



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Sunday 6th August 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 [englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk)

[www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What peak experience do you hold onto, or what experience holds onto you? How does it help you when it is time to bear your cross and share in Jesus' passion?

### 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.**

**PARISH OFFICE - Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 8th August to Monday 14th August. This newsletter covers the next two weeks**

### 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.

**HOLY DAY** - Tuesday 15th August is a holy day - the Solemnity of The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Please note that mass on that day will be at 12 noon

**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
<b>Saturday 5th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Sunday 6th August</b> <i>Transfiguration of The Lord</i>	10.30am John Vondy
<b>Monday 7th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday 8th August</b>	10.15am Gerry Kelly
<b>Wednesday 9th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 10th August</b> <i>St Lawrence Deacon &amp; Martyr</i>	10.15am Ann Fearon
<b>Friday 11th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Saturday 12th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Sunday 13th August</b> <i>19th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Michael McDermott

## Masses & Services for the week commencing 12th August

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 12th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Sunday 13th August</b> <i>19th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Michael McDermott
<b>Monday 14th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday 15th August</b> <i>Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	12.00pm Betty White
<b>Wednesday 16th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 17th August</b>	10.45am Funeral Mass - Maureen Jenkins
<b>Friday 18th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Saturday 19th August</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Sunday 20th August</b> <i>20th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Sheila Williams

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Today's reading takes us to the top of a mountain - a familiar place in the Old Testament for a meeting with God. But this is the New Testament and the visitors to this holy place are Jesus along with Peter, James and John. They were probably thinking this was another of those opportunities that Jesus often took to be alone - to think and pray, prayer being an important part of His life. But then they become witnesses to a remarkable insight to their friend and teacher - they see him transfigured - his face shone like the sun, his clothes become dazzling white. This must have reminded them of what they had heard about Moses receiving the law when on top of a mountain - Moses' face shone when he had been in the presence of God - they are privileged to see another side of Christ - his Godly nature. The link with the Old Testament is reinforced for there is Moses - the giver of the Old Testament law, and Elijah one of the most noteworthy prophets talking with Jesus.

Peter is so overcome by this amazing occurrence and frightened as to how to react that he resorts to his Jewish upbringing and suggests they build three tents - or tabernacles one for each of these three great teachers. But then the significance of what they were seeing was made known to them as they were covered in the shadow of a cloud and a voice came from it saying "This is my Son, the Beloved, Listen to Him". The building of Tents was not what was being called for - this transfiguration was showing them that Jesus is the Son of God - the one promised in the Old Testament's stories and prophecies - and the response required is to "Listen to Him" - Jesus, the Son of God, is now the lawgiver and prophet, God now speaks to us by way of his Son. - the one who is "the Way the Truth and the Life".

When the cloud rises - only Jesus is there and as they come down the mountain he warns them to tell no one what they have seen, until after "the Son of Man had risen from the dead". Even though they heeded the warning they discussed among themselves what "rising from the dead" could mean.

We now know that "the Son of Man has Risen from the dead" - so what should the transfiguration mean to us today?

We have to allow ourselves to be transfigured - to allow Christ within us to be seen by others with whom we come into contact in our daily lives.

We also have to recognise Christ in those we serve - we have to see them transfigured - see Christ in the poor, the broken, the wronged, the persecuted.

We don't have to climb a mountain to be with God - we can seek out our own private place, put ourselves in his presence, and pray that he will give us the courage, conviction and belief to be transfigured into Christ-like persons serving others in our daily lives.

## 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

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](http://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:

**‘Ruth Richardson’**



### 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.

### 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.

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

ST DOMINIC (August 8th)



Born about 1175 in Castile (Spain), Dominic hailed from the illustrious Guzman family. First he was a canon regular at Osma; then he founded the Dominican Order, which was approved in 1216. Alongside the Franciscans, it became the most powerful Order in medieval times, giving the Church illustrious preachers — St. Vincent Ferrer, and contemplatives, Sts. Thomas of Aquinas and Pius V — and contributing immeasurably to maintaining the purity of the faith. Through the example of apostolic poverty and the preaching of the word of God the Friar Preachers were to lead men to Christ. St. Dominic is attributed the origin and spread of the holy rosary.

He was notable for his learning and love of poverty. The Order of Friars Preachers, which he founded about the year 1215, was endowed by him with these two characteristics; instead of manual labour, as practiced by the Cistercian monks, he required his friars to work with their minds by preaching and teaching. He died at Bologna on August 6, 1221. His friend, Gregory IX, canonized him three years later.

## Cathedral Walking Group

After the last walk fell foul to the weather, the Cathedral Walking Group will get out for their latest walk on 19 August. They will meet at Refreshment Rooms, 2 Bedford Rd E, Birkenhead CH42 1LS and walk along the coast of the River Mersey. Bring a picnic lunch, and any drinks, although coffee can be bought at Port Sunlight. For any further information, please contact David Stevens on 07578831431



## SANCTUARY LAMP



The Sanctuary Lamp for the week commencing  
13 August is for:  
**‘Work (JB)’**



## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

### For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

*Lord in your mercy...*



## CATHOLIC PIC

August Catholic Pic is now available in the piety stall. Main article is ‘Celebrating 100 years of Liverpool to Lourdes’



## What’s on at Irenaeus



### The shaping of things

**to come: Reflecting on the life and ministries of our parishes. How can we move into the future?** A series of talks on 5,12,19 and 26 September 7pm-8.30pm.

**Come and celebrate BBQ and Mass:** A time to relax and share with family and friends and celebrate life. 9 September 12pm

For more information, please contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk), or phone 0151 949 1199

**Betty White RIP** - many will be aware that sadly Betty passed away recently. Bet’s funeral will take place at Our Lady Star of the Sea on 18th August at 10.45am. Rest in peace Bet.

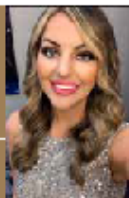
## VACANCIES AT THE ARCHDIOCESE

We are currently advertising a number of posts. 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](http://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](mailto: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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