



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 21st January 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I go about inviting others to come and meet the Lord?

WHEN YOU PRAY: A Clear path to a deeper relationship with God.

Apologies but this year's Lenten course on prayer will be slightly delayed with a possible start date at the end of February. Fr Mark will give further details as soon as he knows when the resources are expected to arrive.

A couple of places are still available so 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. Fr Mark was told during a meeting last Monday that all of the houses belonging to the Christians in Gaza have been destroyed. Our donations will help them recover from this terrible situation.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

You are welcome to join Bishop Tom Neylon for the annual Diocesan celebration for the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick will take place on Saturday 10th February, 12pm at Christ the King, Queens Drive, Childwall.



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.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The entire book of Jonah consists of only four chapters, and the chapter we hear today must be the only one Jonah would be proud of. You see, this is the second time the Lord called Jonah on this mission. In the first chapter, Jonah responds immediately to God's call . . . by jumping on the first ship sailing in the opposite direction! During a brutal storm, the sailors throw him overboard, fearing that he brought on God's wrath. In chapter two, Jonah is swallowed by a great fish, leading him to pray in desperation. Given a second chance in the passage we hear, he obeys at once. But in the final chapter Jonah is miffed. Nineveh was the enemy! Jonah hoped that he might see at least some of God's promised wrath. But God teaches him that repentance, not punishment, was always the goal, for God's mercy trumps God's anger. Jonah may have failed to do right at first, and his heart was still divided when he did right, but he saved thousands of people from destruction because in the end he followed God's call.



God promises us new life after repentance and conversion. Jonah found it after three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish. The people of Nineveh found it after they turned to fasting and sackcloth. Simon, Andrew, James, and John found it after dropping their nets and following Jesus. Now it is our turn to trust that repenting and following the Lord will be rewarded.

Note that Jesus did not tell the pairs of brothers that they had to study him for a good long time and pass a test before they could go out and fish for more disciples. No, he told them straightaway that all they had to do was follow and he would make them fishers of others. We need not be nervous about first becoming qualified enough to reach out to others. As long as we sincerely follow him, we can invite others to follow as well. The kingdom of God is at hand, within our reach.

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.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 20th January	NO MASS
Sunday 21st January <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Amelia Hughes
Monday 22nd January	10.00am James Brown 1.00pm Funeral Mass - Jean Roach
Tuesday 23rd January	10.00am John McCoy
Wednesday 24th January St Francis de Sales	NO MASS
Thursday 25th January <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>	10.00am James Corcoran
Friday 26th January <i>SS Timothy & Titus</i>	10.00am Linda Bracken
Saturday 27th January	NO MASS
Sunday 28th January <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Jack Monaghan

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

'Patrick Leggett'



IRENAEUS 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



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

This special day, celebrated this weekend, was instituted by Pope Francis in 2019 and it is devoted to the celebration and study of Sacred Scripture. Pope Francis, has written a letter urging us to read and reflect on the bible. He explains that though It is now common for the Christian community to set aside moments to reflect on the great importance of the word of God for everyday living Catholics are still sadly deficient in familiarity with Scripture.

Do you have a bible at home? Do you read the Bible and reflect on its importance? Our Sunday Gospels this year will be taken from St. Mark's Gospel. Why not spend the year reading his account of the life and ministry of Jesus? New Parish Readers are always welcome.



St Teresa of Calcutta Deanery.

In establishing our two Families of Parishes we are proposing to set up a Caritas Group. (Caritas is the internationally used name for the churches charitable outreach).

To explore how we do this a meeting (for an hour) has been arranged for Thursday 22nd Feb at Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

So, if you have a passion for social justice, for local issues, for food banks, for cost of living issues, for SVP, CAFOD, environmental issues, justice and peace, live simply, social outreach, then come along and help to shape what we could do in our Deanery and in our Families of Parishes.



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

Missio calendars available in the piety stall free of charge and you are welcome to take them.

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 Boarbank 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



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. Write the dedication on a piece of paper and place in an envelope with your £5 donation and pass to Parish Office. Dedications are allocated for a full week.





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

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.

CONFIRMATION 2024

Registration is now open for those in Yr8 of High School and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year 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 RE classes. Further preparation is then carried out locally and the Sacrament will be celebrated in our deanery later this year. After 15 March no more applications can be considered. See the back of the Newsletter for further details.



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



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Jean Roach

Funeral Mass - Monday 22nd January 2024 1pm



VATICAN II CONSTITUTIONS

The Vatican II Constitutions Lecture & Seminar Series preparing for the Year in Prayer are at Liverpool Hope University. The final date is : 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

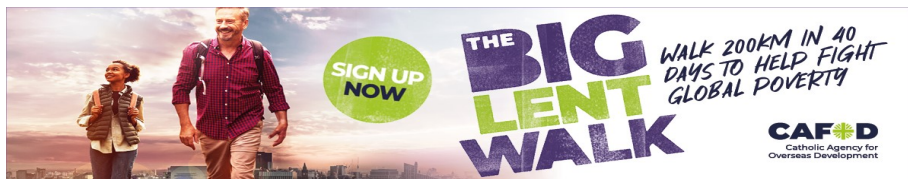
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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.



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,



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

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



LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024

Led by Archbishop
Malcolm. 19th —

26th July. 7 nights. Direct return flights from Liverpool to Lourdes. Full board and a full religious programme. Price is between £750—£999 depending on your chosen hotel. To book please contact Joe Walsh Tours 0808 1890 468 or email: info@joewalshstours.co.uk.

If you would like to go as a sick or assisted pilgrim please email the Pilgrimage Office:

Liverpool-Lourdes.co.uk

The pilgrimage urgently needs: doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, adult helpers (over 18), musicians and singers. For more information: lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk

JOSPICE 220 CLUB

Congratulations to the January draw winners:

1st Prize	£20	No22	C. Smartt
2nd Prize	£15	No211	S Heaton
3rd Prize	£10	No184	B Morrin
4th Prize	£10	No26	C Hunt

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

The Commission exists to stimulate awareness of the need for justice and peace; understand these needs in the light of the Gospel and the Church's social teaching and encourage action. It meets 6 times a year and contributes towards the social action of the Archdiocese through conferences and events. The Commission is looking to recruit new members and to find out more please contact Pablo: p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk



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...



JUBILEE 2025

2025 is a very special year for the Catholic Church as it will be a Jubilee Year and Pope Francis has called upon all Catholics to prepare for this important occasion with a Year of Prayer in 2024. What is a Jubilee?

In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation. The first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VIII on 22nd February 1300 to mark the beginning of that century. He later recommended it occurring every 100 years. Various other Popes changed the length of the interval between the observances. But Pope Saint Paul II set the present 25-year interval in the 1500s. So Holy Years are "ordinary" when they occur at regular intervals (25 years in these modern times) and "extraordinary" when they are proclaimed for a very special reason.

More recently a Great Jubilee was declared in 2000 by Pope Saint John Paul II to celebrate the new millennium. That Jubilee year brought the total number of universal Jubilee years to 28 that so far had been celebrated by the Church.

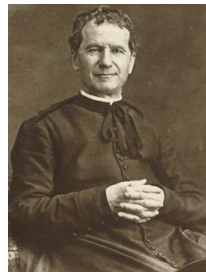
The 2025 Jubilee, which has the theme of "**Pilgrims of Hope**" will be a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate.

Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces.

Jubilee 2025 will be a very special year which will begin on Christmas Eve 2024 and will end when Pope Francis closes the Holy Door on Epiphany 2025. Fr Mark is planning a pilgrimage to Rome for us to walk through the Holy Door in St Peter's and in the other Major Basilicas in Rome. More Jubilee 2025 news over the coming weeks.

FEAST OF THE WEEK— St John Bosco (1815 - 1888)

Born in Piedmont of a peasant family, and he was brought up by his widowed mother. He became a priest, and his particular concern was for the young. He settled in Turin, where, as in so many cities in the 19th century, the industrial revolution was bringing enormous movements of population and consequent social problems, especially for the young men who came there to work. John Bosco devoted himself to the care of the young, first of all by means of evening classes, to which hundreds came, and then by setting up a boarding-house for apprentices, and then workshops for their training and education. Despite many difficulties, caused both by the anti-clerical civil authorities and by the opposition of some senior people within the Church, his enterprise grew, and by 1868 over 800 boys and young men were under his care.



To ensure the continuation of his work, he founded a congregation, which he named after St Francis de Sales (a saint for whom he had great admiration), and today the Salesians continue his work all over the world including in the Bootle parish of St James and Savio High School. His feast day is next Sunday.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Amelia Hughes

Baptised Sunday 721st January 2024



PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This important week of prayer will conclude next Thursday. The chosen theme for this year is *'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself'* (Lk 10:27).

A Service with the Merseyside Church Leaders to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in the Metropolitan Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday January 28. All are welcome.

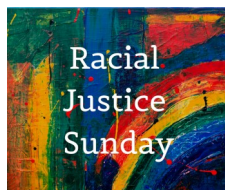


RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2024

This Day of Prayer is celebrated next Sunday. The theme for this year is: *"Seeing one another in the life of the Church"*.

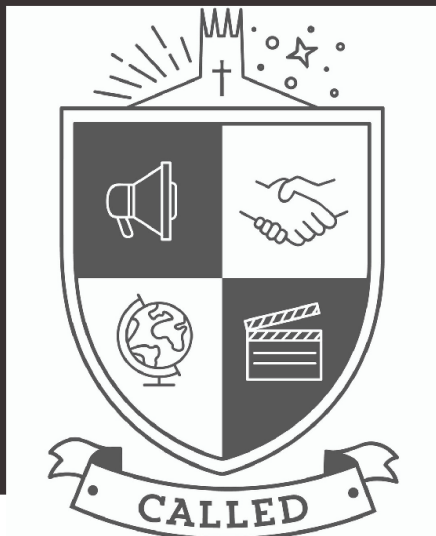
It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. This year's theme seeks to promote reflection, discussion and action on our theme and to encourage us to carry this through in the weeks and months after Racial Justice Sunday.

More details next week.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN YEAR 8



REGISTER AT
WWW.LIVERPOOLCALLED.CO.UK

Registration Open:

15 Jan to 15 March

SCAN HERE



Archdiocese of
Liverpool



Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714