



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday 26th March 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What spiritual darkness is Jesus calling me to come out of today? What difficulties can I anticipate in shedding these burial bands that separate

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.



THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2023

Holy Monday	Midday Prayer Mass	11:45 am. 12 noon
Holy Tuesday	Midday Prayer Mass	11:45am. 12 noon
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





WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY
Reggie James Crierie

Baptised Saturday 25th March 2023

Violet Rose Donnelly

Baptised Sunday 26th March 2023



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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The final Friday for the celebration of this beautiful sacrament will take place this week during the 10:00 Mass.

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...

Online Lent Retreat Hosted by The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow the theme for this year's retreat is 'Live to Inspire.' For more info visit: www.onlineprayer.net/saints

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 25th March	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
Monday 27th March	10.00am Joyce McIndoe
Tuesday 28th March	9.45am Funeral Mass - Tony Coady
Wednesday 29th March	NO MASS
Thursday 30th March	10.00am Sheila Rooney
Friday 31st March	10.00am Frances McDonagh
Saturday 1st April	4.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am Ann Henderson

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The story of creation teaches us that God has the power over life. God created plant life and animal life, and most precious, human life. The fall of the first humans brought death into the world, which appeared to give an absolute finality to life, but this is not so. Ezekiel prophesies that God would open the graves of the Chosen People and bring them back to the promised land. Jesus actually brings Lazarus forth from the tomb, though he had been dead for four days. But because Lazarus eventually would die once more, it is not until God raises Jesus from the dead that death is defeated, is rendered powerless, once and for all. Always, God has the power over life and death.

The people came to comfort Martha and Mary. Seeing Jesus, some wonder why this miracle worker hadn't prevented Lazarus's death. Others identify with his tears of grief. They all end up taking part in Jesus' work. Some roll away the stone, despite knowing there would be a stench. Some untie Lazarus's burial bands, though they may have recoiled from touching someone who had been dead for four



days. All are able to hear Jesus address his Father as the one who sent him and always hears him. Jesus called Lazarus forth from the tomb, but he also called upon his friends and neighbours to allow Lazarus to live his new life.

The first voice Lazarus hears when his life is restored is his Saviour's calling to him to come out of the tomb, to come back to the land of the living. When we turn away from God, when we turn away from our neighbour in need (where Jesus may always be found), we find ourselves in a spiritual death, entering the tomb that separates us from God. Jesus is always calling us forth, out of those bands that separate us from God and others, back to the land of the living. Let us listen, let us respond, and let the Spirit dwelling in us guide us to life in the Lord. If we have Jesus within us and Jesus is indeed the resurrection and the life, then we have the resurrection and the life within us.

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>

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: 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.

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.

PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA

Vacancy for Sales and Promotion Assistant.

The Charity of the Daughters of St Paul are looking to appoint an experienced member to our well established team at the Pauline Books & Media Centre, Liverpool. This is role over 5 days with flexible working hours (approx. 30h p/w). The successful candidate should be responsible, well organised good work ethos, flexible, multitasked, precise, polite manner, able to use social media and basic computer programs and ability to work as part of a team. Please email your CV and covering letter to accounts@pauline-uk.org

Universe Catholic Weekly

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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:

'Linda Perrin'



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

CONFIRMATION 2023

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now closed. 13 young people from our parish have signed up to be confirmed later this year and their preparation will take place in their High School and in the parish. Please keep them in your prayers.



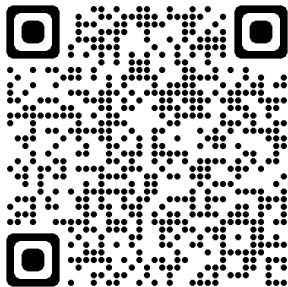
REST IN PEACE

Funeral celebration will take place on Tuesday at 9.45am for Tony Coady who was a faithful member of our parish community and will be very sadly missed.



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.



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.

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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please continue to pray for the children who are currently making their First Reconciliation. May they come closer to God the Father through this very special sacrament.

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

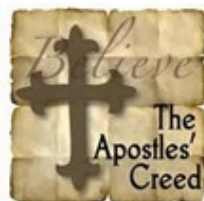
ART AND MEDITATION 2-4pm
Thursdays

**MASS EVERY
WEDNESDAY NOON**



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.

