



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 3rd September 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus bids me 'renounce myself' before taking up the cross and following him. What radical shift of values, reordering of priorities, refocusing of vision must take place in my heart as the first, non-negotiable step on the way of discipleship?

THANK YOU FR STEPHEN!

On Thursday we say 'Thank you' and goodbye (for now!) to Fr Stephen. We are incredibly lucky to have had him with us during the Summer enabling Fr Mark to have his well earned break.

Welcome back to the staff and children of both our schools. Hopefully, all are well rested and ready to face the new school year!



PLEASE NOTE - WEEKDAY MASSES NEXT WEEK REVERT BACK TO 10.00am BUT THERE IS NO MASS ON MONDAY

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.

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.

The weekend Summer Mass times in our Deanery are:

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

Our parish centres are opening their doors under a new scheme called 'Snack Away or Snack and Stay' to provide somewhere for children of any age to enjoy a free meal. This follows the recent 'warm and cosy' initiative.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

Each of the centres will be open on different days of the week for children to come in and enjoy a free snack of a sandwich, fruit, crisps, and a drink with their parents, who can enjoy free tea and coffee. Visitors can also have access to TV, wi-fi, and most important of all, some friendly company. Full details are at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

The days and times for our local parish centres are:

St Elizabeth - Pennington Road, Litherland, L21 8HZ - Monday 1pm - 3.30pm

St Monica - Stewart Avenue, Bootle, L20 9JD - Monday 1pm - 3.30pm

St Benet - Chapel Lane, Netherton, L30 7PD - Tuesday 1pm - 3.30pm

Our Lady of Walsingham - Stand Park Ave, Netherton, L30 3SA - Thursday 1pm - 3.30pm

St Robert Bellarmine - 52 Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 8DZ - Thursday 1pm - 3.30pm

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 2nd September	NO MASS
Sunday 3rd September <i>22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Debbie Rice
Monday 4th September	NO MASS
Tuesday 5th September	10.00am Paul Nickson
Wednesday 6th September	NO MASS
Thursday 7th September	10.00am John & Alice Power 65th Anniversary
Friday 8th September <i>Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.00am Simon O'Neill
Saturday 9th September	NO MASS
Sunday 10th September <i>23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am Lynn Tasker 11.45am Baptism - Daniel Tyrrell

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Lord in your mercy...



Newman Circle Talk on Lourdes

St Helen, Alexandra Rd , Crosby,
L23 7TG

September 7th 7:30PM

Mgr. John Butchard was the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Director for 25 years, and a most dedicated pilgrim since 1968. He will be presenting a talk on the Lourdes pilgrimage, outlining the evolution of facilities and support for pilgrims over the years.

The talk will begin at 7.30pm, it is free to attend, and free parking is also available, with tea and coffee served from 7pm. Please contact helen.flynn@googlemail.com for more details.



What's on at Irenaeus

Craft Workshop:

September 4th 10.00am. The Irenaeus Project will be putting on a Craft Workshop. You must book in order to secure your place.

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, or
phone 0151 949 1199



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Psalm 62, used in our liturgy today, is a prayer of a person who desperately longs to know God and to feel God's presence in their lives. In fact, without God they feel like dry, weary, waterless soil. And although they don't always feel God close to them they sit and gaze at the sanctuary to sense God's strength and glory.



We have so many distractions in our lives. Many of them are necessary: we have to work in order to be able to live; our lives with each other inevitably throw up problems and difficulties; and in all the process of getting and having we can end up missing the real point of why we're here on earth.

But it doesn't matter how much we are considered successful by others, in our heart of hearts we know that we will always feel empty if we have not found a place for God in our lives.

Jeremiah says as much in our first reading. God is so important to him that he experiences a fire in his belly that he must tell people about even though he suffers ridicule. And Jesus goes even further in the gospel today. What's the point of possessing the whole world, money, riches, status, power, if it means that you never enjoy the real purpose of life? He reminds us that the only way to enjoy life to the full is to renounce self, to put aside selfish interest, in order to follow him. In other words, if we let anything get between us and God then we become cut off from what can really satisfy our needs.

One of the lines of psalm 62 is quite extraordinary. It simply says, "Your love is better than life". Better than life? The psalmist is saying that if our life is not centred on what is really important then it's not worth having. If we have found God then we realise that our lives are very short indeed yet the only thing that ultimately matters is that we possess God for eternity.



The temptation is to live only half a life, to conform to what our world tells us living is really about. Yet with all its superficial glitter and gloss we know that this sort of shimmering existence can never meet our real needs and aspirations. And those who have found God's love have no need of this tinsel. For, as the psalmist says, "Your love is better than life." Makes you think, doesn't it?

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.

Novena Prayer for the Care of Creation

Caring for God's Creation



Following on from last week's details of the Pope's World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Our parish website this week has the next two Novena Prayers to St Francis of Assisi to celebrate the 'Care of Creation' Have a look and follow the Novena over the next few weeks

Lourdes Reunion Mass

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association will be holding their Lourdes reunion Mass in September. The Mass is open to everyone, but aimed at those who went to Lourdes this year. This is a chance for those who went to meet friends old and new from the pilgrimage. . It's on Sunday 10th September 2023 at 5pm at



St Mary's Church,
Lowe House,
St Helens
WA10 2BE



During the weekend of the 21st-22nd October 2023, Young Catholic Adults and

the Traditional English Association of Catholic History will be organising a pilgrimage to York and will visit the shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow, York Oratory, the Bar Convent and St. Mary's Abbey.

This event is aimed at Young Catholic Adults and Catholics interested in history.

For details of how to book onto this free weekend and for more info see: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-yorkpilgrimage2023>.

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.





SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



'Lyndsey & Stephen'

FEAST OF THE WEEK

BIRTHDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 8 September

The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church. These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary.

Joachim and Anne devoted themselves extensively and rigorously to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them. The "Protoevangelium of James says of Joachim "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac." As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah, as an angel revealed to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honour their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel." Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph

Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said.





EDUCATION SUNDAY - 10 September

Education Sunday has been embraced by our Church for 175 years, serving as a tribute to the significance of education in our faith journey. This year, on 10 September, as we come together in our parishes and schools, we are reminded of the words of Jesus: "Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."

The day commemorates the dedication of our forebears in the 19th century, who recognised the transformative power of education and the role it played in nurturing faith, morals, and culture. Today, we celebrate their legacy, as the Catholic Church has become the largest provider of secondary schools and the second-largest provider of primary schools in the country.

Joan McCarthy, Director of Education, commented: "as we gather for Mass, we recognise those who work tirelessly within our schools and colleges - teachers, staff, administrators, and volunteer helpers – as well as the children and young people themselves. Let us extend a blessing to them, acknowledging their dedication and contribution."

Let us remember the words of St. John Bosco: "Without confidence and love, there can be no true education." Our Catholic schools foster this confidence and love, empowering young minds to embark on journeys of discovery and growth.

There will be a retiring collection after Mass next Sunday.

There are also some prayer cards available at the back of Church - please take one.

HERITAGE DAYS AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER SFX will be celebrating its 175th anniversary by holding a number of heritage days between 8-17 September. For more information, call the Church office on 0151 298 1911, or email sfxchurch@rcaol.org.uk. Alternatively, you can book online at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-open-days-tickets

Loyola Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

Are you involved in ministry within your parish or community, seeking to enhance your skills and deepen your faith? The Archdiocese of Liverpool invites you to embark on a transformative journey through the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry, a bespoke online learning experience designed in collaboration with Loyola University Chicago to support individuals working in ministry in the UK parish and community context.



Enrolment will be open until mid-September. For more information and to register, visit www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/loyola-certificate or contact loyola@rcaol.org.uk. Embrace this unique opportunity to enhance your ministry and connect with a vibrant community of like-minded individuals on a shared journey of faith.

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

The Relics of the Scottish Saints to visit the Cathedral Monday 18 - Thursday 21 September



As part of their tour, the Relics of the Scottish Saints (St Andrew, St Margaret and St Columba) will be hosted at the Metropolitan Cathedral from **Monday 18 – Thursday 21 September**.

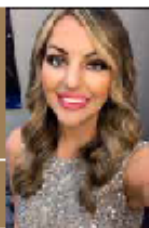
A welcome Mass will be held on **Monday at 5pm - 7pm**, and a closing Mass will be held on **Thursday at 12:15pm - 1pm**. During their time at the Cathedral, all are welcome to visit the Relics in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.



THE PRIESTS LIVE IN CONCERT

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 5TG

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

For queries email: thepriestsliverpool@hotmail.com

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