



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

1st Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 18th February 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will I minister to others during these forty days of Lent?  
Who is in need of my help?

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

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Celebrated today at 4pm. Come along for this traditional Lenten service of prayer. Many thanks to Gavin Williams for agreeing to lead.

### 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.

### WEEKDAY MASS

Next Thursday we welcome Yr 4 children from Our Lady Queen of Peace and English Martyrs who will join us for Mass. This will be the first of three Masses during Lent when children from both schools will be with us. Come and join us.

### PILGRIMS OF PRAYER BOOKLET

For this year of prayer we have some booklets available at the back of Church to help us 'develop our spiritual health'. Please take one home with you

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The author of Genesis does not use the word “rainbow” to describe the object God sets in the sky after the Great Flood. No, the word we see repeatedly is “bow,” as in “bow and arrow.” When God says, “I set my bow in the clouds,” what God is doing is unilaterally disarming. In effect God is saying, “You have just seen the power I have to destroy all life on earth, but now I am promising you that I will never do it again; in fact, I will transform this weapon of aggression into a thing of beauty.” When we commit to peaceful, nonviolent action, we make ourselves vulnerable, but this is exactly what God does in making this covenant. May we be as willing as God is to do so.

By the waters of the flood the world was transformed. By the waters of baptism we are transformed. God established a covenant with Noah, his descendants, and all living creatures, transforming humanity’s relationship with God. We enter into a covenant in baptism, transforming our relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we journey through these forty days, let us open ourselves to the transformative grace of God in our lives..

St. Mark tells us precious little about Jesus’ forty days in the desert: no details of Satan’s temptations, as we hear from Matthew and Luke. But he mentions that Jesus “was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him”. We too may find ourselves beset by “wild beasts” within and without as we try to resist temptations. Let us look to the angels in our lives who care for us, who offer their occasional assistance when we need it or their constant support throughout our trials. Better yet, make us angels who minister to others when they undergo difficulties or trauma and feel deserted and in need “This is the time of fulfilment.

## LENTEN ALMS

One of the 3 Lenten acts is almsgiving and it is traditional to make a financial donation throughout the next 6 weeks and you will find the Lenten Alms box near the Lady Chapel. Archbishop Malcolm has asked that all parishes raise money which will be sent specifically to help the children of Gaza and the Holy Land.



## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Sunday 18th February</b> <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 19th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Irene Dempster
<b>Tuesday 20th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Bridget McDermott
<b>Wednesday 21st February</b>	
<b>Thursday 22nd February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Alan Egerton
<b>Friday 23rd February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Betty White <b>11.30am</b> Funeral service - Colin Byrne
<b>Saturday 24th February</b>	
<b>Sunday 25th February</b> <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish  <b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Corey & Aaliyah Burgess



### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**Thomas Willis**



### 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.



### MAY HE REST IN PEACE

The Funeral Service for the late Colin Byrne will be celebrated at English Martyrs on Friday 11.30am  
Please remember him and his family at this sad time.  
May he rest in peace.



### 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](http://www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk)

### LENT TALK

Monday, 11 March from 7pm-8pm. St Anne's in Ormskirk are having a Lent Talk from theologian David McLoughlin from Birmingham entitled Jesus' Passion for the Kingdom of God. Walking with him to the Cross'. All welcome.

### ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" FEBRUARY DRAW

1st	£20	No. 75	C Smartt
2nd	£15	No. 68	I Roche
3rd	£10	No. 197	S Roche
4th	£10	No. 18	C Lewis

Numbers still available at £1 per month. See Myra Lovelady if you wish to join

## 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".*

## MAUREEN KNIGHT



We were sad to hear the death of Maureen Knight recently and her Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Walsingham next Friday. Maureen was a parishioner of English Martyrs for many years before moving to Maghull just over 10 years ago. For over 40 years she worked principally in the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pastoral Formation Department, first as its Secretary and then becoming one of the Department's senior advisors. Through her work both within the archdiocese and nationally she has inspired and encouraged 1000's of people in parishes to be 'Servants of the Kingdom' and to use their God-given talents for the sake of the community. One person she encouraged is Fr Mark and both were very close friends for over 35 years. They worked closely together on many projects and spent many years leading FLAME which took people with Special Educational Needs to Lourdes every year, many from Litherland. She read at Fr Mark's ordination and at other important moments of his priestly ministry. She will be greatly missed but we thank God for her ministry and love which will live on.

## 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)



## FIRST RECONCILIATION

The children preparing for their First Holy Communion will celebrate their First Reconciliation over the coming weeks starting this

Thursday.  
Please remember them in your prayers.



## 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.



## RightToLife

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard from the back of church today and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.



## 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](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.



## 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](mailto: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.



You still have time 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 Polycarp (-155)

He was a disciple of the Apostles, bishop of Smyrna, and a friend of St Ignatius of Antioch. He went to Rome to confer with Pope Anicetus about the celebration of Easter. He was martyred at Smyrna in about 155 by being burnt to death in the stadium. Polycarp is an important figure in the history of the Church because he is one of the earliest Christians whose writings still survive. He bears witness to the beliefs of the early Christians and the early stages of the development of doctrine. His feast day is commemorated on Friday.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE

The archdiocese is currently hiring for two key roles: Director of Pastoral Development and Parish and Deanery Development Adviser. The recruitment information and a description for each role are available at: [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers)



## IRENÆUS CENTRE COURSES

**A LOOK AT MARK'S GOSPEL:** 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.

**LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS:** 5-26 March 7:00pm-8:30pm  
Lenten evenings hosted at the Irenaeus Centre

### LENT AT THE IRENAEUS CENTRE

It's the beginning of Lent and we have set up prayer stations around our meeting room and oratory. Why not call in and spend 5 or 10 or 15 minutes at any point from Monday – Thursday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Simply sit, look and let God speak....so if you're passing, you'll all be very welcome!

Zoom links and further information for all activities available by emailing [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or calling 0151 949 1199.



## 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

We reproduce below the next excerpt from Pope Francis' letter reflecting on the Jubilee

'In the last two years, not a single country has been unaffected by the sudden outbreak of an epidemic that made us experience first-hand not only the tragedy of dying alone, but also the uncertainty and fleetingness of existence, and in doing so, has changed our very way of life. Together with all our brothers and sisters, we Christians endured those hardships and limitations. Our churches remained closed, as did our schools, factories, offices, shops, and venues for recreation. All of us saw certain freedoms curtailed, while the pandemic generated feelings not only of grief, but also, at times, of doubt, fear and disorientation. The scientific community quickly developed an initial remedy that is gradually permitting us to resume our daily lives. We are fully confident that the epidemic will be overcome and that the world will return to its usual pattern of personal relationships and social life. This will happen more readily to the extent that we can demonstrate effective solidarity, so that our neighbours most in need will not be neglected, and that everyone can have access to scientific breakthroughs and the necessary medicines.

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, "The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food" (*Lev 25:6-7*).'

*Final instalment of the letter will be in next week's newsletter*

## CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

This annual day takes place next Friday. You are encouraged to fast from 1 meal and the money saved is donated to CAFOD for their Lenten Appeal. There will not be a retiring collection next week but if you would like to make a donation to CAFOD please place it in an envelope and add it to the offertory bags next week or post it through the presbytery letterbox. There are CAFOD envelopes available at the back of Church. Have a look at the video on the Parish website showing how CAFOD's work has helped James the Fisherman



## 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 details contact Sr Winnie 722 2271. Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle.

## 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](http://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 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.