



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

4th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 10th March 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Am I willing to live out my faith even when it makes me uncomfortable because I am ridiculed?

EPISCOPAL VISITATION

A very warm welcome to Bishop Tom Neylon who makes his first official visit to our parish. We hope it will be the first of many.

Please join us in the Parish hall after mass for a cup of tea and to say 'hello' to Bishop Tom



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.

FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

Meeting this Monday - 11th March at 7pm. Focus on Lenten reflections and St Mark's gospel. All are welcome

CHRISM MASS 2024

The Chrism Mass, which this year will take place on Wednesday 27 March at 7.30pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral, is usually the largest annual gathering of archdiocesan clergy and faithful throughout the year. At the Mass, Archbishop Malcolm blesses the holy oils that are used throughout the archdiocese for celebrations of the sacraments in the next year. He does this in the presence of priests, deacons and lay faithful.

Additionally, the Archbishop invites the priests of the archdiocese to renew the promises they made at their ordination: to dedicate their life in service to the Church - to preach the Gospel and teach the Catholic faith, to faithfully celebrate the sacraments and to pray for God's people.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this liturgy enhanced by the Cathedral Choir, and experience the richness of our local church, especially if you have never been before. Any queries please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

On Christmas Eve, we heard the prophet Isaiah's words that a great light has come to shine through the darkness. We believe that light is Jesus, the Messiah, who came into the world on that holy night. Today we hear John say that some people preferred the darkness. After all, they were used to it. They didn't have to worry about their actions in the darkness. They could do things that, if exposed to the light, would be seen as wrong. But we are called to value what is good and true and holy, and so we come to the light, to the Christ, so that our works may be seen, may be imitated, and may lead others to God.

Nicodemus would be such an example. We hear Jesus address him in the Gospel today but what we don't hear is that this monologue happens when Nicodemus comes to the Lord after night fell. Why did he come at night? Not because his works were evil, but because he was a member of the Sanhedrin and he feared that his position would be in danger if he was seen meeting with Jesus. So Jesus, the light of the world, was directly addressing him with his words. How did Nicodemus take Jesus' challenge? Well, we will see Nicodemus again in a couple of weeks, on Good Friday. It is he and Joseph of Arimathea, both secretly disciples (not any of the Twelve) who dare to ask Pilate for permission to remove Jesus' body from the cross, anoint it with myrrh, and bury it in a newly made tomb. "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his [or her] works may be clearly seen as done in God". Nicodemus chooses to live the truth and come to the light.

While exiled in Babylon, the Chosen People found it challenging to continue to worship the LORD and live holy lives. Whether out of fear or shame or convenience, many people chose to forget their faith as they tried to survive in a pagan land. But not the faithful ones. Hence the psalmist plaintively recalling their native land, even as their songs and memories are fading.

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
Sunday 10th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 11th March	10.00am Pat Lynch
Tuesday 12th March	10.00am Myra Lovelady
Wednesday 13th March	
Thursday 14th March	10.00am Tony Coady
Friday 15th March	10.00am Teresa Birmingham 12.00pm Funeral service - Elizabeth Scott
Saturday 16th March	
Sunday 17th March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Molly May Long



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Phil Radford



NUGENT CARE

The annual collection for Nugent Care takes place after Mass this weekend, please give generously. Founded in 1881, Nugent Care has over 140 years of experience operating care, education, community and social work services across the Archdiocese of Liverpool. As a leading voice in the care sector, Nugent Care looks to improve health, life chances, quality of life, and levels of achievement, whilst reducing poverty and increasing safety for all.



CATHOLIC PIC

March edition of the 'Pic' is available in piety stall. Main article this month is 'Progressing the Pastoral Plan'

WEEKDAY MASS

We will be joined by Year 6 children from both schools at Mass on Monday.

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

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.

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

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/>



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Elizabeth ('Betty') Scott

Funeral service Friday 15th March 12 noon



NEWMAN TALK - 'Walking in the Winter of Life' Speaker Dr Karen Groves

Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm in St Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TQ. There is no charge and all are welcome

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We wish all our mums a very happy Mother's Day and we pray for God's blessing on them.

Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love,
That you have instilled in her very being the need to protect her children if at all possible,
Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching them, of comforting them,
for feeding them and making a safe place for them.
For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be.
Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance,
with strength and patience and joy.
Give them ability to forgive again and again.
Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because
You will give her all she needs.
In Your precious and all powerful name, Amen



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

This is the last chance for young people in Yr8 of High School and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year to register before next Friday.



www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

After 15 March no more applications can be considered so please pass this message on to anyone interested and tell them to sign up within the next few days.

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

90th Anniversary

On 29th April this year we will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone for English Martyrs Church

Litherland History society have put together a display which you can see this weekend in the Parish Hall. It will be transferred to Church nearer to the date but for now you can have a 'sneak preview'

More information to come in the following weeks!

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

We are a little short of prizes so if anyone could maybe help with donating wine or chocolates that would be a great help

Thank you!



If you haven't signed up for the CAFOD Big Lent Walk would you maybe consider sponsoring? Bernie has signed up again this year and is walking 200km during Lent - 50km per day come rain or shine!! if you would like to sponsor her <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/bernies-big-lent-walk2024>

The money raised 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!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER IN THE LAKE DISTRICT?

Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience or recently graduated. Interested – jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk



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

LENTEN MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL

Sunday 10 March - Stabat Mater - Pergolesi

Sunday 17 March - Lamentations of Jeremiah - Tallis

Sunday 24 March (at 7:30pm) - Tenebrae



IRENÆUS CENTRE COURSES

LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS:

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



HOLY WEEK RETREAT - WALKING THE WAY OF THE PASSION

27-31 March. Residential retreat starting with Passover meal on 27 March and concluding with Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday

LENT AT THE IRENAEUS CENTRE

For Lent 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 or calling 0151 949 1199.

CARRYING OF THE CROSS

The annual Carrying of the Cross will take place on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 2PM

The carrying of the cross will begin from Church Street, passing through Bold Street and finishing at St Luke's Church (the Bombed Out church), and will be followed by a short service. Could anyone wanting to take part please arrive at 1:45pm at the junction of Church Street and Lord Street, Liverpool for 2pm prompt start. Stewards required, please contact Jim Ross on email: jimmy.ross7@gmail.com



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.



HOLY WEEK 2024

The times of the major celebrations for Holy Week are as follows. Please make every effort to come along to church for this very special time of the year. Other times and details will be given next week.



Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00 pm
Night Prayer	10.00 pm

Good Friday

Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00 pm
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Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil & 1st Mass of Easter	8.30 pm
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Easter Sunday

Mass of Easter Day	10.30 am
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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.

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

English Martyrs School have a clothes recycling bin at the school gate. They receive funding for any clothes recycled.



Please pop your unwanted items in the bin to support Global Recycling Day on 18 March

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



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

EASTER 5K WALK

MONDAY 1ST APRIL 2024 - 11AM

LOURDES FUNDRAISER

ST. GREGORY'S TO OUR LADY'S AND BACK.

£8 PER PERSON OR £20 FOR FAMILY OF 4.

FRIENDLY DOGS WELCOME.

**WATER BOTTLE,
BUNNY EARS AND
AN EASTER EGG
INCLUDED IN
COST.**

