



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st April 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what specific way can I lay down my life this week for someone who needs what I can give them?

THE GIFT OF EASTER

The next two Wednesday evenings 24 April, 1 May will take place St Teresa's, Norris Green, on The Gift of Easter. These sessions take inspiration from Scriptures and Fr Chris Thomas of the Irenaeus Spirituality Centre.

THANK YOU

Fr Mark wishes to thank everyone for Easter cards, chocolate and birthday cards. God bless you all.



MARY IN A WORLD OF MARTHA?

14-16 June 2024. Limited residential spaces available. For more details, please contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 949 1199.



PASCHAL CANDLE 2024

This year's Paschal Candle, solemnly blessed on Holy 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

Paul quotes Psalm 118 when he states that Jesus is “the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone” (Acts 4:11). Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, to be sure, for his life, death, and resurrection provide its foundation. We are called to make him the cornerstone of our lives as well so that we may be living temples of the Lord, embodying his message and the mission he left us. We do so when we give of ourselves to God and to others.

John tells us that we are God’s children. Children are formed by their parents, perhaps genetically, perhaps by the way they were raised, perhaps by the influence of their parents’ personality and character. So too are we formed by God, made in God’s image, cared for by God, and influenced by our understanding of God. Jesus, as God’s Son, has given us a model of how to live as a child of God. Jesus put the Father’s will first, obedient to the end. As we recite in the Lord’s Prayer, we too pray that we do the will of the Father in the way that we live our lives. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, willing to lay down his life for the sheep. He tells his disciples that he received this command from the Father. So too have we, called to die to our own selves to raise up the lives of others, whether sacrificing our time and energy to care for a young child, an aging parent, a loved one who is ill, or a friend in need. In doing so we are entrusting our lives to the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for us and takes up our lives with his to eternal salvation.

The Big Christian Aid Quiz

This is a family friendly evening.
Friday 24th 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

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.



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 20th April	12.00pm Baptism - Sonny Castley
Sunday 21st April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of The parish 11.45am Baptism - James Callam Robertson
Monday 22nd April	10.00am Ann Davis
Tuesday 23rd April <i>St George</i>	10.00am Ievan Morris
Wednesday 24th April	NO MASS
Thursday 25th April <i>St Mark</i>	10.00am Alice Power
Friday 26th April	10.00am John Glennon
Saturday 27th April	12.00pm Baptism - Elodie Margot Gahan
Sunday 28th April <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of The parish 11.45am Baptism - Daisy Armitage



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Dunn Family



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" APRIL DRAW

1st	£20	No. 99	B Jacquest
2nd	£15	No. 191	Madden family
3rd	£10	No. 140	V Poyner
4th	£10	No. 30	A Hunt



Many thanks for your continuous support. Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136 .

Mary's Meals Pray in May/ Ethiopia Crisis Appeal

Mary's Meals, who provide school meals to over 2.4 million children every day, invite you to join their Pray in May campaign. During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in praying for the hungry children who rely on our life-changing school meals, and for all the children and families around the world who live in poverty.

We pray particularly for families facing extreme food insecurity and hunger in Ethiopia. We are hosting a special online session where our founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow will share more about this under-reported crisis on Tuesday the 16th of May at 7pm, find out more at

[Charity events | Mary's Meals UK \(marysmeals.org.uk\)](https://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

Please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may> to access our Pray in May resources and find out more about our Crisis in Ethiopia appeal by visiting

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/crisis-in-ethiopia>

Have a look at the parish website for a short video on the work of Mary's Meals



FR GABRIEL ROMANELLI

Fr Gabriel Romanelli, parish priest of Holy Family church in Gaza, will be arriving into London this weekend for a high profile week-long visit and Fr Mark will be accompanying him on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.



During the few days in London they will spend a day in Parliament with meetings with MP's, Members of the House of Lords, Anglican Bishops and members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Departments of all major political parties. A day will be spent meeting our Catholic Bishops with private meetings with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Archbishop of Canterbury. They will travel north to Glasgow for similar meetings before heading back home to Litherland when Fr Gabriel will stay in our parish family for three days before heading home.

Next Sunday we will welcome Bishop Tom Neylon who will formally welcome Fr Gabriel to Liverpool on behalf of the Archbishop and will be the main celebrant. We are also expecting a few priests and many Knights & Dames of the Holy Sepulchre.

Fr Gabriel is specifically wanting to meet our parishioners so please make every effort to come along and meet him in the parish hall for refreshments after Mass. Tell others and invite them also. Fr Gabriel will also join us for Mass on the Monday & Tuesday.

This visit is a big occasion for the Catholic Church in England & Wales and we are proud to play a major part in the week and to welcome Fr Gabriel to our parish community.

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".*

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK - Donation page re-opened

A few people called in to the office last week to offer sponsor money for Bernie's Big Lent Walk. Unfortunately, the Just Giving page had been closed so we could not accept the donations. We have now had an email apologising for the fact that a computer error caused the premature closing of the donations page. If anyone would still like to donate the page is re-opened:
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/bernies-big-lent-walk2024>
or see Bernie in the office. Thank you!

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St George (-c.303)

He was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel) in about 303, during the persecution of Diocletian. Like so many saints of that period, the only fact that we can be certain of is his martyrdom. His cult spread quickly through both the East and the West, and the legend of St George and the Dragon only appeared some time afterwards.



During the crusades, George was seen to personify the ideals of Christian chivalry, and he was adopted as the patron saint of several city states and countries, including England and Catalonia. King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast was proclaimed a holiday.

CATHEDRAL EVENT - Dining Experience at the Art School, Sugnall Street - Wednesday 19 June 2024 from 7.00pm

We would like to invite you and your loved ones to a wonderful dining experience in the Art School in Sugnall Street, just around the corner from the Philharmonic. We are delighted to be able to collaborate with Chef Paul Askew and his team and we have arranged with them to provide a two-course meal with a glass of prosecco on arrival and an amuse-bouche for just £50 per person.

Chef Askew has a firm reputation as a pioneer of excellent modern British cuisine and this is a dining experience not to be missed! Dinner will be served in The Lantern Room. We hope that you will book some tickets and come and enjoy a convivial evening in surroundings that are timeless and yet modern enjoying the company of new friends and old ones. To book your ticket and to arrange payment please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

VOCATIONS SUNDAY 2024

Our synodal journey reinforced our commitment to becoming a Church that values the vocation of all the baptised, but on the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide, we are reminded of the importance of praying in a special way for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This Good Shepherd Sunday we have much to celebrate because this academic year is a significant one for vocations to the priesthood within our Archdiocese. God willing, by the end of July 5 men will have been ordained to the priesthood for our Archdiocese.

Fr Hugh Donleavy was ordained to the priesthood on 1 December at St Alban's Church in Warrington and plans are underway for the ordination of Deacons James Finnegan and Martin Fyles (from the Venerable English College, Rome), Peter Ross (from St Mary's College, Oscott) and Lister Tonge, (a former Anglican Minister). If all goes to plan, they will be ordained together in the Cathedral on 13 July.

There are currently three other men in formation for our Archdiocese in the Beda College, Rome and Allen Hall, London and two candidates currently involved in the process of applying to begin seminary in September. Usually, on the first Saturday of each month a group of men gather together to reflect on the priesthood and to discern whether this is God's calling for them. The road to the priesthood is long and these men need your continued prayer and the support you give to the Priest Training Fund collection that takes place today.

There is no one type of man that God is calling and our seminarians and discerners come from different backgrounds, have had a wide range of life experiences and cover a range of ages. Perhaps God is calling you!

If you think God might be calling you to serve as a priest within our Archdiocese and are ready to explore this further and perhaps meet other men who are thinking about their vocation, please contact the Vocations' Director, either by telephoning the Parish of St Charles and St Thomas More in Aigburth on 0151 727 2493 or email vocations@rcaol.org.uk

A retiring collection will be taken this weekend for the Priest's Training Fund. Please give generously.

SUNDAY MISSAL

Fr Mark announced that the Catholic Church in England & Wales will be getting a new translation of the Lectionary at the end of 2024. At the end of November the translation will change from the Jerusalem Bible to the English Standard Version (ESV-CE), this means that anyone with missals will no longer be able to use them.



Redemptorist Publications are now advertising the new Sunday Missal and you can pre-order a copy for just £19.95 (retail price £24.95). Not only does it have the updated texts, but they've added some personal touches to make Your New Sunday Missal the best money can buy:

Luxury leatherette cover with gold-embossed lettering guaranteed quality that will last throughout the liturgical year use after use.

Special reflection prayers by Denis McBride to help guide through the struggles of every day life.

New ESV translation of the readings

Short introduction to the special character of each Sunday

Includes the texts for all Sunday services in the Roman Catholic Church for the three-year cycle

High-quality FSC certified paper

Includes the two Eucharistic Prayers for reconciliation

The main ordinary texts of the Mass are also given in Latin

Prayers by St Alphonsus Liguori including his Stations of the Cross.

The new Sunday Missal will be available in the Autumn, but to secure the special offer price, you must place and pay for your order in the Parish Office by **Monday, 27th May**.

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 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

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
11th MAY 2024**

Bring a packed lunch

Suggested donation £10

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

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

CHEQUE PAYMENTS TO THE 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. Thank you

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

Cathedral Events

'Eastertide Carol Service' at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral - Sunday 21 April, 15.00. Admission free, retiring collection. The cathedral choir leads a carol service for Eastertide, including movements from Part III of Handel's Messiah. Details of this event, alongside other events in our Music at the Met 2024 series can be found at <https://bit.ly/3x8KLxV>

'Rededication of the Grand Organ' of the Metropolitan Cathedral - Sunday 12 May, 15.00. Admission free, retiring collection. The Cathedral Choir leads the singing of Choral Evening Prayer at which the grand organ will be rededicated following its recent once-in-a-generation restoration. Following the service, international concert artist Martin Baker will give the opening organ recital. Details of this event, alongside other events in our Music at the Met 2024 series can be found at <https://bit.ly/3x8KLxV>

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...

Please have a look at parish website for a video of the Pope's message for this

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.

ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM PASTORAL LETTER FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Today we listen at Mass to Archbishop Malcolm's latest Pastoral letter reflecting on following a vocation and listening to a calling.

There is a copy of the letter on the Parish website if you wish to read it for yourselves.



90 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Foundation Stone for our beautiful church was laid on 29th April 1934 by the then Archbishop of Liverpool, Richard Downey. It was the first stone laid in honour of The Holy English Martyrs. Parishioners were very enthusiastic and offered to pay for all the interior fittings at a cost of £950! The Church itself cost £8000 and opened on the Feast of The Annunciation on 25th March 1935.



Litherland History Society have kindly provided us with a commemorative display to celebrate the anniversary. You can see it at the back of Church - take a minute to have a look.



Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714