for the benefit of those in need. We are challenged to see Jesus in our neighbour in need, for that makes clear to us that we are returning in some small way the debt we owe to him who gave his life for us.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

A Mass of thanksgiving for 175 years of St Francis Xavier Church and the work of the Jesuits in Liverpool will be held on Tuesday 11 April 2023, at 6pm with Father Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus. The final parish Mass with the Jesuits is on Sunday 16 April 2023 at 10.15am. Followed by reception in Hope University Creative Campus, Everton.

LENTEN SUNDAYS

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated today at 4.00pm. This is your last opportunity to celebrate this so 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.

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.

#Liverpool4Ukraine

In May, the Archdiocese is planning its 5th trip to the Ukraine border to deliver essential aid to Bishop Gregory Komar. The essential aid is then distributed between local people who need it so desperately.

The vans carrying the aid will be driven by volunteer drivers from our archdiocesan office and from our supplier Greenmount Projects.

These trips would not be possible without the generous donations from our parishioners. We are still very much welcoming any donations, ways to donate are below:

Online:

www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/donate

Bank transfer:

Account name: Archdiocese of Liverpool

Sort code: 40-29-12

Account: 01551493

Reference: Help Ukraine

Cheque

Made payable to "Archdiocese of Liverpool" and with "Help Ukraine" written on the reverse, these can be sent to

Finance Department
St Margaret Clitherow Centre
Liverpool Archdiocesan Office
Croxteth Drive
Liverpool
L17 1AA



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

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.

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.

BECOMING A CHURCH THAT CARES FOR ITS PRIESTS

When the Diocesan Synod met on June 20, 2021, the Apostolic Nuncio delivered a greeting from the Holy Father which included this:

“Please do not forget your priests and bishops in your prayers, in your suggestions and in your practical support. Remember that they are human beings in one of the most difficult periods in the history of the Church. Take care of the priest who has a responsibility for your local community. Accompany them with love, patience, friendship and support.”

These concerns found their place in the Synod affirmations and recommendations. There was a clear affirmation of the need to assist priests, both personally and in their ministry as they collaborate with the Archbishop, with one another and in collaboration with the people of God.

A question that was asked was how can we better support our priests? How can the Archdiocese offer them guidance, further training and formation? There was a real concern for the way future priests are formed and a desire to be an Archdiocese that cares for its priests.

In years to come the numbers of priests available for ministry will be greatly reduced. Alongside of that is the reality of falling numbers who attend or volunteer in our parishes and all that this implies. We need a strategic look at how things will be in the future.

There are 105 Diocesan priests in post.

74 priests are under the age of 70. (24 are under 50, 15 are between the ages of 51 and 60 and 35 priests are 60 – 69)

31 priests aged 70 – 75+ with a full-time appointment.

This means that in 2030 we are likely to have 74 priests and in 2040 the figure is likely to be 39 priests. In the Diocese we currently have 140 parishes. For the past eighteen months the priests have been reflecting on their needs and concerns and a very detailed report and plan has been drawn up as to the way forward to best support our priests. The Archbishop has now formally endorsed and presented this plan to the priests with a summary of the plan presented to the parishes across the Diocese which the Archbishop introduces in a Pastoral Letter this weekend. Please take a copy home with you which you can find at the back of church.

SANCTUARY LAMP



The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



‘Brenda & Walter McNamara’

BISHOP TOM WILLIAMS

In accordance with Canon Law Bishop Tom Williams submitted his resignation from the Office of Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, following his 75th birthday and he formally retired last Saturday.



Commenting on this milestone for Bishop Tom, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon said, *‘20 years ago to the day, the then Canon Tom Williams of St Anthony of Egypt, Scotland Road was called by Pope St John Paul II to be an auxiliary bishop. Two decades on, we give thanks for so much accomplished and for God’s blessing on the years ahead.*

Bishop Tom said, *‘I give thanks for the many blessings of my ministry as Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool. The happiest days of my life have been spent in Chaplaincy work in hospitals, schools and prisons and I now look forward to focussing on and continuing that pastoral ministry as Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus.’*

Thanking God for Bishop Tom Williams’ ministry among us, all are welcome to join in prayer for a Mass of Thanksgiving for his 20 years of episcopal ministry here in Liverpool as an auxiliary bishop. It will take place on Wednesday 17 May at 7pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral, the vigil of the Ascension of the Lord. There will be a drinks reception for all in the Cathedral crypt following Mass. All are welcome.

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

A collection will be taken at Mass on Holy Thursday and be given to a local charity. A collection will also be taken on Good Friday, the traditional Holy Places collection.
Please give generously.

THE CORONATION

On Friday 5 May at 5pm there is a vigil Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty the King Charles III. All are welcome to attend.

PARISH OFFICE - Please note that the Parish Office will close on Tuesday 4 April and re-open on Thursday 13 April

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.

THANK YOU!!! A huge

'thank you' to everyone who attended the Easter



Bingo on Wednesday evening. We raised an amazing £600! But more importantly we had a lovely social evening. Raffle winners details are at the back of Church.

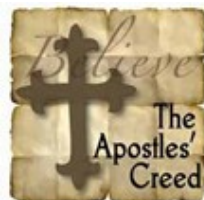
Watch this space for our next event!!

Faith and dementia conference

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

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.

