



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

2nd Sunday of Easter

16th April 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

With eyes of faith, how do I see Christ's wounds in my community?

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE

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

PASCHAL CANDLE 2023.

We hope you like this year's Paschal Candle which is called 'Merciful Lamb'. The Merciful Lamb Paschal Candle is hand-crafted to showcase the sculpted Agnus Dei medallion in brilliant white Beeswax with gold-leaf trim. The candle's wax date is presented in the tradition arrangement around the striking silver cross. With delicate detailing and fine craftsmanship, the Merciful Lamb is our tribute to the sacrifice that Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, made for our eternal salvation. The candle is positioned next to the Lectern and will be lit every day for the next 50 days before it's moved to the font and will then be lit at every baptism and funeral celebration.



REFRESHMENTS

Easter refreshments will be served in the parish hall after Mass today. Please join us as we continue to celebrate the Easter Season.



COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS

Receiving Holy Communion from the chalice was re-introduced across parishes in England & Wales last week. The Archbishop has asked the priests to make one important point.

The Bishops of England & Wales do not allow the Sacred Host to be dipped into the chalice (this is called intinction). This has never been allowed in England & Wales as the Roman Rite does not permit that communicants themselves dip the host into the Precious Blood.

If you wish to receive the Precious Blood you must take the chalice in both hands and drink from the chalice. The Minister of Holy Communion will then carefully wipe the chalice with a purificator.

FUNERAL MASS

On Friday we celebrate the Funeral Mass for Keith Bailey at 10am. May he rest in peace.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" APRIL DRAW

1st	£20	No. 196	F Bracken
2nd	£15	No. 113	A Henshall
3rd	£10	No. 151	F Bennett
4th	£10	No. 41	M Roche



Numbers are still available if you wish to join and support this wonderful institution. See Myra Lovelady

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 15th April <i>Easter Saturday</i>	4.30pm Bridget McDermott
Sunday 16th April <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Day of Divine Mercy</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 17th April	10.00am Fr Victor Bridges
Tuesday 18th April	10.00am James Barr
Wednesday 19th April	NO MASS
Thursday 20th April	10.00am Maureen Jones
Friday 21st April	10.00am Funeral Mass - Keith Bailey
Saturday 22nd April	4.30pm Alice Power
Sunday 23rd April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am Pauline Mulhaney

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

John wrote that the first thing Jesus did after greeting the apostles was show them his hands and his side. He showed them his wounds. Not only did that prove that he really was the Lord, it also showed them that the wounds had a real and lasting effect on his body. His body was not restored to an unblemished state. It was Jesus' wounded body that was raised from the dead, that was taken to heaven, and that remains there now. The wounds on Christ's body are not symbolic or superficial. Similarly, the body of Christ - the Church - is wounded, and those wounds are real.

We have the opportunity to see Christ's risen body as well, just not in the same way that the apostles did. With the eyes of faith - through Thomas's eyes, if you will - we can perceive his risen body, wounds and all, in the Church, in the world, in our community, in our parish, in each other. That faith-filled vision allowed the early Christian community to live and thrive despite the persecution they endured, even eating their daily meals "with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people" (Acts 2:46-47). They saw Christ's risen body in their community: in the wounds they suffered and in the fellowship they shared.

Significantly, Jesus' first words to his disciples after his resurrection were "Peace be with you" This simple greeting, which may sound ordinary or even trite, meant a lot to the disciples, for they had all abandoned him as he suffered and died on the cross. But when Jesus returned, he came not only with the gift of the Holy Spirit, but also with the gift of reconciliation, restoring the bond between him and them. When he showed them his hands and his side, he was not reminding them of what they had left him to go through alone. He was giving them a share in his triumph over sin and death.

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

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.

Parishes have been sent special texts for Masses to be celebrated on 5 May for the Coronation. Mass in our parish will be at 12noon on that day and you are encouraged to come along and join with our fellow Catholics around the country to pray for the King's intentions. Special Coronation prayer cards will also be available.



EUROVISION 2023

Eurovision 2023 provides the Christian Churches in Merseyside with an opportunity to work together in welcoming tens of thousands of visitors to the city and to proclaim the love of God. To facilitate activities several events are to take place and an updated list of activities and events will be available soon.

The following Ecumenical events have been agreed and we look forward to seeing you at these events. More information on further events will be published in the coming weeks.

DAILY PRAYER WALKS

Tuesday 9th until Friday 12th at 9am meeting at the Pier Head (near the Beatles Statue) - a prayer guide will allow you to explore iconic Liverpool areas to pray for peace and also hand out peace postcards promoting the prayer vigils.

DAILY PRAYER VIGILS

Tuesday 9th until Friday 12th 12 noon until 1pm at iconic Liverpool venues. Tuesday and Friday at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Wednesday at Strawberry Field, Beaconsfield Road and Thursday at Liverpool Parish Church "Our Lady and St Nicholas".

ECUMENICAL ACT OF WORSHIP

Wednesday 10th May, 7pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral with contributions from the Salvation Army Brass Band, New Song Wirral Band, and The joint choir of Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. This event will be live streamed across the world.

VOLUNTEERING

Are you interested in being part of the team welcoming and stewarding some of the events happening on behalf of Churches Together in the Merseyside Region? You can help facilitate prayer walks, prayer vigils, steward at the Metropolitan Cathedral and be present greeting visitors at Strawberry Field. For all interested in Volunteering please the Rev Jackie Bellfield to register your interest: revjackiebellfield@gmail.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.

#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

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>

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 and click on 'our outreach'.

LET'S JOURNEY TOGETHER

The Isaiah Journey group (who prepare resources for the Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse) are promoting a week of guided prayer online. The Day of Prayer this year will be on 9th May 2023. It is proposed as a day of prayer in a season of hope and new life for those who have been abused. To find out more and book your place: journeytogetherij@gmail.com

CATHOLIC LISTENERS

Catholic Listeners is a confidential telephone helpline service set up for those returning Catholics who want to return to the faith and need a safe space to be heard. The helpline is staffed by a team of volunteers who are welcoming, friendly, empathetic and non-judgemental. The helpline is also based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Operating three days a week from 4pm -7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free to the helpline on 0800 448 0704 or by email at catholiclisteners@gmail.com

PONTIFICAL DIVINE LITURGY

The Right Reverend Kenneth Nowakowski, the Eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, who is responsible for the pastoral care of Ukrainian, Belarusian and Slovakian Eastern Catholics in Great Britain as well as Apostolic Visitor for Ukrainian Catholics resident in Ireland and Northern Ireland, will visit Ukrainians in Liverpool at the end of April.

On Sunday, 30 April, he will preside at the Pontifical Divine Liturgy, concelebrated by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, other clergy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and Roman Catholic Church in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, beginning at 3.00 pm. The liturgy will be offered for peace with justice in Ukraine and around the world, and for God's blessing of the host city ahead of the major events related to the Eurovision Song Contest. Civic and Religious leaders will be invited to this unique time of prayer for Ukraine and Eurovision in Liverpool.

Fr Taras Khomych, Chaplain to the Ukrainian Church in Liverpool, and the Ukrainian community in Liverpool cordially invite people from across the archdiocese. It is as a 'thank you' for the generosity and ongoing work of the #liverpool4ukraine campaign and for the solidarity of the people of Liverpool.

This is a unique experience to celebrate Mass in a different Catholic rite and Fr Mark encourages you to participate. Everyone is welcome to join this celebration.

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Do you know a child who would like to be a chorister at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool? The search is now on for our next generation of Boy and Girl choristers. All choristers are educated at Runnymede St Edward's Catholic Primary School & St Edward's College West Derby meaning that a first class Catholic chorister education for boys and girls in Liverpool is available at no cost. If you know of a Catholic family who might be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please share this information with them. For full details of choristerships at the Metropolitan Cathedral www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs/



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



'Deceased members of Williams family'

BISHOP TOM WILLIAMS

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.



WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS AT A GLANCE

CRAFT WORKSHOP 1pm - 4pm 24th April '23 (Booking essential)

MOVEMENT TO HEAL 1:15 - 2pm every other Tuesday

KNIT AND NATTER 10:30 - 12 noon Tuesdays

GODLY PLAY 12 Noon Tuesdays (Praying creatively)

COUNSELLING SUPPORT Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

IN THE AUTUMN OF OUR YEARS Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:45am

26th April, 3rd, 10th & 17th May '23

SONGS WE REMEMBER Wednesdays 12th & 26th April '23 2pm - 4pm

AFTERNOON TEA WITH FRANK SINATRA 2-4pm 2nd May 2023

HOT-POT SUPPER AND FILM NIGHT 6pm 9th May '23

BREAVEMENT SUPPORT 1.30pm Thursdays

ART AND MEDITATION 2-4pm Thursdays

AGAPE MASS 7pm 4th May '23



The Irenaeus Project
the glory of God is a person fully alive

LGBT+ MASS

The next gathering for LGBT+ Catholics will be held on Sunday 16 April 2023. There will be Mass at 2.00pm followed by social gathering. This will take place at: St Agnes & St Aidan Church, Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, L36 5SQ

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.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

As the evenings become brighter and there is sunshine in early morning, I notice life in my garden here at Archbishop's House. The various birds and animals that make their homes in the trees and in the flowerbeds seem to be more alive. My garden took on a greater significance for me during the pandemic. It was a place I could walk and sit down in the fresh air.

The annual feast of Easter reminds us so much of those things of the garden where the Lord was buried. It seemed that the darkness of Good Friday would eclipse all in its shade as Jesus was placed in the tomb, which was sealed, such darkness is felt in Ukraine and in other parts of the world where there is war, violence, and suffering.

The quietness of that feast of Passover which is described as 'when the King sleeps' reminds us of the silence of helplessness and death present in all our lives. But the garden also reminds of us the new and abundant life that bursts forth on Easter Day, the life which cannot be put back in the tomb.

The life of Jesus, poured into each of us in our baptism is a reason for hope this Easter Day. As we continue to see so much uncertainty in the political sphere, both local and global, we are called to return to the source, to the risen Jesus, who reminds us that there will be suffering, but ultimately glory; the glory of the life of God given to each of us in His son, Jesus Christ.

The glory given to us is the culmination of a journey – a journey of hope. The disciples hoped for the Messiah and found him in Jesus, yet their journey wasn't an easy one. They experienced that darkness of Good Friday and felt lost as their hope turned to despair, as their lives were turned upside down. Yet, three days later on Easter morning their lives were completely transformed as the tomb was empty and the risen Lord was truly with them again.

It is hope which is part of the journey of so many - refugees and asylum seekers longing for peace, safety and a better life – may we welcome them with the peace of the risen Christ. May we bring light to the darkness of the people of Ukraine and join with them in their hope for peace and may our own journey lead us to give hope to the lonely, those who mourn, those in poverty and the oppressed.

May we welcome the light of the Risen Christ into the darkness of our lives so that we can see what hope his call holds for us and on this great feast of Easter let us remember that Jesus has won the victory and extends life to all.

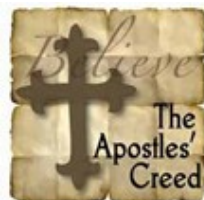
May the Risen Lord touch our hearts and lives with His hope, peace, and life this Eastertide.

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool



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.

