



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 11th February 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

Who can I reach out to in order to help make my family/community/world whole? How can I go about doing so?

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.

DEANERY HOLY HOUR

During February and March our Deanery will receive an Episcopal Visitation when Bishop Tom Neylon will visit each parish and celebrate Sunday Mass. In preparation for this, the Deanery priests have arranged two Holy Hours to which you are encouraged to attend. The one for our family of parishes will take place on **Thursday 29 February, 7pm - 8pm at Our Lady of Walsingham.**

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: holrosary@rcaol.org.uk to confirm your attendance.

WEEKDAY MASS

Please note that there is NO Mass on Thursday.

DEANERY NEWSLETTER

Please take a copy of the new deanery newsletter which is available at the back of Church. It has details of Lenten services and activities for all Churches across the deanery.

The deanery newsletter is also available on the parish website.

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.

CATHOLIC PIC

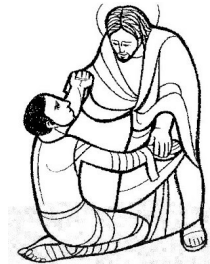
The February edition is now available in the church shop. The main feature this month is the launch of the Families of Parishes across the Archdiocese and much more.

Please take a copy, free of charge, and support this important Diocesan resource.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The strictures announced in the first reading were sensible for their time, for even then people realised that the skin disease they referred to as leprosy was quite contagious. If a person with symptoms ate, socialised, and lived with others, the whole community was at risk. Because the scabs and sores were both obvious and unsightly, people concluded that those with the disease were being punished by God. Therefore, they must be sinful and impure. Between contagion and impurity, they were best kept outside the community. Because they were being punished by God (or so they believed), only God could heal them.

This brings us to the leper in today's Gospel. The leper recognised Jesus for more than a healer, for a healer could only cure an illness. The leper, recall, specifically asked to be made clean. He wanted God's punishment to be removed. He wanted the barrier between him and the community to be removed. Jesus removed that barrier the moment he touched him, bridging the gap between community and outcast, even before healing him. In touching the man, Jesus would have been considered to have made himself impure. But far from making himself less than whole, he is making the community whole by restoring the leper to it.



Jesus challenges us to do the same, to break down the barriers that keep us apart, that keep some excluded from the community. He challenges us to be unafraid of reaching out to those whom we feel uncomfortable coming in contact with. Paul called upon the Corinthians to imitate him, as he imitates Christ. Though he was Jewish, Paul reached out to Gentiles from Jerusalem to the ends of the known world, bringing all of them into this new religion as full members. This is the inclusivity we are called to imitate in our families, our communities, our nation, and our world.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS: Irenaeus Centre, 5-26 March

7:00pm-8:30pm Lenten evenings hosted at the Irenaeus Centre:

Zoom links and further information available by emailing jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or calling 0151 949 1199.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Sunday 11th February <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i> <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11:45am Baptism - Thomas Long
Monday 12th February	10.00am John & Ann McCoy
Tuesday 13th February	10.00am Margaret Lyon
Wednesday 14th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12.00pm Perpetual Mass List
Thursday 15th February	NO MASS
Friday 16th February	10.00am John Fairclough
Saturday 17th February	
Sunday 18th February <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Clare Taylor



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.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

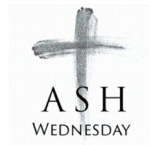
Caritas Social Action Network are working in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services to coordinate a Homes for Ukraine programme, which provides temporary housing and support for Ukrainian displaced individuals as they adjust to life in the UK. The organisation has successfully matched 132 Ukrainian guests with generous hosts across the country. Nearly two years since the war in Ukraine started, the number of those wishing to evacuate and find refuge in the UK remains high.

Prayers cards are available at the back of church for you to prayer for Ukraine. If you would like more information on the Homes for Ukraine programme please visit www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk

A LOOK AT MARK'S GOSPEL: Irenaeus Centre, Thursday 8 – 29 February 10:30am-12:00pm. Over several weeks in February the Irenaeus Centre will be taking a look at Mark's Gospel. Zoom links and further information available by emailing jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or calling 949 1199.

AH WEDNESDAY 2024

The start of Lent begins on Wednesday 14 February when ashes are distributed. Mass that day will be at 12noon. An evening Mass at 7pm will be celebrated at St Robert Bellarmine. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.



RIP Maureen Many will know Maureen Knight who for over 40 years ministered tirelessly in the Archdiocese in pastoral formation, the Irenaeus project and other faith initiatives . Sadly Maureen passed away this week. Her funeral will be at Our Lady Of Walsingham on Friday 23 February at 1.45pm. Please pray for her and all members of her family. May she rest in peace

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".*

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Claude La Colombiere (1641-1682)

Claude la Colombière (1641-1682) was born in France, joined the Society of Jesus in 1659, and was ordained a priest ten years later. In 1675, he was appointed superior of the Jesuit residence in Paray-le-Monial. There he also became the spiritual director of Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, who was missioned by Christ to promote devotion to his Sacred Heart, in collaboration with Colombière. On learning about this mission, Saint Claude, after prayerful discernment, authenticated the supernatural experiences of Margaret Mary, and became both her supporter and a zealous apostle of the devotion. His preaching and writing helped propagate widespread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1676 he was missioned to be the personal preacher of the Duchess of York. His zeal and the stresses of court intrigue harmed his health, and he began to develop illnesses of the throat and lungs. He was imprisoned as a result of false accusations and deported in 1679. He returned to Lyon, then to Paray-le-Monial, where he died in 1682.



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.



ARCHDIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (Hardybutts, Wigan, Lancashire, WN13RZ) will play host to the annual archdiocesan environment conference on Saturday 9 March 10.30-3.30. Speaking at the conference is Environment and Issues Lead for the Catholics Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and Salford Bishop, Bishop John Arnold; Sister Margaret Aitken, and John Paul Dequay. In groups, delegates will begin to think about what environment and sustainability plans and pledges they can make moving forward. The event will also be attended by Archbishop Malcolm and a cold buffet-style lunch will be provided.

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.

BOOK LAUNCH

Archbishop John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, will be coming to Liverpool to launch his new book *'Pondering and Praying Vatican II'* on Thursday 22 February, 2.30pm at Pauline Books & Media, 84 Church Street. All are welcome.



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.



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.



EPISCOPAL VISITATION

Every five years one of the Bishops makes an official visitation to all of the parishes across the Archdiocese. Even though we often see Archbishop Malcolm or one of his Auxiliaries, Bishop Tom Neylon will be making his first official visit to our parish on Sunday 10 March at 10.30am. He wants to meet as many people as possible after Mass in the parish hall. Please keep the date in your diaries and come along.



Medjugorje

Joe Walsh Tours is arranging a pilgrimage to the shrine of Medjugorje from 4 April, leaving from Manchester Airport. 7 nights, £799. For more info visit: info@joewalshstours.co.uk

Medjugorje is a place of peace and spiritual renewal in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is visited by thousands of pilgrims each year.

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

DAY OF PRAYER

Today we remember two special Days of Prayer:

Day for the Unemployed

The last Sunday before the start of Lent, is commonly reserved as a day of Prayer for the Unemployed, organised by Church Action on Poverty. They have recently renamed their day as Poverty Action Sunday. Caritas-Social Action is the agency in the Catholic Church which acts an umbrella for many diocesan and local organisations concerned with poverty and other social issues.

*O God, the source of human dignity, in your image every person is fashioned and by your Son all people are redeemed. Make us honour the work of your hands, that we may reverence you in those whom the world considers least and serve you in all whom society neglects.
Amen*

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of the day.

World Day of the Sick was first observed on February 11, 1993. February 11 is also the Catholic Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which a name is given to the Virgin Mary in honour of the apparitions that were said to have been seen in and around Lourdes, France, by a young girl called Bernadette Soubirous. The Church canonised Bernadette as a saint several years later.



*Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Thomas Anthony Long

Baptised Sunday 11 February 2024



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment. .

Lord in your mercy...



Have a look also at the Pope's video message for February on our website



JUBILEE 2025

Fr Mark continues the reflection which on Jubilee 2025, beginning on Christmas Eve 2024 and which Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to prepare for with a Year of Prayer and Reflection in 2024. Pope Francis has issued a letter to reflect on the Jubilee and we will reproduce it over the coming weeks:

To My Dear people

The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God's holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to these sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness.

To be continued.

MARRIAGE WEEK 2024

The annual week of prayer for those who are married takes place from 7-14 February. Marriage is God's gift to his people. It is an expression of the depth of human loving, of its enduring reality and of its likeness to the love of God.

A Christian marriage is rooted in faith. Firstly, that means faith in God, as the giver of life and the one who promises eternal life to those who believe in him. Faith also means God's faith in his sons and daughters. For married people, love of neighbour begins with love of each other and of all the children that may be granted to them as parents.

National Marriage Week is an opportunity to ponder on this display of God's love for the world he created. It is a chance for married couples to reflect, perhaps with their families, on how they might develop the good things that exist between and within them. It is a time to demonstrate the value of marriage, based on sincerely lived vows, to men and women and to society as a whole. This is a week of prayer for the whole Church, in gratitude to God who has given us life and taught us to love so that we can be as he made us - a visible icon of himself.

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.

THE BELLE VALE PASSION

Holy Saturday 12noon Belle Vale Shopping Centre (L25 2RF): What are you doing for Lent? This project promises to be a great way to prepare for Easter. It will offer the opportunity to nurture new friendships, contribute towards a community project, and above all, bring the Easter story to the local community.

There are many roles, tasks, and voluntary jobs. We would like to get 100 people signed up by Ash Wednesday (14th Feb) and there is a role for everyone. Every parishioner is invited to join this unique journey throughout Lent. Those who live some distance away may feel this is something they could commit to this year. Please visit the website www.bellevalpassion.co.uk to watch a short film and find out how you can get involved.

LGBT+ LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

The next Mass and gathering will be on Sunday 3 March. Mass at 2pm at All Saints in Anfield.



Archdiocese of
Liverpool



Diocese of
Liverpool

You are invited to the first annual Ecumenical LoudFENCE Event in
Liverpool on **Saturday 9th 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.