



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 28th January 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 [englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk)

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

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I identify an unclean spirit in me that seeks to destroy me?  
Can I find the courage to ask God to free me from this demon?

### 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](mailto:holyrosary@rcaol.org.uk) to confirm your attendance.

### THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

This is your last chance to visit the Christmas Crib as it will be removed after Mass on Friday. It is also the last opportunity to be generous in your donations for the Catholic parish in Gaza as Fr Mark will send our donations to the Latin Patriarchate this week.

Thank you for your generosity and love towards our Catholic brothers and sisters who are suffering in Gaza as we continue to pray for an end to the war .



### 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.



### FAREWELL

This week our brothers and sisters of the Syro Malabar community of Our Lady Queen of Peace will say goodbye to their Parish Priest Fr Andrews Chetalan as he moves to a new appointment in Middlesborough. May the Lord continue to bless him.

Welcome to Fr Jobin Perumpalathussery who will succeed Fr Andrews as Parish Priest and we offer him a warm welcome to Litherland as he begins his new appointment.

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS



It is interesting that Mark chooses not to write anything about what Jesus taught in the synagogue, but only about how he taught. Twice he says that Jesus taught with authority. Teaching with authority can mean two different things. The obvious meaning is reflected in the way Jesus confronts the unclean spirit: he orders it to come out of the man and the unclean spirit obeys. But teachers also speak with authority when they know the subject inside and out. Clearly, no one knows the subject of God or faith better than Jesus. This is the authority the unclean

spirit recognises. Jesus is able to interpret the law beyond measure because he himself has come to fulfill it.

Mark also contrasts Jesus' teaching with the scribes, much maligned in the Gospels. It is not their fault; no matter how much the scribes studied the law, they could not truly understand it as Jesus could. Therefore, when we attempt to discern what Jesus would teach us today about our current issues and problems, we look to his authority in both senses: inspiring obedience and knowing God's will.

"Have you come to destroy us?" asks the unclean spirit in the Gospel, knowing that without a person to reside in, it was doomed. Indeed, Jesus only expels the unclean spirit from the poor man; he does not kill it. In a way it is destroyed, however, because it no longer has a person to possess. The unclean spirit is made powerless and the man is freed of his torment. But the man would be wise to avoid the vulnerability that could lead to this demon returning to him, for it is only defeated for now, not destroyed forever.

**NUGENT CARE DONATIONS** Our Charity Shop on Allerton Road in Liverpool is currently very low on stock and we are in urgent need of donations. If anyone at your Church may be able to support by donating items, we would be extremely grateful! We gratefully welcome the following items: clothing, shoes, accessories, handbags, books, jigsaws, Bric-a-brac. Unfortunately we are unable to accept toys, soft toys, furniture or electrical items. Donations can be dropped off at: Our charity shop, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-5pm, 73 Allerton Road, L17. Our head office, open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, 99 Edge Lane, L7. We may be able to collect your items - please call the shop to discuss on 737 2951 (the shop is only open on Wednesdays and Saturdays)



## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 28th January</b>  <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>  <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.30am</b>                      People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Jack Monaghan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday 29th January</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.00am</b>                      Alec Barr</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 30th January</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.00am</b>                      Special Intention (CS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12.30pm</b>                      Funeral Service—Gemma Ash</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday 31st January</b>                      St John Bosco</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday 1st February</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.00am</b>                      Joan Johnson</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday 2nd February</b>  <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.00am</b>                      Perpetual Mass Book</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.45am</b>                      Funeral Service - Francis O'Brien</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday 3rd February</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 4th February</b>  <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.30am</b>                      People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11:45am</b> Baptism - Xavier Passey</p>



### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**Jenny Kershaw**



### 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.



### CONGRATULATIONS

Please remember in your prayers Br Pradeep Lakra who was ordained to the sacred priesthood at 2.30am (GMT) today in his home parish in north India. We've enjoyed Pradeep staying with us on many occasions and he will be grateful for our prayers and love as he dedicates his life to the Lord and in the service of the Church. He will return to his Oxford community in March and will visit us straight after Easter.



### IRENAEUS CENTRE

The Irenaeus Centre will 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](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 949 1199



### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



**Gemma Ash**

Funeral Service - Tuesday 30 January 12.30pm

**Francis O'Brien**

Funeral Service - Friday 2 February 11.45am



## 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.

## 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](mailto: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.





**CANDLEMAS DAY** The beautiful feast of the Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on Friday. This commemorates the 40th day after the birth of Jesus when Mary & Joseph, following the Jewish law, presented their firstborn son in the Temple. The old man Simeon announced him as the 'Light of the Nations' and because of this candles are traditionally blessed on this day - 'Candlemas Day'. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, it is one of the twelve Great Feasts.

Come to Mass on Friday and see Fr Mark bless the candles before we end Mass around the crib with the veneration of the Baby Jesus and maybe a Christmas carol!

### 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



### 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

Confirmation preparation at

[www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://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.



### WALK OF WITNESS

A Walk of Witness for Peace, Repentance and Reconciliation on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Assemble from 1.15pm on the steps of St Luke's 'bombed out church' at the top of Bold Street. The walk starts at 1.30pm with Stations of the Cross.

The event is organised by Merseyside Pax Christi and all are welcome.

**COME AND SEE** The Irenaeus Centre in Waterloo is hosting a Come and See Day on Saturday 3 February, 10am - 4pm with the theme 'The Power of Art' with keynote speaker, Christine Dodd. Packed lunches needed and all are welcome.

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

## 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,

## 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.



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](http://cafod.org.uk)



## FEAST OF THE WEEK — St Dunstan of Canterbury (-988)

His career began at Glastonbury, where he became abbot in 945. In 960 he became Archbishop of Canterbury, where he remained until his death on 19 May 988.

He worked hard for the spiritual and temporal well-being of his people, restoring churches, judging lawsuits, defending the weak and friendless, reforming institutions and even promoting the draining of parts of the Somerset Levels so that they could be used for agriculture.

In folklore he figures in many duels with the Devil, which he wins by ingenuity as much as by holiness. His feast day is celebrated next Saturday.



### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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	N026	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](mailto: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

Fr Mark continues the reflection which began last week on Jubilee 2025, beginning on Christmas Eve 2024 and which Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to prepare for it in 2024.

The Jubilee is first described in Leviticus 25. Every 7<sup>th</sup> year was a sabbath for the land when it was to lay fallow, and rest from agriculture. The 7<sup>th</sup> in a cycle of 7 sabbatical years was 49 years, and the year following was the 50<sup>th</sup> year. Land and property, which had been sold, was returned to its original owner or their descendants, debts were cancelled, and slaves and prisoners were freed. A ram's horn was blown on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) to announce the start of the year of the Jubilee. It was a year of restoration and freedom, and a year of celebration.

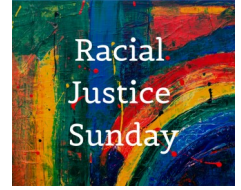
The Jubilee represents the most radical system of continuing social reform in the Old Testament because it blocked land and wealth from becoming the focus of a wealthy elite at the expense of the ordinary people.

### The word Jubilee

The Hebrew word for Jubilee is "yobel" which roughly means 'ram'. This is because a trumpet made from a ram's horn was used to announce the beginning of the Jubilee year in Joshua 6:1-14. The announcement of the Jubilee year with a trumpet blast became strongly connected with the eventual eschatological ushering in of the messianic era (see Isaiah 27:13 and Zechariah 9:9-17).

It is not originally connected to the Latin word for Jubilee (jubilare) meaning jubilation, but in the English language, the word Jubilee came to have the dual meaning of a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a special time of celebration. The history of the Jubilee in the Bible is also related to the idea of the Sabbath and the Sabbatical year.

## RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2024



Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year's theme 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. We are celebrate the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. Our Catholic saints walked in this world as we do and were men and women of heroic virtue that can intercede for us to bring our prayers to the Lord.

*God of light and truth, you call all men and women to live lives of holiness and justice. Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble and a care for our brothers and sisters; so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all. We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord. Amen*



## WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

**Jack Monaghan**

Baptised Sunday 28 January 2024



## THE LIVERPOOL PILGRIM WAY

Phil McCarthy, who designed the Liverpool Pilgrim Way, has updated this pilgrimage route to include Bishop Eton and the Catholic Church of the Holy Family in Cronton. Fr Mark walked this route a couple of weeks ago and thoroughly recommends it to anyone who enjoys walking.

For the updated route, as well as a few lovely photos taken en-route go to: [www.pilgrimways.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimways.org.uk) and search for 'Liverpool' in the alphabetic list. Many more walks can be found on the site.

## LOUDFENCE

The first annual Ecumenical LoudFENCE Event will be taking place in Liverpool on Saturday 9th March 2024. This will start with a Non-Denominational Blessing and Ribbon Tying Ceremony at the Anglican Cathedral, followed by a walk along Hope Street to the Metropolitan Cathedral where a Prayer Service and Ribbon Tying Ceremony will also be held. This event aims to give people who have suffered harm and pain from abuse a voice and an opportunity to express their pain in a positive environment where they will be believed and supported. This event is free and open to ALL who have suffered any type of harm or abuse for example Domestic, Faith Based, Sexual, Emotional, Financial, or Familial.



Archdiocese of  
**Liverpool**



Diocese of  
**Liverpool**

You are invited to the first annual Ecumenical LoudFENCE Event in  
Liverpool on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
starting with a  
**Ribbon Tying Ceremony at 12.30pm**  
and a  
**Non-Denominational Blessing at 1.30pm**  
at the  
**Anglican Cathedral then a walk along Hope Street to the  
Metropolitan Cathedral where a Prayer Service and Ribbon Tying Ceremony  
will also be held.**



This event is free and open to **ALL** who have suffered  
**ANY TYPE OF HARM OR ABUSE**  
for example  
**Domestic, Faith Based, Sexual, Emotional, Financial, Familial, if this is  
YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW**  
please come along and tie a ribbon to show support of all victims and  
survivors of abuse.  
This event aims to give people who have suffered harm and pain from  
abuse a voice and an opportunity to express their pain in a positive  
environment where they will be believed and supported.