



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 17th March 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I sow the seeds of the kingdom of God? What seed can I plant this spring that can flower in due season?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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.

THANK YOU Bishop Tom Neylon expresses his profound thanks to our parish for his very enjoyable visit last Sunday. He was impressed with the connection between the parish and our two schools and he's looking forward to visiting the schools in May. A huge thank you to those who met him in the parish hall and to those who helped with the refreshments.

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.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

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

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

To write one's will upon the human heart requires a level of intimacy not often seen. In fact, it recalls God's intimacy with the first human. God blew the breath of life into him, then cast into him a deep sleep so that God could reach inside and remove a rib to create a partner for him. The intimacy revealed in Genesis and renewed in Jeremiah reaches its fullest expression in Jesus, the divine made flesh, who shared fully in our humanity. How fortunate we are that in baptism we receive the intimacy that is Christ within us.

Again and again the Chosen People turned away from God, repeatedly breaking the covenant the Lord made with them. Jeremiah's promise of a new covenant, an internalised covenant that cannot be lost, a covenant so ingrained that anyone who sees them and knows their character will know the Lord, is tantamount to offering new life. Jesus, the new covenant, offers us the promise of eternal life, new life indeed.

Jesus spoke often of seeds. He compared heaven to a tiny mustard seed, growing into a huge plant. One sower sowed seed indiscriminately, some falling on rich soil and bearing fruit a hundredfold. Another sower saw their work threatened by the devil sowing weeds. Faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains. Today that grain of wheat gave its life to produce much fruit. Jesus is the sower. Always he sows the seeds of faith, the seeds of the kingdom, the seed that is his very life so that they will bear as much rich fruit as the world can sustain. The Christ who is in us, with his mission imprinted upon our hearts, needs us to be the sowers now.

LENTEN ALMS

Lenten Alms can be donated throughout Lent. Please place your donation in the box near the Lady Chapel. All donations across the Archdiocese will go to The Children of Gaza and The Holy Land.

LGBTQ+ Social Group

This group meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm in the Sr Elizabeth Kelly room in the church of SS Agnes and Aidan, Huyton, L36 5SQ. The next meeting is on Sunday, 17 March.

LGBTQ

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Thursday 21st March
4.30pm St Patrick's
Toxteth. 2 Concerts from the University of Liverpool performing a range of classic music in a wide variety of styles. All Welcome.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Sunday 17th March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Molly May Long
Monday 18th March	10.00am Special intention (VL)
Tuesday 19th March <i>Solemnity of St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin</i>	10.00am Perpetual Mass List
Wednesday 20th March	
Thursday 21st March	11.00am Funeral mass - Linda Thomas
Friday 22nd March	10.00am Alice Power
Saturday 23rd March	
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Eileen Monaghan (get well)



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.



CHEQUE PAYMENTS TO PARISH

If you make any payments to the Parish via cheque could we please ask that they are made payable to

English Martyrs Church and not
Our Lady & The English Martyrs

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

THANK YOU FROM THE PATRIARCH

Fr Mark has received the following letter from His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem:

*Dear Father Mark, dearest brother,
May the Lord give you peace!*

I acknowledge with deep gratitude receipt of \$3,512,76 (£2,744) by bank transfer for our appeal in support of our Christian brothers and sisters in Gaza.

Please extend my sincere thanks to the faithful of Our Lady & The English Martyrs Parish, Litherland. Thank you for your solidarity and ongoing support for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your faithful during this Lenten season.

Your brother in Christ
+Pierbattista

+Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem



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"*.

DEANERY SYNODAL COUNCIL

The Deanery Synodal Council met on Monday night. The meeting began with an extended time of scripture sharing. This was the first meeting since the Families of Parishes had been confirmed by the Archbishop so we discussed the 2 suggested steps – to build relationships and to look at how we communicate across the Family and to begin to think of a project each Family could undertake to do in the coming 12 months.



We decided that communication would be the main topic of our next meeting in April.

A report was given of the Caritas group meeting and the requested audit. The next Caritas meeting will be announced soon.

A discussion took place about the Deanery Holy Hours and the Bishops' visitation. A comment was made about people being reluctant to come out at night. For those parishes where the visitation had taken place there was a general feeling of how attentive Bishop Tom had been and how warmly he engaged with parishioners.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Linda Thomas

Funeral Mass Thursday 21st March 11am



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

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



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Molly May Long

Baptised Sunday 17 March 2024



FR GABRIEL ROMANELLI

Fr Mark is delighted to announce that the Parish Priest of Gaza, Fr Gabriel Romanelli, will be staying in our parish at the end of April as part of his visit to the UK. During the visit, Fr Gabriel will meet the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland to thank them for their support and solidarity. Meetings in Parliament and the Foreign Office are also arranged. Fr Mark is hosting the visit on behalf of the Bishops' Conference and will accompany Fr Gabriel during his week-long visit.

On Sunday 28 April, Fr Gabriel will join his for 10.30 am Mass. Knights & Dames of the Holy Sepulchre will be with us along with one or two Bishops. Please make every effort to come along and to meet Fr Gabriel as we offer him and his community our renewed love and support.



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.



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" MARCH DRAW

1st	£20	No. 201	R Hilton
2nd	£15	No. 151	F Bennett
3rd	£10	No. 110	S Harper
4th	£10	No. 1	J Birrell

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

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

FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP



Could those people
who are joining us
to see **WICKED**

at the Empire on **27 June** please
now start to pay off the balance
due

There are a few tickets still
available if you would like to join
us. Cost plus transport is £74



EASTER BINGO AND RAFFLE

Easter Bingo will take place
this coming

TUESDAY 19TH MARCH

Please come and join us it is
always a fun evening

Doors open at 6.30pm

Tickets for Bingo and raffle on sale at
back of Church



LENTEN MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL

Sunday 17 March - Lamentations
of Jeremiah - Tallis

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



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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of his son we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. To those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration.



The Solemnity of St Joseph is celebrated on Tuesday.

IRENÆUS CENTRE COURSES

LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS:

5-26 March 7:00pm-8:30pm Lenten evenings
hosted at the Irenaeus 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.

The Irenaeus Project is looking for help in the office, filing, ordering, computer work etc. If you are interested, please email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or Tel 0151 949 1199 for more details.

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.**

