



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

17th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 30th 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

How can I help build a world worth treasuring? Who do I need to forgive or ask forgiveness of so that we can be reconciled, even if we both still disagree?

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 please.**

WEEKDAY MASS

Please note that from next week masses during the week will be on Tuesday and Thursday at 10.15am

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.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Oliver, Harry & Grace Stove
Baptised Sunday 30th July 2023



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.



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 Lydiat | | 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 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 |
| Monday 31st July <i>St Ignatius Loyola</i> | NO MASS |
| Tuesday 1st August <i>St Alphonsus Ligouri</i> | 10.15am John Mitchell |
| Wednesday 2nd August | NO MASS |
| Thursday 3rd August | 10.15am Donna Power |
| Friday 4th August <i>St John Vianney</i> | NO MASS |
| Saturday 5th August | NO MASS |
| Sunday 6th August <i>Transfiguration of The Lord</i> | 10.30am John Vondy |

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Imagine a world where everyone cared for even the least of their brothers and sisters, a world without want because everyone would be willing to provide for anyone in need, a world without hate because people would disagree without being disagreeable, a world of peace because no one would ever resort to violence, a world where everyone loves God and loves neighbour with all their heart. Wouldn't that be an incredible treasure? This is what Jesus is getting at in today's Gospel. This is the kingdom of God. It is like a buried treasure or a priceless pearl in that it is worth all that a person has. Given the choice between everything they own and this one object, each person in the Gospel chooses the treasure.

The joy that these people feel upon finding their treasure is akin to the joy one has when falling in love. When you fall in love with someone and you realise that they have fallen in love with you too, the sense of bliss is so overwhelming that nothing else in life matters. Every day, as soon as you wake up, you are counting the hours or minutes until you can be with them again. This is how we feel when we truly realise how much Jesus loves us, how much he wants to give us the kingdom of heaven, and how incredibly wonderful the kingdom is. For all this, we willingly and joyfully give everything—our entire lives—over to him.

In the second reading, Saint Paul writes that all of us who have received the gift of faith are called to be conformed to the image of Jesus. When we give our lives over to him, we are being like him, for we are doing as he has done. When we do so, we help to build the kingdom that he came to us to establish. When we love God and love our neighbour, we give ourselves over to his mission, helping to bring about the kingdom. Indeed, Paul promises that “all things work for good for those who love God”

FR JOHN HARRIS



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John Harris, who died on 19 July. He was 83 years of age and was in his 52nd year of the priesthood. He served as parish priest of Holy Spirit Ford for 31 years. His Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 1st August at 12noon at All Saints' Church, Anfield. Archbishop Malcolm will preside.

John Francis Prest Harris was born in Lincoln on 15th March 1940 to John and Yvonne Harris. He was educated at the Catholic College in Preston before transferring to Upholland College to begin his training for the priesthood. On completion of his seminary formation, he was ordained priest at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, on 27th May 1972.

Following ordination, he was appointed as assistant priest at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Liverpool. In June 1978, he was moved to St Andrew's, Hunts Cross, to become assistant and to be chaplain at St Andrew's High School, Halewood. In March 1983, he moved to All Saints, Anfield.

Father Harris received just one appointment as parish priest. In November 1990, he was asked by Archbishop Worlock to succeed Father Terry Dooley at Holy Spirit, Ford. He proved himself to be a kind, gentle and zealous pastor, serving his parishioners faithfully until his retirement to Formby in August 2021.

For many years, Father Harris was closely associated with the Guild of St Stephen, the organisation that exists to promote the highest standards of serving in the liturgy through the practical and spiritual formation of altar servers. He served as director of the guild from its inception in the archdiocese in August 1987 until his retirement in 2021.

May he rest in peace.

NEW LECTIONARY

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the new Lectionary. The Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will come into use in Catholic parishes in England and Wales from Advent 2024.

Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery, wrote to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, confirming the new translation of the Lectionary, which has been done in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. He said: *"The use of the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition, already in use in India, along with the Abbey Psalms and Canticles will help to ensure that the Word of the Lord reaches God's holy people without alloy. What has now been achieved ensures that a stable version of the Lectionary will endure in Great Britain for years to come. Both Conferences are to be commended for this cooperation."*

The Lectionary was revised after the Second Vatican Council. Paragraph 51 of Second Vatican Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* said: *"The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word."*

Archbishop Emeritus George Stack of Cardiff, Chair of the Department for Christian Life and Worship, welcomed this important announcement:

"As we mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council we can see that the Lectionary is one of the great fruits of the Council. It fulfils the mandate of the Council Fathers to open up the scriptures for the faithful so that Sunday by Sunday Christ himself speaks to us in the word. The new Lectionary gives us an opportunity to hear that word with fresh ears as we engage with a text which is intended for public proclamation and reflects up to date biblical scholarship."

The Lectionary will be in use in all parishes from Advent 2024.

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:

'Fr John Harris'



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.

WHAT'S ON AT IRENÆUS

Movement to Heal:

1.15pm - 2pm 8th and
22nd August

Agape Mass: 7pm -
3rd August

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)



Saint Alphonsus Liguori was born in Marianella near Naples on September 27, 1696.

He was the first born of a rather large family belonging to the Neapolitan nobility. He received a broad education in the humanities, classical and modern languages, painting and music. He composed a Duetto on the Passion, as well as the most popular Christmas carol in Italy, Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle, and numerous other hymns. He finished his university studies earning a Doctorate in both civil and canon law and began his practice in the legal profession.

In 1723, after a long process of discernment, he abandoned his legal career and, despite his father's strong opposition, began his seminary studies. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 1726, at the age of 30. He lived his first years as a priest with the homeless and marginalized young people of Naples. He founded the "Evening Chapels". Run by the young people themselves, these chapels were centres of prayer, community, the Word of God, social activities and education. At the time of his death, there were 72 of these chapels with over 10,000 active participants.

In 1729, Alphonsus left his family home and took up residence in the Chinese College in Naples. It was there that he began his missionary experience in the interior of the Kingdom of Naples where he found people who were much poorer and more abandoned than any of the street children in Naples.

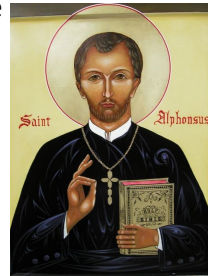
On November 9, 1732, Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, popularly known as the Redemptorists, in order to follow the example of Jesus Christ announcing the Good News to the poor and the most abandoned. From that time on, he gave himself entirely to this new mission.

Alphonsus was a lover of beauty: musician, painter, poet and author. He put all his artistic and literary creativity at the service of the mission and he asked the same of those who joined his Congregation. He wrote 111 works on spirituality and theology. The 21,500 editions and the translations into 72 languages that his works have undergone attest to the fact that he is one of the most widely read authors.

Among his best known works are: The Great Means of Prayer, The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ, The Glories of Mary and The Visits to the Most Holy Sacrament. Prayer, love, his relationship with Christ and his first-hand experience of the pastoral needs of the faithful have made Alphonsus one of the great masters of the interior life.

Alphonsus' greatest contribution to the Church was in the area of Moral Theological reflection with his Moral Theology. This work was born of Alphonsus' pastoral experience, his ability to respond to the practical questions posed by the faithful and from his contact with their everyday problems. He opposed the sterile legalism which was suffocating theology and he rejected the strict rigorism of the time... the product of the powerful elite. According to Alphonsus, those were paths that were closed to the Gospel because "such rigour has never been taught nor practised by the Church". He knew how to put theological reflection at the service of the greatness and dignity of the person, of a moral conscience, and of evangelical mercy.

Alphonsus was consecrated bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths in 1762. He was 66 years old. He tried to refuse the appointment because he felt too old and too sick to properly care for the diocese. In 1775, he was allowed to retire from his office and went to live in the Redemptorist community in Pagani where he died on August 1, 1787. He was canonized in 1839, proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1871 and Patron of Confessors and Moralists in 1950.



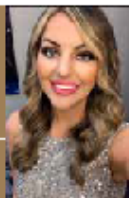
VACANCIES AT THE ARCHDIOCESE

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



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

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