



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

2nd Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 25th February 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

How do I think God would want my life to be transfigured this Lent?

### 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.**

We can try and arrange some lifts if people want to attend

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EXPOSITION

Celebrated today at 4pm. Come along for this traditional Lenten service of prayer.

### 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.

### 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

### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Family Fast day was on Friday. CAFOD have received a promise from a generous donor who has offered to match online gifts, up to £40,000. Your support really can make a world of difference – and if you donate **this weekend**, it can have double the impact. that any donations made **online this weekend** will be doubled. If you haven't already donated maybe consider going online - [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)



## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Only Abraham's tremendous trust in God's plan made him willing to sacrifice his own son. It couldn't possibly have made sense. He must have asked himself how he could have descendants as numerous as the stars if his only son is dead. But he trusted in God and God transfigured an occasion of human sacrifice to one of animal sacrifice. Significantly, each time God calls Abraham in this passage, he answers at once, "Here I am!". This response in Hebrew is a single word: hineni. It is used again by Moses, by Samuel, and by Isaiah, when each of them is called by God, and is used even now in Jewish prayers. May we have such trust in God that we too respond, "hineni," when we hear God's voice, allowing our lives to be transfigured.

Whenever Jesus chooses a handful of disciples to accompany him at a particularly special time, he selects Peter, James, and John. Today he takes these three up a mountain to see him transfigured in glory and hear his Father's affirmation. Much later, after the Last Supper, he will take these three to the garden of Gethsemane with him. There he will be "transfigured" in agony as he pleads with his Father to spare him. On that occasion, his closest friends - the only ones to witness him in his glory - will fall asleep, causing them to miss Jesus' final hours before he is arrested. What they couldn't have known then but what we know now is that Jesus will give all the disciples, including these three, the opportunity to see him in his true glory, his risen glory, after his resurrection. This is how we all know his glory now.



*He was transfigured  
before their eyes*

Though we do not witness Christ's glory in as dramatic a way as Peter, James, and John do, we witness his risen glory in other ways, and most especially as we gather in this holy place. After all, Jesus told us that when two or more are gathered in his name, he is with them in their midst. May we exclaim as Peter does, "Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here!"

## 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 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
<b>Monday 26th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Maureen Atkinson
<b>Tuesday 27th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Teresa Birmingham
<b>Wednesday 28th February</b>	
<b>Thursday 29th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> George & Josie Moran
<b>Friday 1st March</b> <i>St David</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Michelle McMullen
<b>Saturday 2nd March</b>	
<b>Sunday 3rd March</b> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish  <b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Mason McPartland



### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**Michelle McMullen**



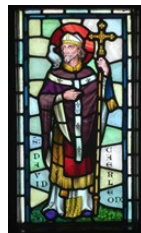
## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### St David (520-589)

The earliest life of St David dates from five centuries after his death, probably in 589. He became eminent as abbot and bishop at the site now known as St David's, but formerly Mynyw, from which the present diocese of Menevia is named.

He is credited with a monastic rule based on the example of the Eastern Fathers, and also with a Penitentiary. He was invited to preside at the synod of Llandewibrefi. Monks trained at his monastery evangelised South Wales and made foundations in Cornwall, Brittany and Ireland.

St David is said to have sent a Mass rite to Ireland. At his death his contemporary St Kentigern, founder of St Asaph's in North Wales, witnessed in vision his joyful entrance into the joy of his Lord. His holy relics have been found hidden in the fabric of St David's Cathedral, where they are carefully preserved. He was canonised by Pope Callistus II in 1123.



## 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".*

## Would You Like To Be Part Of The Belle Vale Passion Taking Place Over The Easter Weekend 2024?

This moving musical drama tells the story of the final stages of Jesus' life. The Belle Vale Passion will present the story of the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in a way you will have not seen before and promises to be an unmissable experience for Easter 2024. The team are looking for volunteers from the local community to take part in this exciting and unique event - young, old, male, female, there is a role for everyone, all we ask is that you commit to attending meetings and rehearsals according to your role. The first meeting took place on Sunday, 18 February and **the next meeting/rehearsal takes place on Sunday, 25 February, 3pm at Our Lady of Assumption Parish Centre, Hedgefield Road, Liverpool, L25 2RW**. If you are interested then please just come along on Sunday, this is a wonderful opportunity to make new friendships, contribute towards a community project and above all, bring the incredible Easter story to the local community. **We'd particularly welcome musicians to join us this weekend and if anyone has TV/Radio and Newspaper connections** so we can highlight the project and share the story to an ever wider audience, then that'd be great too! For more info on the project and the roles available please visit: <https://bellevalepassion.co.uk/>

## 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. 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.



**WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY**  
**Corey Dean & Aaliyah Jacinta Burgess**



Baptised Sunday 25 February 2024

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS** The Bishops' Conference website has some lovely Lenten Reflections for each Sunday through Lent. Have a look at:  
[www.cbcew.org.uk/lenten-reflections-2024](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/lenten-reflections-2024)

## 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.



## EASTER BINGO AND RAFFLE

Easter Bingo will take place on

**TUESDAY 19TH MARCH**



Doors open at 6.30pm

Tickets for Bingo and raffle on sale at back of Church

## 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.

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

If you aren't able to join then Bernie has signed up again this year if you would like to sponsor her -

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/bernies-big-lent-walk2024>





## **BBC SONGS OF PRAISE - OUR LADY OF COMPASSION CHURCH, FORMBY**

Come and sing with BBC's Songs of Praise as we join together for a congregational music recording at Our Lady of Compassion Church in Formby on Saturday 16th March, 13:00 - 16:00.

**WHEN: Saturday 16th March - doors at 12:00pm**

The recording is expected to finish at approximately 4pm. Age restriction: there is no minimum age for entry, but children aged 17 and under should be supervised with a responsible adult at all times.

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Compassion Church School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Book online at [www.lostintv.com](http://www.lostintv.com)

## **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**

### **LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS:**

5-26 March 7:00pm-8:30pm Lenten evenings hosted at the Irenæus Centre



### **LENT AT THE IRENÆUS 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.



## JUBILEE 2025

Below is the final excerpt from Pope Francis' letter reflecting on the Jubilee

‘The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee, which calls for conversion, should also embrace these fundamental aspects of our life in society as part of a coherent whole. In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Gen 2:15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too. Growing numbers of men and women, including many young people and children, have come to realize that care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will.

To you, dear Brother, I entrust responsibility for finding suitable ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity. The Dicastery charged with promoting the new evangelization can help make this season of grace a significant stimulus to the pastoral outreach of the particular Churches, both Latin and Eastern, which are called in these years to intensify their commitment to synodality. In this regard, our pilgrimage towards the Jubilee will express and confirm the shared journey that the Church is called to make, in order to be ever more fully a sign and instrument of unity in harmonious diversity. It will be important to foster a renewed awareness of the demands of the universal call to responsible participation by enhancing the charisms and ministries that the Holy Spirit never ceases to bestow for the building up of the one Church. The four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, together with the Magisterium of these recent decades, will continue to provide direction and guidance to God's holy people, so that it can press forward in its mission of bringing the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to everyone.

As is customary, the Bull of Indiction, to be issued in due course, will contain the necessary guidelines for celebrating the Jubilee of 2025. In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great “symphony” of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it. Prayer as the expression of a single “heart and soul” (cf. Acts 4:32), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace and to make the “Our Father,” the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.

I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to accompany the Church on the journey of preparation for the grace-filled event of the Jubilee, and to you and your co-workers, with gratitude, I cordially send my Blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 February 2022, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes.*

## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

### For new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm. .

*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 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.

### FOOD BANK

The cost of living crisis is still affecting many families with food and energy prices still at a high. It is more important than ever that we continue to support each other with our food donations. If you can help please leave any donations in the box at the back of Church. Chris and Mary do a brilliant job in making sure your donations get to those who are in need



### 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.