



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

33rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Sunday 19th November 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I share my gifts? What talent have I been told I have but am afraid to share out in the open?

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Advent begins sunset on Saturday 2 December.

Fr Mark will be celebrating a candlelit Evening

Prayer in church at 5pm during which our parish Advent Wreath will be blessed. Come and join him and start this very special season in the right way. It will last no more than 30 mins.



Archdiocesan Synodal Council

The first-ever Archdiocesan Synodal Council for the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be taking place on **Saturday 25 November** from 10.30am.

Anyone can watch the ASC online and can submit questions by clicking the link on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's homepage:

[https://
www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/](https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/)

We would like as many people as possible to be able to be part of this gathering. Please join us

HELP NEEDED

In order for parishes to function we need people who are willing to help and to ensure the smooth running of the church, the parish and the liturgy. We are desperately in need of people who are willing to help clean the church for 1 hour every couple of weeks. We also need a few more volunteers to help wash the church linen. Can you help? Please give your name to the Parish Office.

WE ARE HAVING A CHRISTMAS 'SPRING CLEAN' ON WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER. CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR OR SO TO HELP GET OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH READY FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS? JOIN US AT 9am IN CHURCH

We Need Your Help



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The woman in the first reading is called a worthy wife, and surely she is, as the author testifies that she brings her husband goodness her whole life. She also uses her talents and her skills to serve her family, as she procures material and works the loom and spindle to weave “with loving hands”. But that’s not all. She even uses her gifts to help those who are poor and needy. The writer then reveals that she fears the Lord. This is her secret. Her reverence for God has led her to serve her husband and her family, the needy and—we find out in the last sentence—the whole city. Indeed, her value is far beyond pearls, for through her generosity she has touched multitudes.

When we share our talents, whether we realise it or not we are revealing God’s presence and proclaiming God’s generosity as strongly as if we were shouting it from the rooftops. Perhaps this is what Jesus is driving at in his parable: not that God wants us to double our money by investing wisely, but that God wants us to share our gifts, to use our talents, to build up the kingdom of God, to spread the Good News to every nook and cranny of our world. Notice his final words to the two servants he found worthy: “Come and join in your master’s happiness”. Sharing our God-given talents leads to sharing in God’s joy.

“There are no small parts, only small actors,” Russian director Konstantin Stanislavski famously said, insisting that even actors with seemingly insignificant roles put everything they have into the part. Both the servant who was given only two talents and the one who got but one seemed to have only bit roles on the day that the master gave out talents. But one made the most of his, making the most of what he was given. Trusted with a small amount, he can look forward to being entrusted with more and greater things. Already he is invited to share his master’s joy. Though given not even half as much as the first servant, he has also been proven worthy as a good and faithful servant. So too do we strive to be proven good and faithful. No matter how little we have been given, we are called to use it in service of something or someone greater than us.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 18th November	12.00pm Mass for Knights and Dames of Holy Sepulchre
Sunday 19th November <i>33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Hazel Mia Donafee
Monday 20th November	10.00am Terry Ryan
Tuesday 21st November	10.00am John Ashcroft
Wednesday 22nd November	NO MASS
Thursday 23rd November	10.00am Margaret Cain 1.15pm Funeral service - Teresa Birmingham
Friday 24th November	10.00am Pious list
Saturday 25th November	NO MASS
Sunday 26th November <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy...



GAZA COLLECTION

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem will be launching an appeal for funds which will go directly to support the Catholics in Gaza. This will also help in the rebuilding of homes once the war ends. This collection will remain open for a couple of weeks if you wish to make a donation.

CONGRATULATIONS



A few days ago Archbishop Malcolm announced that he has appointed the Very Rev John Poland as an honorary Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Canon-elect John is a priest of the Archdiocese, ordained in 2014, and is currently the Archbishop's Private Secretary with responsibilities within the Metropolitan Tribunal Office. The Archbishop has named him a Canon in recognition of his recent appointment to the position as the first judicial vicar of the National Tribunal Service of England and Wales and for his significant contribution to the witness of the church in the area of safeguarding and canon law. He will be installed as a Canon on Wednesday at the capitular Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral at 12.15pm All are welcome.

Asylum Link Merseyside

invites you to our concert to be held at 7.00 pm on Friday, 1st December in St Anne's Church, Overbury Street, L7 3HJ.

Performers will include ALM Choir & Musicians, Mullarkey, Scottish and Irish Pipers, Liverpool Ukelele Club.

ADVENT SEQUENCE

Each Sunday throughout Advent, you can hear our Cathedral Choir sing a sublime selection of seasonal music designed to reflect the wonder and joy of Advent. Entrance is free and no tickets are required.

Sunday, 3 December, 5pm-6pm The Cathedral's Advent wreath will be blessed during this service and the choir will sing a selection of music for the season.

Sunday, 10 December, 3pm Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols. Benjamin Britten's famous carol sequence will be sung following a shorter Evening Prayer.

Sunday, 17 December, 5pm Festival Carol Service. A mix of seasonal music and readings as well as congregational carols.

PLAZA CINEMA WATERLOO Over 50s welcome for games, refreshments and watch a film! Doors open at 1pm, ends about 4pm, just £5. Check plazacinema.org.uk for details

YOUNG ADULTS

Every Friday at 6pm there is a "lectio" prayer group for young adults. There is a short time of sharing the Sunday readings followed by snacks and social time and ending with night prayer. It's a friendly group and sometimes they also organise trips and retreats. The group is held at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN. If you want more info please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or 07394 503 911.

THE PILGRIM WAY

Hearts in Search of God is a project to promote walking pilgrimage in England & Wales focused on developing Pilgrim Ways from every Catholic cathedral to one or more shrines in the same diocese. They have recently published a Pilgrim Way for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, a 30.1 mile long route from the Metropolitan Cathedral to the Shrines of Blessed Dominic Barberi in St Helens & St Edmund Arrowsmith in Ashton-in-Makerfield. All the details and some photos can be found here: www.pilgrimways.org.uk

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Catherine of Alexandria (d. 305)

Legends coming from a number of sources say that St Catherine was very outspoken at the time of the persecutions of Christians. She even protested openly to the emperor Maxentius who had her arrested, tortured on the wheel and decapitated in 305. St Catherine's courage is a great challenge to all African Christians in their struggle for justice and peace. The witness of her life and her readiness to die for the faith encourages us to be brave witnesses to the Lord and to speak out on behalf of all those who suffer. Her feast is celebrated on Saturday and we wish our deanery sister parish in Lydiate a happy feast day.



WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS

COME AND SEE DAY 2nd December '23

AGAPE MASS 7th December 2023 7pm

ADVENT SCRIPTURE EVENINGS A NEW BEGINNING

27 November, 4th, 11th and 18th December 23 7pm

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

3pm 10th December '23

CRAFT WORKSHOP 4th December (booking essential)

CHRISTMAS TEA WITH FRANK SINATRA 2pm 13th December '23



For more information on all the above contact Jenny on 0151 949 1199 or email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

QUIZ NIGHT Sefton Coach 7 are hosting their next Quiz Night on Friday 8th December from 7.30pm at St Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TF. Please join us as we raise funds for the youth pilgrimage to Lourdes next summer. There will be a raffle with some great prizes and other games on the night. £5 per adult (£3 per young per young person). Bring your own refreshments.

WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY



Hazel Mia Donafee

Baptised Sunday 19th November 2023



MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is traditionally the month when we remember our loved ones who have ‘gone before us with a sign of faith’ and ‘now rest in the sleep of peace’.



Envelopes are now available at the back of church for you to submit names for our Parish Book of Remembrance. Please print the names and hand it back with a donation for Masses. The Book of Remembrance will be on display and will remain in church for the month.



Fr Mark’s Theatre Group

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AT THE PHIL’



Still a few tickets available for the visit to the Philharmonic on Friday 22 December. Cost is £49. Names to office if you are interested

SPRING 2024 - WICKED the musical

We need to confirm numbers this week!!!. It is 27 June next year. Tickets for this one are more expensive so cost is £74. Again, names and deposit to office will secure your place. Can we please ask that if you pay your deposit then that confirms your attendance and the ticket is then non-refundable. Payment for all trips can be in instalments if needed once the deposit is paid. Most people are doing this





SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

'Kathleen Willis'



NSPCC CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Taking place at our Cathedral to celebrate the festive season on Tuesday, 5 December.

Performers include PopVox Choir, Cheshire Chord Company, Wirral Youth Brass and Whitefield Primary School Choir. Tickets are priced at £10 and children under 16 are free when accompanied by an adult. Check cathedral website.



CHRISTMAS BINGO AND GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas Bingo will be held on Wednesday 13 December in Parish Hall. 'Eyes down' at 7pm. Entrance £1

Bingo tickets and raffle tickets are on sale at back of Church from this weekend.



VATICAN II CONSTITUTIONS

The Vatican II Constitutions Lecture & Seminar Series preparing for the Year in Prayer are at Liverpool Hope University. The dates and speakers are as follows:

Wednesday 6 December: Paul McPartlan (Lumen Gentium)

Wednesday 17 January: Peter McGrail (Sacrosanctum Concilium)

Wednesday 28 February: Pat Jones (Gaudium et Spes)

The seminars will take place 3pm - 4:30pm, and after a break for refreshments, the lectures will be from 5:30 - 7pm. . If you would like to sign up, please register your interest with Elizabeth Parsons by emailing e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk

HELP PLEASE! We still need of donations for our Christmas Bingo and raffle. All donations will be gratefully accepted

COULD YOU BE A DEACON?

Archbishop Malcolm will be hosting an Information Evening for men who may feel called to the diaconate. The evening will begin at 7.30pm, with refreshments available from 7.00pm, and finish by 9.00pm. Wives and supporting deacons or priests will also be very welcome.

Thursday 23rd November 7.30-9.00pm in St Bede's Guild Hall, Appleton Village, Widnes, WA8 6EL.

If you are interested in the diaconate but unable to attend either of these evenings, please email Fr Chris Fallon, c.fallon@racol.org.uk, or Deacon Paul Rooney, p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk for more information.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" NOVEMBER DRAW

1st	£20	No. 84	J Wood
2nd	£15	No. 57	H Birrell
3rd	£10	No. 110	S Harper
4th	£10	No. 141	J Feegan



YOUTH SUNDAY

The role and presence of young people in the Catholic Church has always been of the utmost importance and the Catholic Church in England and Wales has a rich history of recognising this every year by celebrating National Youth Sunday. As John Paul II noted "All young people must feel that they are cared for by the Church. Therefore, may the entire Church on a worldwide level be more and more committed to young people."

Youth Sunday is a chance for the Church to reflect on how we engage with young people and celebrate what many young people bring to the Church, including: Lourdes, Ministers of Holy Communion, Faith in Action, Youth Alive, Confirmation and Retreats and Missions. In order for the diocese to continue with its work, please consider donating to the second collection of 26 November and if you can gift your donation, then please use the envelopes available at the back of church.

DEANERY NEWS

Families of Parishes.

Following the extensive consultation in each of the parishes across the deanery, the priests met last week to look at all the comments and suggestions offered by people and they can confirm that there was widespread agreement with the proposed families of parishes and an acknowledgement that that was the right way forward. The priests have now sent the formal proposal to the Archbishop who will ratify the decision. Our deanery will have two families:

Family 1: Our Lady & The English Martyrs, St Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Robert Bellarmine. St Benets & Our Lady of Walsingham.

Family 2: Holy Rosary, St George, St Mary & Kentigern, St Catherine of Alexandria.

We will continue to work as a deanery but the parishes in both families will work closer together and the priests, the Deanery Synodal Council and parishes will continue to look at the ways in which the families will operate.

Deanery Patron

During the consultation process for Families of Parishes we also invited people to propose a Patron for our Deanery.

Overwhelmingly the name that came up most consistently in the area was **St Teresa of Calcutta**. The priests have informed the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Organisation with this proposal and he has formally replied to accept it.

WEEKDAY MASS Fr Mark is back in London this week to attend meetings at the Bishops' Conference on the current situation in the Middle East and also to attend the Investiture of new Knights & Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. We welcome Fr Stephen back 'into the fold' for a few days.



God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen.

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development