



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King

Sunday 26th November 2023



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what way is Jesus king in my life? How do I live in this world while following God's law of love?

## 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.



## FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

Our next meeting is on Monday 4th December at 7pm, where we will be discussing Advent and the O Antiphons.

There is no preparation required before

the meeting, although there will be some group participation! All are welcome - come and join us.

Could people attending please come with some ideas for topics so we can discuss a plan for future meetings?



## 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

This feast day, we celebrate a king whose reign was not defined by earthly ambitions supported by powerful armies or the conquest of lands, acquisition of wealth or subjugation of peoples. We celebrate a king who taught us very different values. Who calls us to see his face in the cry of our sisters and brothers who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, lacking clothing, imprisoned; calling us to love them and to respond to their needs.

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the assassination of President JF Kennedy. Shortly before his death he told students in Washington: "let us direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which differences can be resolved. For in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

Christ came as king for everyone, his message was not for any particular nation or peoples. He calls on us to respond to the needs of all inhabiting our small planet earth. In a world which seems to be increasingly defined by division, differences, inequalities and injustice among peoples, let us never cease striving to bring about Christ's kingdom, for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone. So that in this life or the next, Christ will look to us and say, "you did not neglect the least of these sisters and brothers of mine. As you did this to one of them, you did it to me."

**Farewell to Matthew.** Today we end our Sunday-by-Sunday hearing of St. Matthew's Gospel. Matthew has kept our eyes on the Kingdom throughout the year, and our reading culminates in the overwhelming picture painted in today's passage, one of the greatest of the many parables of Jesus he records. Matthew has also given us one of the greatest guides to living, the Beatitudes, which tell us that the meek, the poor in spirit, the peacemakers, the mourners - all the unfortunate and all those who struggle for right - will inherit the kingdom.

*'Lord Jesus, King of justice and human dignity, you inspire us to hear the cry of our sisters and brothers. May we strive to work for the common good of all, so everyone may share in the gift of your creation, our planet earth. Amen'*

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Saturday 25th November</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Sunday 26th November</b> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 27th November</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Betty White
<b>Tuesday 28th November</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Alice Power
<b>Wednesday 29th November</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 30th November</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Canon Brendan Alger
<b>Friday 1st December</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Bernard Smart
<b>Saturday 2nd December</b>	<b>5.00pm</b> Advent evening prayer and blessing of Advent Wreath
<b>Sunday 3rd December</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish  11.45am Baptism Alyssa Eve and Lillie Rose Tait

## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

### For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation. .

*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.



Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool

### MIDNIGHT MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL - 11.30pm

We are delighted to announce that Midnight Mass, celebrated by Archbishop McMahon OP, will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 4 this year, from the Metropolitan Cathedral with the Cathedral Choir. The start time is 23.30 and the congregation are asked to be in their seats by 23.15. No tickets are required.

### LGBT+ Catholic Gatherings

Next LGBT+ Catholic gathering is on Sunday 10th December 2023. Mass at 2.00pm

Venue: All Saints Church, High Street, Golborne, WA3 3BG (**Please note this Mass is NOT in Anfield as normal, it is in Golborne just off the East Lancs Road.**)

### 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](http://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](mailto:djmoroney@cantab.net) or 07394 503 911.

## CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

This year why not send someone a CAFOD World Gift this Christmas? The Christmas catalogue is at the back of Church. Have a look at all the fantastic gifts that you can purchase that will help people in communities all around the world. People experiencing poverty and injustice will be helped with your donation. You will receive a beautiful illustrated card to send that explains the gift

**WORLD  
GIFTS**



From 22 November 2023 to 22 January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1 million. This means your kindness will go even further at this critical time. In a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, bringing new hope to desperately hungry children with our life-changing school meals has never been more important. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. And this winter, a donation of £19.15 will feed two children.

Thank you for helping us to reach more than 2.4 million children around the world with Mary's Meals every school day, so that they can achieve their ambitions and look towards a brighter future. Together, through Double The Love, we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals.  
To donate go to [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)

## 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](mailto: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.

## JOSPACE LIGHT UP A LIFE - 3rd December 4pm - 6pm

Light up a Life isn't just for families who have lost loved ones at the hospice but is for anyone who would like to remember the special people they have lost and to celebrate their lives, or to say thank you or mark a special occasion or birth. It is a very personal Christmas service, which takes place at dusk on the lawn in front of the hospice.

As always, our Light Up A Life Christmas tree will be decked with lights which we will switch on during the evening. Each light represents someone's friend or family member and you can dedicate your own light to a loved one too. During the evening, we will sing carols and there will be prayers and readings from local clergy and singing from a local choir. We will also serve mince pies and hot drinks.

By choosing to make a dedication to Light Up A Life, you are not only remembering your loved ones but helping support and fund all the good work the hospice does within the community. As part of your Light up a Life dedication, you will receive a card and a star to hang on our Light up a Life tree, or your own tree at home. An entry of your loved one's name and your message will also go into our Book of Remembrance, which is available to view at the hospice all year round. You can complete your dedication online at [www.stjhospice.orguk](http://www.stjhospice.orguk) or phone 0151 932 6044/6046



Light up a Life is an outdoor event so please dress appropriately for the weather conditions. is advised.



### ★ **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. Payment for all trips can be in  
★ instalments if needed once the deposit is paid.







### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:



### 'November Pious List'

## 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



## 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](mailto:e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk)

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

## 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 today and if you can gift your donation, then please use the envelopes available at the back of church.

## Clatterbridge Christmas Concert

**December 14th 7:30PM - 9:00PM**

All are welcome to attend the Clatterbridge Christmas Concert at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. Legendary entertainer Pete Price will host as the Wirral Orchestra and Choir take you on a sleigh ride of Christmas favourites. There will also be a chance to win a Christmas shop full of treats, courtesy of Tesco. Tickets from [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) are priced at £8/£12

### 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



See Myra Lovelady if you wish to join

## 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.

**CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run** is back on Wednesday 27 December 2023! Join hundreds of people around the country as you walk, run,

stroll or roll around this festive fun run with a difference. Run starts at 10.00am at Wavertree Sports Park, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE  
To register email: [events@cafod.org.uk](mailto:events@cafod.org.uk) or telephone 07779 804242



# Christmas at the Met




Principal services and concerts  
during Advent & Christmas

Sunday 3 December  
17.00 An Advent Sequence

Sunday 10 December  
15.00 A Ceremony of Carols - Britten

Saturday 16 December  
19.00 A Celebration of Christmas  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

Sunday 17 December  
17.00 Festival Carol Service

Sunday 24 December **Christmas Eve**  
15.00 First Vespers of Christmas  
18.00 Vigil Mass  
23.30 Midnight Mass  
*Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool*  
broadcast live on   

Monday 25 December **Christmas Day**  
Masses at 9.00, 10.00 & 11.00 (Solemn)

For a full list of Christmas events and services,  
please visit [www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk)



Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool

  @LpoolMetMusic

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