



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

28th 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 order to flourish and bear fruit, the vine needs to be pruned. What in me needs to be pruned so that I can bear fruit to the fullest extent possible?

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.

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 or Tel 0151 949 1199 for more details.

MARY IN A WORLD OF MARTHA?

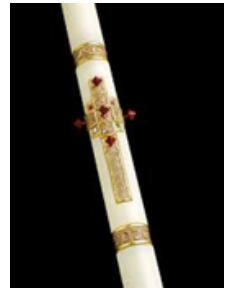
14-16 June 2024. Limited residential spaces available. For more details, please contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 949 1199.



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

Have you ever watched the TV and seen a report about someone who is doing sterling work, helping people and making a real difference to the world around them? And then you find out they don't even believe in God? That's because you don't have to believe in God to do good and you don't have to be a Christian to make a difference to the world. But today Jesus tells us that only those who 'remain' or 'abide' in him will be following the Christian path. So what does it mean to 'remain' in him?

A vine branch is lifeless and useless unless it remains attached to the vine. Inside it there is living sap that flows throughout the vine into each of the branches enabling each branch to produce fruit. For us to abide in the vine means that we are going to be people who are depending upon Christ and who are allowing the power and the Spirit of Christ to flow through us and in us. So, remaining in the vine means living our lives with the Trinity consciously present within us.

And only if we do this will we bear fruit that will last as we become more and more like Christ. For when we 'remain' attached to the vine, we become more like Jesus and we want to tell others about the source of our life. When we become more like Jesus we pray more and our approach to life changes: we treat people more like Jesus did, we talk to people like Jesus did and we are prepared to go that extra mile like Jesus did.



One of the great risks that we run is to think that by our own effort we can make ourselves better and that we can make a lasting difference to our world. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are only branches of the vine and that branches cannot bear fruit all by themselves. We need to be attached to the trunk of the vine itself.

At the start of each day are we conscious of 'remaining' in Christ? Do we speak to Christ during our waking hours? Do we ask for help and support in the decisions we make? Are our lives a go-it-alone affair or are they lived in God's presence?

Anyone who bears fruit is doing something good. But Jesus tells us that only if we 'remain' in him and are part of the vine will our fruit last.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 27th April	12.00pm Baptism - Elodie Margot Gahan
Sunday 28th April <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of The parish 12.15am Baptism - Daisy Armitage
Monday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	10.00am Teresa & John Sinnott
Tuesday 30th April	10.00am Ruth Richardson
Wednesday 1st May	NO MASS
Thursday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius</i>	10.00am Joseph Ferry
Friday 3rd May <i>Ss Philip & James</i>	10.00am Sonny Danarto
Saturday 4th May <i>Feast of English Martyrs</i>	First Holy Communion Celebrations
Sunday 5th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of The parish 11.45am Baptism - Hallie Rae Coupland



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Catherine Maloney



Please keep in your Prayers children from our two schools who will make their First Holy Communion over the next few weeks



SUPPORT FOR THE DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

The Restored Lives course is run over six weeks, one evening per week. The talks cover the key issues to help you to move on and highlight the practical steps and tools to enable you to tackle the issues that arise from separation and divorce. For more information contact Maureen 07967753371

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)

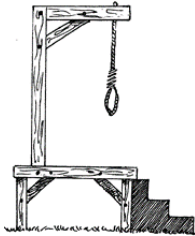
Please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may> to access our Pray in May resources and find out more about our Crisis in Ethiopia appeal by visiting

<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



FEAST OF THE WEEK



The feast of the English Martyrs gathers together the English men and women martyred for the Catholic Faith between 1535 and 1680 and who were beatified or canonised by the Holy See. It also coincides with the Anglican celebration of the Reformation Martyrs. On this day in 1535 three Carthusian monks died at Tyburn, the first of many martyrs, Catholic and Protestant, of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, forty two have been canonised and a further two hundred and forty two declared blessed, but the number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or suffered harsh persecution for their faith in the course of a century and a half cannot now be reckoned. They came from every walk of life; there are among them rich and poor, married and single, women and men. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution.

The Feast is on 4 May but we will celebrate on Friday 3rd. Bishop Tom Neylon and school will be joining us for mass on that day so please come along

Pentecost 2024 Liverpool, Sunday 19 May 2024, 3-5pm

This year Pentecost will mark 100 years of Liverpool Cathedral. The theme of the celebrations will centre around how to bring us from being a group of disparate people to people who are working together.

The event will start at the Metropolitan Cathedral at 3pm and then move to Liverpool Cathedral where the main speaker will address the congregation.

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!

CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal



Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

You can also text Text CAFODSUDAN to 70450 to donate £10.

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

FR GABRIEL AND FR MARK HAVE HAD A VERY BUSY WEEK!



International
Affairs
Department
meeting



Meetings at the
Houses of
Parliament



Meeting
Cardinal Vincent
Nichols

Meeting and
prayers with The
Archbishop of
Canterbury



Archbishop John Wilson
of Southwark



Meeting Bishop Nicholas Hudson Chair of
Bishops Holy Land Co-Ordination group

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.**

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.



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
moira@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

'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>

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

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

For the formation of religious and seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel. .



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 next Come and See day at Irenaeus will be on 4 May 10am - 4pm featuring a talk from Pat Collins, an Irish Vincentian Priest based in Dublin. He is a speaker, retreat leader and author of many books on spirituality. Pat is also a member of the New Springtime Community. All are very welcome to attend.

Society of St Gregory Annual Summer School at Hope University - 31 July (pm) - 3 August 2024 (lunch)

A Symphony of Praise in Word and Music

“In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great symphony of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him.” Pope Francis

The programme includes Keynote speakers, liturgy, workshops, other presentations and more.

- Keynote Speakers - Sue Price, David McLoughlin, Fleur Dorrell, Martin Foster

Director of Music – Christopher Walker; Director of Liturgy, Kathryn Turner.

Both Residential and Day Delegates are welcome and Bursary funding is available. Further details, including the programme, and online booking are available at <https://www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school-2024> or by emailing summerschool@ssg.org.uk



Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714