



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

EASTER DAY

31st March 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How has the Resurrection transformed my life? How can it continue to do so?

## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all those who have given their time over the last few days and especially in decorating our church so we can celebrate Easter!



## WEEKDAY MASS

Mass on Easter Bank Holiday Monday will be at midday. Mass on Friday will be a Funeral Mass for Frank Eaves. May he rest in peace.

## CATHOLIC PIC

The April edition is now available from the Parish Shop. Main article is the Ukraine Anniversary Event



## PASCHAL CANDLE 2024

This year's Paschal Candle, solemnly blessed on Saturday, is called 'Evangelium'

The "Evangelium is a Beeswax Paschal Candle - in tribute to the writers of the four Gospels. This beautiful iconic design rendered in bronze toned wax, gilded with 24 karat gold leaf dramatically offsets the natural hues of the Beeswax Paschal Candle.



Mathew, Mark, Luke and John - Early, traditional Christian art has long depicted, in beautiful iconic fashion, these four writers of the Gospels as the four "living creatures" that surround God's throne. Mathew (Human), Mark (Lion), Luke (Ox) and John (Eagle). The Evangelium Candle has been meticulously assembled using hand-cast wax ornaments, trimmed with 24 karat gold leaf then inlaid beneath the surface of the highest quality Beeswax candle. Complete with wax incense pins. The Evangelium...distinguished, unparalleled, extraordinary.

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

For years, Jesus had confounded even his closest disciples. He insisted the crowds stay for a meal when all they had were a few loaves and fish. He told them to turn the other cheek, that it is the poor and downtrodden that are blessed, and that each of them had a cross to carry. He revealed that he would be condemned to death. Now he's disappeared from the tomb they'd buried him in just three days before. Mary Magdalene is frantic. Peter and John are rendered speechless. All three are confused. What has happened? None of them yet understood that they had to look for him in a different way. Jesus may confound us as well. We may not find him where we expect, or when we expect, or in the way we expect. But let us take comfort in the confidence that no matter where we go, no matter how confounded we are, he will find us.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul gives us a clue as to finding the risen Lord: "Seek what is above". If we have died with Christ, as we did in baptism, then we have been raised with Christ. This ought to be our perspective. There is a permanence to what is above that cannot be achieved on earth. How relatively fleeting even our happiest times have been: our wedding day, the birth of a child, a career accomplishment. The Resurrection frees us to seek love and mercy and life in a way that outlasts what is on earth.

The Resurrection transforms us. Holding the promise of resurrection for ourselves and those we love gives hope and meaning to our life. It transforms us. But we are also transformed by the power God has to raise us from our graves of sinfulness and our tombs of despair. In many ways, our lives are reborn by the Resurrection, like a fresh batch of dough, as Paul told the Corinthians, and by focusing our minds on what is above, as he told the Colossians. A God who has the power to transform death to new life has the power to transform our ordinary, difficult lives to new lives as well. May we recognise that our lives stand ever ready for transformation.

### SPRING CONCERT

Students from the University of Liverpool return to perform classical music in their second delightfully varied programme, 4.30pm, Saturday, 20 April. All welcome.

### MARY IN A WORLD OF MARTHA?

14-16 June 2024. Limited residential spaces available. For more information, please contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 949 1199.

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<b>Sunday 31st March</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b>10.30am</b> Private intention (MM)
<b>Monday 1st April</b> <i>Easter Monday</i>	<b>12.00 noon</b> Margaret & Septimus Murphy
<b>Tuesday 2nd April</b> <i>Easter Tuesday</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Ann Henderson
<b>Wednesday 3rd April</b> <i>Easter Wednesday</i>	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 4th April</b> <i>Easter Thursday</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Stephen McQuade
<b>Friday 5th April</b> <i>Easter Friday</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Funeral mass - Frank Eaves
<b>Saturday 6th April</b> <i>Easter Saturday</i>	NO MASS
<b>Sunday 7th April</b> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Day of Divine Mercy</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of The parish

### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:  
**For healing (AL)**



### **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

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Fr Philip Inch, parish priest of Holy Rosary, who has been appointed a Chaplain to His Holiness the Pope. This is a title of distinction given by the Pope in recognition of a priest's service to the Church. In 2013 Pope Francis changed the rules that all such priests receiving this honour must be at least 65 years old. The honour allows the priest to use the title of 'Monsignor' and we congratulate Mgr Philip for this well deserved honour in recognition of the years of service to our Diocese. Out of the eight priests in our deanery, 2 are now Monsignors, and 2 are Canons!

Two other priests of the Diocese were also awarded with this honour on Wednesday: Mgr Philip Gregory. (Episcopal Vicar for Priests) and Mgr Stephen Maloney (Episcopal Vicar for Retired and Sick Priests).

### **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.



**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**

**Frank Eaves**

Funeral Mass Friday 5th April 10am



## **FR BARRY McALLISTER**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Barry McAllister, parish priest of St Elizabeth & St Robert Bellarmine, who died last week.

Vigil Mass: Wednesday 10th April 7.30 p.m at St Elizabeth's. The Canons of the Chapter will lead Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead at 7.00 p.m. and the reception of the body and the Vigil Mass will follow at 7.30 p.m. The Requiem Mass: Thursday 11th April 12 noon at St John's Church, Standishgate, Wigan, before burial in Ireland. May he rest in peace.



Fr Barry was born in Wigan on 21st March 1960 and was ordained to the priesthood at St Mary's, Wigan, by Archbishop Derek Worlock on 6th December 1986. Following ordination, Fr Barry served as assistant priest in several parishes across the archdiocese: St Cuthbert, Pemberton; Sacred Heart and St Alban, Warrington; and briefly at St Mary, Chorley, in early 1995. In September 1995, he took up his first appointment as parish priest, moving to St Elizabeth, Litherland. Like many priests, he was asked to take on additional responsibility for another parish. Thus, in September 2011, he became parish priest of St Robert Bellarmine and he served as the Area Dean between 2006 and 2021. His strong faith sustained him as he faced treatment for cancer, and the eventual terminal diagnosis, with immense courage and patience. He died at Wigan and Leigh Hospice on Friday 22nd March, the day after his 64th birthday. He was in the 38th year of the priesthood. May he rest in peace.

**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"*.

## 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.



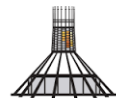
## RightToLife

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



Bernie has finished her 200km walk with a week to spare! Thank you to everyone who sponsored. Current total is £201. You can still donate at <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 10am - 3pm**

An in-person study retreat day exploring Vatican II is being offered in collaboration with the Light of Truth Dominican Sisters who will introduce us to the Second Vatican Council, the outcomes of Pastoral Development Department: St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA. T: 522 1040 [pd@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:pd@rcaol.org.uk) This would be perfect for anyone who is looking to explore this important event for the first time, as well as for anyone who is looking to reflect on and revisit the year of the Council. This event is being offered for free. If you have any questions, please contact [e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk)





## Archbishop Malcolm McMahon Easter Message 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we start going out, and coming home in the light again, it usually means one thing; Easter is around the corner. As we leave Winter and enter Spring, we are also reminded of the new life that starts at this time of year. Whether that be the plants in your garden, the leaves on trees, or the caterpillars and butterflies that start showing their faces again. This time of year is an incredibly important one in our faith. We remind ourselves that Jesus Christ died for our sins, descended into Hell, and rose from the dead. It is a reminder that there is always hope, even in the depths of despair. When Jesus was betrayed by Judas and ultimately crucified on Good Friday, it felt like hope was lost. But on the third day, Christ rose from the depths of Hell and things were looking light again.

It is a message we can all take into our everyday lives. When things are looking bleak, whether it be a personal issue, or a wider issue like conflict in Ukraine, Gaza and other parts of the world, a light can always be found.

It's also important to remember the journey we have been on for the past 40 days for Lent. From Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday we have all tried to enrich our lives, by either giving up something that is bad for us, or adding something more positive, like praying into our everyday life.

Whatever you have decided to do this year, I hope you had every success, and life is better for the choices you have made.

May the light of Jesus Christ be present in you all, as we celebrate his resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool

## 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.



## A CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL

A day of prayer, praise  
and Fellowship

**POUR OUT  
YOUR GRACE  
AS AT A NEW  
PENTECOST**

**Guest Speaker  
Michelle Moran**

**10am – 4pm  
11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

**At the Irenaeus  
Centre Great  
Georges Rd  
L22 1RD**

**Bring a packed lunch**

**Suggested donation £10**

Organised by CHARIS Liverpool  
For more information contact  
moira@irenaeus.co.uk

**Newman Association talk  
'My God, My God. Why  
have you forsaken me?'  
Despair on the Cross?**

Speaker: Mr. John Potts.  
Venue: St. Helen's Parish  
Centre, Alexandra Road,  
Crosby, L23 7TQ.

18 April 2024.

Doors will be open from  
7.00pm and the talk will  
begin at 7.30.

Talks usually last 45 minutes  
leaving time for questions  
and discussion. There is no  
charge, but donations are  
welcome.

## 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 APRIL

### For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. .

*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.

### The Big Christian Aid Quiz

This is a family friendly evening.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm

Greenalls Social Club, Alder Hey Road, St.Helens, WA10 4DN

Tickets £10 p.p. includes HotPot supper

Please contact Janice or Andy to book:

Contact : Janice Watkins - 01744 27425 / 07947743219

Andy Watkins:  
[watkinsa@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:watkinsa@edgehill.ac.uk)

## The Handcrafted Bible Exhibition

at the

**Irenaeus Project**

Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 1RD

**Monday 15th April –Thursday 18th April 2024**

**10am-4pm**

Refreshments available

All  
Welcome

We are back with  
new friends—  
come along and see  
us we are waiting to  
see you



For more information contact:

[jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

Tel 0151 949 1199



## IRENÆUS

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](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or Tel 0151 949 1199 for more details.

# 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.**

