



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 14th January 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I discern the Lord's call among the many voices in my life? Is there an intermediary I can trust to recognise the Lord's voice?

WHEN YOU PRAY:

A Clear path to a deeper relationship with God.

You know that prayer is important but still find it challenging. Perhaps it's hard to find time, or you're unsure what to do when you pray. Or maybe you feel discouraged by your weaknesses and your inability to overcome them. If you have any of these feelings, you are not alone. Many of the saints struggled in prayer. They were like us. But each time they fell, they got up again and learned to rely more on God's grace. What God did in the lives of countless saints, he wants to do in the lives of ordinary people like us.

Starting on Monday 5 February, a 7 week course will begin in the parish hall on prayer and how to begin to pray better. This video presentation will help us on the journey of prayer God wants to take us on and it will lead us through the season of Lent.

To register, please give your name to the parish office.

FAMILIES OF PARISHES - THINK TANK

The next step on the road for the Families of Parishes are two Think Tank Events. The one nearest to Litherland will take place on 20 February at Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Altway, Aintree. Please email holyrosary@rcaol.org.uk to confirm your attendance.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

Our Christmas Crib will remain in church until Friday 2 February, the Feast of the Lord's Presentation in the Temple.



Please be generous with your crib offerings which will be sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for our Catholic brothers and sisters in the parish of Holy Family, Gaza.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Sometimes God's voice comes out of the clouds loud and clear, as when Jesus is baptised. But when God calls one of us, it is often soft and unclear, as it is in today's first reading. Only after twice mistaking God's voice for his guardian Eli's does Samuel respond to the Lord and only then because Eli realised what must be happening. Much later, Elijah has a similar experience when he hears God's voice in a tiny whispering sound. There was no fanfare when Jesus called for Andrew and his friend to come and follow. We should not wait till we are thrown to the ground like Paul or hear a thunderous voice from the clouds like Moses. God often calls in faint and subtle ways.

Andrew clearly was enthralled with the Lord, for he stayed all day with him and recognised him as the Messiah. He could have stayed the night and chosen not to share Jesus' attention with anyone else. But he didn't. Late that afternoon he sought out his brother, told him that they had found the Messiah and brought him to Jesus. The invitation we receive is meant to be shared.

Disagreements happen: differences of opinion or seemingly irreconcilable conflicts, and two people or two groups stop speaking to each other. Years go by and they end up forgetting how it came to this. Centuries go by and we wonder how we ever became separated. When Jesus called out, "Come and see", he did not lead his disciples to different places following different pathways. During this upcoming week of prayer for Christian unity, we would be wise to keep in mind that Jesus calls each of us to follow him and work to find a unified response to that call.

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass on Thursday will be celebrated at 12noon to allow Fr Mark to attend a meeting earlier that morning.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 13th January	NO MASS
Sunday 14th January <i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 15th January	10.00am Vera Duffy
Tuesday 16th January	10.00am Alice Power
Wednesday 17th January	NO MASS
Thursday 18th January	12.00pm Michael McDermott
Friday 19th January <i>St Wulstan</i>	10.00am Henry Simpson
Saturday 20th January	NO MASS
Sunday 21st January <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Amelia Hughes

IRENÆUS CENTRE



For 3 Tuesdays in January, Irenaeus are running a "School of Prayer" event. This exploration of prayer will reflect on different traditions of prayer and the history behind them. Each session will focus on a way of praying, and end with a chance to pray in that way. You will also be invited to use that form of prayer in your own personal prayer at home for that week. This is an ideal opportunity to deepen your prayer life and to share your experience with others.

The Irenaeus Centre will also be hosting an afternoon of reflection 'An insight into Trafficking' on Wednesday 7 February. This will begin with a light lunch, followed by a talk from Petra Smrckova of the Medaille Trust, where she will share her some of her experiences working with Trafficked people.

For more information, contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 949 1199

DR AUSTEN IVEREIGH

Author of the highly-acclaimed biography of Pope Francis, Dr Austen Ivereigh is a writer, journalist and commentator on religious and political affairs. He will share his insights and expertise with an audience at St Anne's Overbury Street on Sunday evening at 6.00pm on 28th January 2024. The event will be live-streamed and recorded. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Newman Association Talk

January 18th 7:15pm

"Newman and Manning: two very different Cardinals - the tragedy of two good men misunderstanding each other." Speaker: Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy CCSp. Join us at St. Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TQ. Tea and coffee will be available from 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. The event is free to attend and everyone is welcome.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Diocesan celebration for the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of prayer for the Sick

12 Noon, Saturday 10th February at Christ the King, Queens Drive. Bishop Tom Neylon is the Main Celebrant and all are welcome.

HELP NEEDED

A message from the Irenaeus Project in Waterloo:

“Help!!! Our food cupboard is bare! We have a huge demand because people are struggling so much at the moment and we can’t always keep up with the demand. We are looking for tinned goods, long life milk, tinned potatoes, custard, rice pudding, tinned meat, tinned fish and anything else you can help with. Drop any donations off at the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool. Thank you”.

MOBILE PHONES

Following discussion at the Bishops’ Conference, we have been advised that, due to the sacred nature of the confessional, mobile phones must not be brought into the confessional or they should be switched off before entering. They should not just be put to silent mode. This is because, even if in silent mode, phones can still listen -in to conversations and artificial intelligence algorithms identify items of interest to potential advertisers. This technology does not affect every network but must be presumed to be operative because it cannot be proven otherwise.

This is a good reminder that mobile phones must not be used in church and should be switched to silent mode or switched off completely.

2024 CALENDERS - a few people have asked for calendars. There are some missio calendars available in the piety stall free of charge

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

Andrew Jackson CEO of Pax Christi England and Wales will speak at the Archdiocesan J&P’s Annual Memorial Lecture on ‘The challenges of non-violence in 2024: being non-violent in a violent world.’ Sunday 14 January, 1.30pm, Gibberd room at the Metropolitan Cathedral. For more details contact p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk



Mary's Meals – **Double the Love**

From 22 November 2023 to 31 January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1million.

Today, we face some of our greatest challenges yet in a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, which we know is affecting people here in the UK as well as in the countries where we work, such as Syria, Haiti and South Sudan. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. There are many ways to get involved, find out more at www.marysmeals.org.uk

ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The 2024 Liverpool Archdiocesan Directory is now on sale in the Parish Shop at just £4. This excellent annual publication gives a wealth of information including times of Masses for each parish within the Archdiocese.



LENT ZOOM WEEKEND

The Augustinian Sisters at Burbank Hall in Cumbria have arranged a weekend Lenten zoom retreat. 8-10 March with evening sessions only. Theme: Fasting and Feasting. Time out for working Catholics. For more information please contact Sr. Margaret: margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

PLAZA CINEMA, WATERLOO

Thursday
Afternoon Club.
Over 50s welcome for games, refreshments and watch a film!
Doors open at 1pm, ends about 4pm, just £5.

SANCTUARY LAMP

We are running low on dedications for the Sanctuary Lamp. This is a lovely way to remember loved ones or to ask for any special intention. Just write dedication and place in envelope with £5 donation and pass to Parish Office. Dedications are allocated for a full week



UNWANTED GIFTS?

We are always grateful for any items to help with our fundraising efforts through the year. If you have any unwanted gifts that may help with raffles etc please pass in to the Parish Office

CATHOLIC PIC

January's edition is now available in the church shop with the main feature being a report on the recent ordination of our newest priest for the Archdiocese.



The Catholic Pic is an important resource and it's vital that parishioners take a copy of this free magazine to see what's happening across the Archdiocese. The future of the magazine is in doubt and it needs our support otherwise we will lose it.

CONFIRMATION 2024

Registration for those in Yr8 of High School and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year will open on Monday 15 January and will close Friday 15 March. Any young person in Yr8 can register for Confirmation preparation at www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk While the registration period is open Animate will visit schools in the diocese to promote the Sacrament. At the same time schools will teach about the Sacrament in their RE classes. Further preparation is then carried out in the parishes and the Sacrament will be celebrated in our deanery later this year. After 15 March no more applications can be considered so please pass this message on to anyone interested and tell them to sign up as soon as possible

PEACE SUNDAY 2024

Every year on the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Pax Christi promotes Peace Sunday with the support of the International Affairs Department of the Bishops' Conference, England and Wales. This year, Peace Sunday will be on the 14 January and the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace is: 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Archbishop Malcolm is the National President of Pax Christi and he encourages us all to take a look at their website for more details: www.paxchristi.org.uk

SANCTUARY LAMP



The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

‘Elizabeth & Frank Morgan’



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 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

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Usually celebrated from 4.00pm - 4.30pm on Saturday.
Fr Mark is often available in the 20 minutes before each Mass.
Please pop into the sacristy to ask.

THANK YOU

Archbishop Malcolm has received a thank you letter from Fr Hugh Keenan, Superior of the Missionaries of Africa, who carried out the 2023 Mission Appeal across the Archdiocese:

*“I write firstly to thank you, and all your priests for the wonderful welcome given to me and our team as we travelled through the Archdiocese. Your priests and deacons are quite extraordinary in their work and kind and generous in their welcome. 61 parish priests responded positively to our request for an appeal date. The appeals covered 103 parishes. £37,009.70 was raised through the collections. To your people in all pastoral areas, thanks simply is not adequate. The scale of generosity in this difficult time is quite humbling. We are all working for the Mission of the Gospel. To be welcomed and treated in such a way as your parish communities did makes our mission that much easier.
Yours faithfully,
Fr Hugh Seenan MAfr”*

ANOTHER 50 CATHOLIC CHURCHES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

On Saturday 24 February, 11am in the Metropolitan Cathedral, The Cathedral Friends will be hosting a talk by Elena Curti. In this talk, Elena Curti will take you on a journey of discovery exploring churches featured in her new book, 'Another Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die'. Elena shares stories of the architects, benefactors, priests and poor Catholics who raised these extraordinary places of worship and she looks at hopes and challenges for their future conservation.

Elena's books are part of her mission to make Catholic churches better known and appreciated.

Tickets, which are limited, are £12 to include refreshments and a chance to meet the author and to purchase her book at a reduced rate. All enquiries to Claire Hanlon: c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

FEAST OF THE WEEK

ST WULSTAN (1008-1095)

St Wulstan became a Benedictine monk at Worcester Cathedral priory, and later was made prior. He reformed the monastic observance, and became known as a preacher and counsellor.



In 1062 he became Bishop of Worcester and combined effectively the tasks of monastic superior and diocesan bishop. He is the first English bishop known to have made a systematic visitation of his diocese. Together with Lanfranc he was instrumental in abolishing the slave trade from Bristol to Ireland. He built parish churches and re-founded the monastery at Westbury-on-Trym. He insisted on clerical celibacy, and under him Worcester became one of the most important centres of Old English literature and culture. He was known for his abstinence and generosity to the poor.

After the Norman Conquest he remained one of the few Englishmen to retain office. In the Barons' Rising he was loyal to the Crown and defended the Castle of Worcester against the insurgents. He was buried in his Cathedral, and his cult began almost at once. He was canonised in 1203 and his feast was widely kept in monastic and diocesan calendars. His feast day is celebrated on Friday.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Lord in your mercy...



TIME OUT TUESDAYS

Wanting time for yourself? Time to stop and reflect? Time to step aside for a while from the daily round of life? Then why not join The Sisters of Our Lady and the Cenacle on a Tuesday (10.30am-4pm) to get away for a few hours to stop and ponder the important things of life? No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. Suggested offering for the day is £10, bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided. For further information contact Sr Winnie 722 2271. Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, L15



We're excited to invite you to take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, our challenge to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty.

That's right – that's 5km a day, and you're in good time to get in plenty of training. You can walk, run, skip, or stroll your 200km, when and where you choose, alone or with friends. You'll be among thousands of people up and down Great Britain conquering your 200km targets in time for Easter.

This Lent CAFOD is linking up with SCIAF to bring the Big Lent Walk to the whole of Great Britain. From John O'Groats to Land's End, Cardiff to Coventry, people will be tying up their purple laces to give poverty it's marching orders.

The money you raise will help people as they overcome poverty. Remember: every step you take is a step closer to a fairer world. Let's tell poverty to jog on! Sign up at cafod.org.uk



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