



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday 24th March 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what ways can I show my love for others in a way that might seem extravagant to observers, but meaningful to them and for me?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Celebrated today at 4pm for the last time this Lent, followed by Benediction. 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.

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 .



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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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.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Just a few months ago we celebrated the night that Jesus was born, God's Son becoming part of humanity. Today we hear a horrible account of the inhumanity of nearly everyone around our Lord. One of his closest friends betrays him, another denies him, the rest abandon him, the crowd turns on him, the soldiers torture him, the authorities condemn him, Pilate sentences him. In Mark's Gospel, even both of those crucified with him abuse him. Greed, fear, cowardice, hatred, and cruelty win out over all the virtues Jesus embodied. Jesus was not able to rid the earth of inhumanity. But he gave us a model of how to oppose it, endure it, and conquer it. For in remaining faithful and obedient to the will of the Father, the One revealed today to truly be the Son of God showed humanity the way to truly be human.

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he replied that it was to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself. All of the law and the prophets could be summed up in this command: love. For love of God and love of neighbour, Jesus was born into the world, lived out his mission, and died on the cross. Despite the horror of being nailed to a cross and left to die, Jesus accepted it out of love for the Father and love for those he was sent to save. Through his death, he showed us the depth of his love and the value of that love.

Jesus makes a bold statement about the woman who anoints him with oil just days before he is killed: *"Wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her"*. She alone does something loving and merciful for him in the days before his death. Some scoff at her action, regarding it as a waste of precious oil. They say that it was worth nearly a year's wages, a huge sum that could have been given to the poor. Perhaps they have a point. Perhaps her actions were extravagant. But Jesus teaches us that such extravagance for those you love is not a waste at all. After all, if one were to look at the life of the Messiah, ending his life not as the healer of every ill, the benefactor of every beggar, and the victor over every opponent, but on the cross, condemned as a criminal, one would see his life as a waste. What could God have had in mind to send him into the world only to die a condemned man, with the world objectively not any better than it had been? With eyes of faith, we know that his life was not a waste, for he healed our every spirit, paid for our every sin, and won the victory over death. As this woman who lowered herself to enter a leper's home and wasted her entire jar of priceless oil, Jesus emptied himself to enter sinful humanity's home and spent his entire life to give us the priceless gift of eternal life. This is the gospel proclaimed.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 25h March	10.00am Terry Ryan
Tuesday 26th March	10.00am Funeral mass - Michael Culkin
Wednesday 27th March <i>Holy Wednesday</i>	7.30pm Chrism Mass in Metropolitan Cathedral
Thursday 28th March <i>Holy Thursday Mass of The Lord's Supper</i>	7.00pm Private intention (MM) 10.00pm Night Prayer
Friday 29th March <i>Good Friday of the Passion of The Lord</i>	3.00pm Solemn Service of the Passion & Death of the Lord Jesus
Saturday 30th March <i>Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</i>	8.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 31st March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10.30am Private intention (MM)

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Terry Ryan



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

HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

The most important offertory collection takes place during Mass of the Lord's Supper because it's our response to the Gospel where Jesus takes on the role of servant and washes the disciples' feet. Liturgical rules state that the collection on this night is for the poor. Please be generous.

GOOD FRIDAY RETIRING COLLECTION

The annual collection for the Holy Places will take place on Good Friday. This collection, administered by the Franciscans in the Holy Land, maintains the historic Holy Sites associated with Jesus. Please give generously

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St John of Egypt (304-394)



At the age of 25, John left his home and became a monk. He lived under the tutelage of a wise hermit and when his master died, John decided to withdraw into a more remote cave on Mount Lycos. There he lived a very strict life, devoting himself to prayer and manual work. People started to visit him, since he was able to perform miracles, heal the sick and read people's hearts. He died in 394, at the age of 90.

The feast day occurs on Wednesday although no feasts are celebrated during Holy Week.



MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Michael Culkin



Funeral Mass Tuesday 26th March 10am

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 last 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.

Appeal for Stewards & Leaflet Drop Volunteers - The Belle Vale Passion

This incredible musical drama takes place at 12noon on Saturday, 30 March in Belle Vale Shopping Centre, Gateacre. Please get in touch ASAP if you can help with the following:

stewarding the event - email Ron: ronaldsmith57@btinternet.com

leaflet drop - ring/text Jacqui: 07864 511 807.

Please visit the website bellevalepassion.co.uk to watch a short film and find out how you can get involved.

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.



EASTER BUNNY WALK

The Easter Bunny Walk to raise money for the Liverpool Lourdes Pilgrimage will be taking place on 1 April this year, starting at 11am. The walk will go from St Gregory the Great, Lydiate, to Our Lady's, and back, and guests of all ages and well-behaved dogs are welcome. Each person will get a water bottle, bunny ears, and an Easter egg. The walk costs £8 per person, or £20 for a family of 4.



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.



CIVIC MASS

The annual Civic Mass will be celebrated at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 21 April at 11am. Celebrated by Archbishop Malcolm. Light refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after Mass. We look forward to welcoming you and your guest to the Civic Mass to celebrate all that is good in our City.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

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

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who donated gifts for the bingo and raffle and to those who joined us on the night. We always have such a lovely night together and we raised an amazing £770! Thanks to all those who helped with preparation and on the night. It couldn't happen without you!



Details of raffle winners are on notice board at back of church



If you haven't signed up for the CAFOD Big Lent Walk would you maybe consider sponsoring? Bernie has finished her 200km walk with a week to spare but is still walking! 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!

An Introduction to Vatican II - Saturday 27 April at 10am - 3pm

Light of Truth, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Liverpool, will be hosting a study day introducing the basics of Vatican II. This is the perfect opportunity to learn the basic concepts covered in Vatican II for anyone new to the document. This will take place in the Gibberd Room of the Metropolitan Cathedral. To sign up for this free event, visit this page:

<https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/jaujdgxs>

CLEANER WANTED

An opportunity is available for a cleaner to join the wider cleaning team based at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ. This is a permanent post, requiring the successful candidate to undertake general cleaning duties to exceptionally high standards for clergy, staff and visitors. 8 hours per week, Saturday and Sunday, 8.00am -12.00pm each day. £4,334.72 per annum. Closing date is 8th April. Visit www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers for the application pack or call: 0151 522 1102.



REGULAR GIVING TO THE CHURCH

The best way to give regularly to the parish is with a Standing Order so that your contribution is paid by your bank to the parish account. This reduces the cash that has to be handled. Envelopes will always remain available but please consider the use of Standing Orders. Please contact the parish office if you would like one. If you are a tax payer please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme as this is a way of increasing our income without having to ask people for more money. For every £1 you give 25p extra will be claimed back by the parish.

IRENAEUS CENTRE COURSES

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.

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.



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



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



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.

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.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

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

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.**

