



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

3rd Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 3rd March 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who can I invite to reconcile with? How can I view my relationships based more on love than on reciprocation? How does that affect how I act?

### 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

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EXPOSITION

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

### CATHOLIC PIC

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

### 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.

## 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](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk)



**Metropolitan Cathedral**  
of Christ the King Liverpool

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Note that Jesus does not say that he would rebuild the temple in three days. He says “I will raise it up”. But rebuilding is what his audience pictures, so they are understandably incredulous. Jesus, however, is referring to the temple of his body, and it indeed will be raised up three days after it is destroyed. During Lent we may try to rebuild our own lives. We may choose to rebuild it around the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. We may rebuild it through penitence, reconciliation, and changed behaviour. But our ultimate hope is that God will raise up our lives and the lives of all who look to Christ crucified and raised up.

The covenant that led to the ten commandments is not one based on force or coercion. If it was, it would have been broken immediately and repeatedly, as the Chosen People broke commandments left and right even before reaching the promised land. As we do ourselves. But the covenant God made with the human race is based on love, the infinite love that allows God to sustain the repeatedly and seriously broken covenant, the infinite love that led God to send the Son for our salvation, the infinite love that allows us to trust in God’s ultimate mercy.

God loves us to the point of forever inviting us to reconciliation. God has nothing to gain by showering us with mercy. We are offered an eternal gift without having anything commensurate in value to give in return. But we can pay forward instead. We can offer what we are able to those who are in no position to pay us back. In doing so, we imitate God’s generosity; we imitate God’s love-based covenant.

### 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.



### 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.



## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<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
<b>Monday 4th March</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Maureen Atkinson
<b>Tuesday 5th March</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Paul Nickson
<b>Wednesday 6th March</b>	
<b>Thursday 7th March</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Debbie Rice
<b>Friday 8th March</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Peace in The Holy Land
<b>Saturday 9th March</b>	
<b>Sunday 10th March</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish



### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**Bob Lambert & Nicola**



## **DAY OF PRAYER**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, has called for a special Day of Prayer to take place next Friday for the continuing situation in the Holy Land:

*“As we are all aware, the situation in the Holy Land has not improved, with failed negotiations, increasing humanitarian distress and a rising death toll. As Lent begins, I would like to urge that we continue our efforts, not least in prayer. And so I ask that, on Friday 8 March, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land... This could take the form of a dedicated time of prayer, perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament, for peace in the Holy Land. It could be as simple as making any Lenten devotions you may be having on that day for this intention...”*

Our Mass next Friday will be for the intention of ‘Peace in the Holy Land’. Stations of the Cross will also be celebrated next Friday at 7 pm.

## **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.

## **LITHERLAND HISTORY SOCIETY**

The next meeting is in the Parish Hall at 10am on Tuesday 5th March. Les French will present ‘The history of Frank Hornby, Meccano and Dinky’. Entrance is £2 which includes tea and biscuits. All are welcome.

## 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

Mason Anthony McPartland

Baptised Sunday 3 March 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

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](mailto: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](http://www.lostintv.com)

## **LENTEN MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Sunday 3 March - Les Sept Paroles du Christ en Croix - Franck

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 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.

## 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



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### St John Ogilvie (1579-1615)

John Ogilvie was born of noble Calvinist parents in 1579 at Drum-na-Keith in Banffshire, Scotland. As a boy he was sent to the continent to further his education. With the help of Father Cornelius van den Steen ("Cornelius a Lapide") he was received into the Catholic Church. He entered the Society of Jesus on the 5th November 1599, and was ordained priest at Paris in 1610. He returned to his native country, but his ministry was cut short by his betrayal and capture in Glasgow. After extreme suffering he was hanged on the 10th of March 1615. The principal cause of his martyrdom was his insistence on the primacy of the Pope in spiritual matters, a primacy he affirmed with great constancy to the very end. His last words were "If there be here any hidden Catholics, let them pray for me but the prayers of heretics I will not have." After he was pushed from the ladder, he threw his hidden Rosary beads out into the crowd. One of his enemies caught them, and he became a devout Catholic for the rest of his life.



**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE** We have two funerals in the near future for people that parishioners may know -

Betty Scott (nee McDonald) Friday 15th March at 12 noon and  
Linda Thomas 21st March at 11am.



## 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.