



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

EASTER DAY

9th April 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How has my life been transformed since three years ago? What can I make new in my life, in my community, in the world?

## EASTER 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.

## 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.

## 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 next Sunday. Please join us as we continue to celebrate the Easter Season.



## HAPPY EASTER

Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia!  
The Easter message of joy echoes through the whole world proclaiming Christ's ultimate victory of light over darkness, grace over sin, and life over death. It is the message upon which we build our lives and to which we anchor our own hope of victory with him. During this solemn

Easter season of 50-days we joyfully give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed on us as individuals and as a parish community. Because Jesus has died and risen again, conquering sin and death, we believe that with him we too shall live. In this spirit of faith and hope, I wish you and your families a most holy and blessed Easter Season!

Fr Mark



## THANK YOU

A very big thank you to the lovely group of parishioners who work so hard at this time of the year to ensure that our Holy Week and Easter celebrations are special. May the Lord continue to bless them and the gifts He has given them.



### 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
<b>Saturday 8th April</b> <i>Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</i>	8.30pm People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 9th April</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10.30am Private intention (MM)
<b>Monday 10th April</b> <i>Easter Monday</i>	12 Noon Sheila Rooney
<b>Tuesday 11th April</b> <i>Easter Tuesday</i>	10.00am Ray Hughes
<b>Wednesday 12th April</b> <i>Easter Wednesday</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 13th April</b> <i>Easter Thursday</i>	10.00am Stephen McQuade
<b>Friday 14th April</b> <i>Easter Friday</i>	10.00am Edward Taylor
<b>Saturday 15th April</b> <i>Easter Saturday</i>	4.30pm Bridget McDermott
<b>Sunday 16th April</b> <i>Second Sunday of Easter Day of Divine Mercy</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The disciple whom Jesus loved is a model for all of us, for he believed before he understood. After all, the Resurrection is an event beyond human understanding. Science and logic cannot explain the mystery that is fully known to God alone. But this doesn't mean that the mystery hasn't been revealed to us at all. Jesus revealed glimpses of the mystery throughout his mission. He raised up those who were put down or shut out by society, whether by sin, disability, or disrepute - those whom others were unwilling to engage. He raised the girl thought dead and Lazarus, four days in the tomb. He repeatedly told his disciples that he himself would be raised on the third day. The disciple Jesus loved could not explain what happened, but he believed that it was true.

Again and again over the last three years we have longed for a return to normal, a return to what it was like before COVID-19. It is an understandable sentiment, considering the difficult changes and traumatic losses we've suffered in our everyday lives. But let Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians point us in a different direction. "Get rid of all the old yeast," he told them, "and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread". Easter does not point us to the past, but to the future. The Resurrection is not a resuscitation, but a transformation. The disciples did not return to their lives from three years before, to fishing and collecting taxes and hanging around Galilee. No, their lives were transformed. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they preached the gospel and made disciples of all nations. In them, new yeast rose.

Where were all the other disciples besides Mary of Magdala, Peter, and John? Quite possibly they were in hiding, fearful that they could be prosecuted and jailed (or worse) if they were identified as friends of the agitator whom the authorities had just crucified. Locked in their hiding places, they were nearly as entombed as Jesus had been. They needed to be raised as well. God raised Jesus from the dead, then also soon raised the disciples from their self-imposed tombs. Once raised, they were able to continue Jesus' mission, preaching the gospel, baptising the eager, and making disciples of all nations. This is our challenge as well. We may not be in hiding, but we may be overwhelmed by the darkness that envelops our world. In the face of violence and discord, illness and death, we may feel that the dawn will never come. We look to our God who raises the dead, the disciples in their hiding-place tombs as well as the literally dead, to restore us to life, to restore us to living.

## **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.

## **WELCOME**

A warm welcome back to Rev Br Pradeep Lakra who will be staying with Fr Mark for a week from Bank Holiday Monday. Since we last saw Pradeep in the Summer he was ordained to the Diaconate in India before returning to Oxford to continue his studies towards Priesthood. It's great to have him back.



## **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](mailto:communications@rcaol.org.uk) and [lourdespilgrimage@rcaol.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](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 Please take a copy of the letter home with you which you can find at the back of church.

### SANCTUARY LAMP



The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



**'Deceased members of Molloy 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.



### 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 made available.



### 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.

## THE BIG LENT WALK - THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored Bernie on the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. She completed the 200KM with a couple of days to spare!! We currently have raised an amazing £350! You can still donate at <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/bernadette-coxon>



**PARISH OFFICE** - Please note that the Parish Office will 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.

## Universe Catholic Weekly

Is true to its mission of being “a light to guide the world and a mirror to reflect it” keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount.

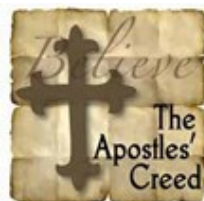
Order your digital 2 weeks free introductory offer by calling Michelle on 07436 617 650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

## 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

## 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.

