



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

16th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 23rd July 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What substantial service can I provide this week to someone who is elderly, whether a member of my family or not? What can I learn from this action?



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Robyn Sophia Corness
Baptised Sunday 23rd July 2023



REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John Harris, who died on Wednesday morning in Formby. He was 83 years old and in his 52nd year of priesthood. Fr John served the Catholic community in this area for many years as Parish Priest of Holy Spirit before he retired just a couple of years ago. His Funeral details will be published shortly. May he rest in peace.



A PILGRIMAGE TO JORDAN

Fr Mark has been invited to lead a pilgrimage to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan possibly in September 2024. This is not necessarily parish pilgrimage but first places will be given to parishioners and friends of English Martyrs.

The pilgrimage will be for approximately 7 days with accommodation in Amman and Petra. The pilgrimage will include visiting sites such as Mount Nebo and the Baptism site of Jesus. Archaeological sites will include Petra and Jerash and we will also spend a lot of time meeting the local Christian community in parishes, schools and various projects. Jordan is part of the Holy Land and the Christian community are an essential part of the country. Flights will be from London Heathrow airport. The itinerary is not yet finalised but the Tour Company estimates the cost of approximately £1900 per person for a fully inclusive trip. If you are interested please give your name to the Parish Office so we can see the level of interest.

THANK YOU

A big thank you from Fr Mark for all the Anniversary cards and good wishes for his 27th year of priesthood.



Thank you to all those who came along for refreshments after Mass last Sunday and to the volunteers and bakers.

DEANERY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Like last year, the parishes of the deanery will be running a reduced Mass schedule during the Summer weeks to allow the priests to have a holiday and to ensure that each parish is covered by the priests in the deanery.

Effective from 23rd July, the weekend Summer Mass times in our Deanery will be:

Holy Rosary	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 10.30am
Our Lady & English Martyrs		Sun 10.30am
Our Lady of Walsingham	Sat 5.00pm	
St Benet		Sun 10.00am
St Gregory	Sat 4.30pm	
Our Lady's Lydiate		Sun 10.00am
St George	Sat 6.30pm	Sun 11.30am
St Elizabeth	Sat 5.00pm	
St Mary & St Kentigern		Sun 9.00am
St Robert Bellarmine		Sun 11.00am

During August we will have just two Masses during the week on Tuesday & Thursday at 10.15am. No weekday masses in St Robert's or St Elizabeth's. Normal Mass times will resume 16/17th September.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 22nd July	NO MASS
Sunday 23rd July <i>16th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Robyn Corness
Monday 24th July	10.00am Fr Mark Ordination Anniversary
Tuesday 25th July <i>St James Apostle</i>	10.00am Milly Perry
Wednesday 26th July	NO MASS
Thursday 27th July	10.00am Robin Bond
Friday 28th July	10.00am Tom Deegan
Saturday 29th July <i>Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus</i>	NO MASS
Sunday 30th July <i>17th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am James Connolly 11.45am Baptism - Oliver, Harry & Grace Stove

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

When Pope Francis instituted the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and called it to be celebrated on the Sunday closest to the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, he spoke of the value of the elderly. He said they were the link between the generations, passing on the wisdom of their own formative years to the generation being born now. He would know from experience. His own father's family fled the fascist regime of Benito Mussolini in 1929 to emigrate to Argentina. No doubt his father, who was twenty-one when the family fled Italy, taught his children about the dangers of fascism, which, like the weeds sown in the field of Jesus' parable, threatens the wheat that provides food and nutrition.

Especially back in Jesus' time, the bane of a wheat farmer's work was darnel, a toxic weed often called "false wheat," for darnel and wheat look very much alike until each blossoms. What farmers think is wheat may turn out to be darnel, but what they assume is darnel may turn out to be wheat. Hence the words of caution the parable's farmer expresses about pulling up the weeds prematurely. Those whom we now identify as evil may grow and transform and eventually blossom as righteous and good. Our neighbours — as well as ourselves — have an entire lifetime to change, to mature, to leaven, before the harvest comes.

Consequently, Jesus counsels patience for those who tend the wheat fields. Do not judge or condemn prematurely! As we heard in Wisdom, God judges with clemency, governs with leniency, applies justice with kindness, and permits repentance for sins. Paul points out the advantage we have in the Holy Spirit, who comes to our aid in our weaknesses. We are not perfect. We are not strong enough ourselves to always avoid sin, to always do the right thing. But the Holy Spirit is strong enough. If we heed the movement of the Spirit in our lives, we can blossom, nourishing others with the fruit we bear.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Anna & St Joachim



An ancient tradition, already known in the 2nd century, gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anna became popular in the 6th century in the East, and in the 10th century in the West, where she is the patron saint of Brittany; Joachim was added a long time later – too often the fate of fathers.

Although the information about Mary's parents is found in an early apocryphal writing that gives many miraculous and highly-coloured stories about the early life of the Virgin Mary, there is no reason to suppose that such a straightforward fact as her parents' names should be wrong, since there is nothing to be gained from falsifying it. It does not occur in the Gospels simply because the most reliable evangelists (the only ones whom we have allowed into the Bible) felt they had more important things to talk about.

But what, after all, could be more important than the parents who brought up the Virgin Mary to be the woman she was? At the moment of consenting to the Incarnation she took the most important decision ever taken by any human being, and the fact that she took it is, to a great extent, the work of her parents. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to take the decision; but her parents' training gave her the wisdom to choose.

Those of us who have children must seek to bring them up to the best of our ability, to meet challenges that, like Anna and Joachim, we have no way of even imagining.

VACANCIES AT THE ARCHDIOCESE

We are currently advertising a number of chaplaincy posts, a Maintenance Assistant, a Governance Professional and a Finance Business Partner. If you're interested in working for the Archdiocese, you can find an up-to-date list of vacancies available here: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers

Fr Mark's Theatre Group

Yes - the theatre group is back! We haven't had an outing for a while so please come and join us on 27th October to see Jesus Christ Superstar at the Liverpool Empire. It's a 'mesmerising new production' with



Julian Clary taking the role of Herod. Cost of ticket and transport is £64. Names in to the office if you are interested **before end of August**

WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS

Movement to Heal:

1.15pm - 2pm 25 July, 8th and 22nd August

Agape Mass: 7pm - 3rd August

Songs we remember:

2pm-4pm - 26 July

They also have two volunteers who are abseiling down Anglican Cathedral on 22 July. Can you sponsor them? Call Jenny on 949 1199

NUGENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL MUSEUMS LIVERPOOL

Nugent have partnered with NML for an exhibition of photos by local photographer Tom Wood. The exhibition can be seen at The Walker Art Gallery and runs until 7 January 2024. More info at www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker-art-gallery

HELP PLEASE?

We have a very small group of parishioners who help to keep our lovely church clean. They are **really** in need of some more helpers. Can you give up an hour or so every 2 weeks? They meet on a Thursday morning. Please let office know if you can help.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL

Faith Leaders in the UK are taking part in the 'No Child Left Behind' week of awareness and action running from 24-30 June and you are invited to be part of it.

There are 4 million children in the UK living in households going short on food. That one child should go hungry is heartbreaking. That millions of children should go short on food is a moral crisis. Life is getting harder for children and families.

With food costs soaring and bills skyrocketing, families are under immense pressure. A hot, healthy school dinner every day is the difference between a child going hungry and thriving in school. School meals have a long history in the UK. When compulsory education was introduced in the 1870s, thousands of poor children went to school hungry. The city of Manchester started giving some children meals in 1879, but it didn't take off UK wide until later.

All children do not get an equal chance to thrive under the current system. In England, for the first three years of school, every child gets a free hot dinner during their school day. But after Year 3, the Government stops Free School Meals for All and too many children go without or short of food during their school day. This is changing, but not in England. In 2020, Scotland pledged to extend Free School Meals to every child in primary school and this is now underway. In 2021, Wales promised families they'll do the same. The impacts are numerous. Improved concentration, energy levels and a chance to thrive for every school child. It lets children eat together, learn together and play together, without stigma or shame. That's the future we want for our children and our schools.

We are called to action to support the No Child Left Behind campaign, which is asking MPs to recognise that food is part and parcel of education, just like books and desks and everything else we expect children to have when they learn. We're calling on them to ensure every child has a hot, nutritious school dinner, every day. Urge the Government to extend Free School Meals to every child in primary school.

Add your voice to the campaign's open letter today: www.freeschoolmealsforall.org.uk Write to your MP and ask them to back Free School Meals for All for our children, families and schools:

Together, we're powerful. And together, we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.





SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



'Speedy recovery'

NUGENT CARE

Nugent is in urgent need of donations for both their food pantry and charity shop. They are running very low on stock and are asking for our help. Items needed:



Charity shop – Allerton Road: Food Pantry – St Anne's:

Clothing

Shoes

Accessories

Handbags

Books

Jigsaws

Bric-a-brac

Sweet Items: Biscuits, jam, marmalade, peanut butter, chocolate spread, tinned custard, rice pudding

Drinks: Coffee, hot chocolate, cans of coke/lemonade etc

Dried: Noodles, pot noodles, rice

Tinned Savoury: Carrots, potatoes, chickpeas, sweetcorn

Toiletries: Shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste

Cleaning Products: Washing powder

Nugent volunteers will collect from here if we have enough donations.

Priests Live in Concert

The Priests will be performing live in concert on Thursday 12 October at the Metropolitan Cathedral. The concert is part of the celebrations to mark the centenary year of the Liverpool to Lourdes pilgrimage, and also to support the work of the Cathedral Friends. Tickets are £25. For group bookings please ring 07860 129589 or email: thepriestsliverpool@hotmail.com



SJOG HOMES FOR UKRAINE

As Russia's war in Ukraine continues, the need for hosts and homes is as high as ever. Would you consider making a home from home for those in need?

SJOG (St John of God Hospitaller Services) in partnership with Caritas, the Catholic Social Action Network, are one of the Government's approved providers on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and offers a comprehensive matching and supporting programme.

If you are willing to share your home with those in need of a safe place, you can find out more information and register your interest through:

Website: www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine

Email: homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk



CAFOD Cafod is asking us to stand in solidarity with small-scale farmers. At the heart of the global food crisis is a struggle for control over the world's seeds. For generations, small-scale farmers have freely swapped and shared a wide variety of seeds. However, the freedom of farmers to choose what seeds they use is under threat as the World Bank supports new laws which push farmers towards using seeds sold by big agribusiness. This puts control of the world's seeds into the hands of a few giant corporations. If we want a sustainable food system, then we must stand with small farmers across the world as they fight for control over their seeds. To see what you can do visit CAFOD'S website www.cafod.org.uk

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.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY

For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. .

Lord in your mercy...



LOVING 4 LIFE – Ongoing Formation for Sacramental Marriage 2023

From Shrewsbury Diocese:

15th – 17th September 2023, this date can be residential or non-residential at Oblate Retreat Centre, Wistaston Hall (89 Broughton Lane, Crew, CW2 8JS)

Retreat includes presentations on both the relational and spiritual aspects of marriage to strengthen, heal and enrich your relationship. There is no group sharing. For more information go to www.loving4life.co.uk or email Jane Deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or call 07517 906 435

CATHEDRAL GUIDES WANTED!

Thursday Voluntary Guiding and Welcoming at the Cathedral. We are seeking three volunteers, one for mornings (10-1) and two for afternoons (1- 4) who would like to join our voluntary team to

work at the welcome desks or to conduct guides tours, or both! If you could give us a regular commitment to Thursdays we would love to hear from you. Deacon Paul Mannings:

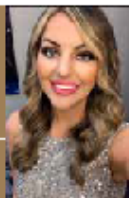


Are you a Catholic aged 20-45 (or know somebody who is)? Have a burning question about our faith, a desire to put your faith into action, or simply want to meet up and have meaningful discussions about religion, spirituality, and life with other Catholics your age? Let's explore our faith together in a welcoming environment – whether you go to church every week or haven't been for a while. Come along to St George's Catholic Church Social Club at 8pm on the last Tuesday of every month. All are welcome. Contact natasha-pritchard@hotmail.co.uk for further details.



CELEBRATING THE **CENTENARY YEAR OF THE LIVERPOOL LOURDES PILGRIMAGE** AND THE WORK OF **THE FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL**

WITH GUEST SOLOIST **DANIELLE THOMAS**
AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR **STEPHEN MANNINGS**



THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023 TICKETS £25

The Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TC

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

For queries email: thepriestsliverpool@hotmail.com

[ThePriestsLiverpool.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.thepriestsliverpool.eventbrite.co.uk) (Booking fees may apply)

Group bookings from Tel: **07860 129589** (Admin fee may apply)



Liverpool Archdiocesan
Lourdes Pilgrimage
Association

Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714