



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

7th April 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what way do I notice the gift of God's mercy today? To whom do I need to extend mercy?

### FR MARK

Fr Mark will be taking a few days rest this week, so we welcome back and thank Fr Stephen for looking after us

### 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.

**FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP** The group will meet this Monday 8th at 7pm in the parish hall. Discussion around 'Living Faith' including short video presentation

### 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

Listening to the first reading, one would have no idea how difficult it was to be a Christian in the first century. Christians were persecuted by the state, making it dangerous to publicly witness to one's faith. And yet, Saint Luke - the author of Acts - writes as if the early church was a sort of utopia, with everyone sharing what they had and holding everything in common so that no one was in need. Perhaps the danger from outside led them to rely on each other all the more. Perhaps they attached less value to anything beyond the bare necessities because they were so concerned with staying alive. Or perhaps material goods did not hold much value because they expected the second coming was right around the corner. No matter the reason, they did more than share a common faith. They shared a common life.

John writes that the disciples locked the doors of the upper room "for fear of the Jews", but it may well be that they were afraid of more than the religious authorities who had turned Jesus over to Pilate. After all, hadn't they all pretty much abandoned him at the end when he was in danger? No one was there to oppose the mob who chanted for his crucifixion. Peter had even denied him three times. An unfortunate Cyrenian had to help carry his cross. Perhaps what the disciples really feared was God's judgment. Mark admits that they were afraid after seeing the empty tomb. John says they didn't yet understand what "rising from the dead" meant. Perhaps when they began to understand, they feared that he would return disappointed in them or angry at them. But Jesus disarms them when he greets them, "Peace be with you", repeating it as their fear turns to joy.

With these four words, Jesus forgives them, offering the divine mercy we celebrate today. When we say these four words to someone - be they close family or a casual acquaintance - we share that divine mercy with them, assuring them that in the risen Lord our hearts are at peace. They may have hurt us, we may have fought with them, we may have made it a point to avoid them, but with these four simple words we reconcile with them, extending the mercy that forgives past wrongs, realising that God's mercy is showered on us all.

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<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 <b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Oliver Ian Travers
<b>Monday 8th April</b> <i>Solemnity of The Annunciation</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Perpetual Mass List
<b>Tuesday 9th April</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Linda Perrin
<b>Wednesday 10th April</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 11th April</b> <i>St Stanislaus</i>	<b>10.00am</b> John Hunt
<b>Friday 12th April</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Betty Scott
<b>Saturday 13th April</b>	<b>12.00pm</b> Baptism - Meadow and Blake Cannon
<b>Sunday 14th April</b> <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of The parish <b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Millie Grimes & Mia Holt

### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**John Dunn**



### **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

### **REST IN PEACE**

The Archdiocese has sadly lost another priest this week, Fr John Johnson. Born in Wigan in 1938 and was ordained priest on 20th May 1967 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, a few days after its solemn consecration. Following ordination, Fr Johnson served as assistant priest in several parishes across the archdiocese including Holy Ghost, Ford (1974-78). In 1986 he became parish priest of St William, Ince, before returning to his home town as parish priest of St Mary, Wigan. Such was Fr Johnson's dedication as a priest, that he had expressed the wish to die 'in harness'. That wish was not fulfilled, as he was forced to resign as parish priest because of ill health earlier this year. He died last Wednesday in Wigan Hospice, aged 85 years. He was in the 57th year of the priesthood. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday 19th April. May he rest in peace.



### **THE GIFT OF EASTER**

For three Wednesday evenings - 17,24 April, 1 May. There are a couple of sessions at 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.

### **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.

## 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.



## EASTER TRIDUUM 2024

A huge thank you to everyone who played a part in this year's Triduum celebrations. The deanery priests will be discussing future plans as to how parishes will celebrate Holy Week. Numbers attending English Martyrs are not great:

Holy Thursday 38 people

Good Friday 89 people

Holy Saturday 24 people

Changes as to how we celebrate Holy Week may be made for 2025.

**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 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



## 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.



## JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

The Commission exists to stimulate awareness of the need for justice and peace; understand these needs in the light of the Gospel and the Church's social teaching and encourage action. It meets 6 times a year and contributes towards the social action of the Archdiocese through conferences and events. The Commission is looking to recruit new members and to find out more please contact Pablo: [p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk)

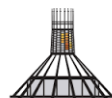
## RightToLife

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

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### The Feast of the Annunciation

O God, who willed that your Word should take on the reality of human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, grant, we pray,

that we, who confess our Redeemer to be God and man, may merit to become partakers even in his divine nature. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



Archbishop Malcolm writes:

*On 3 April 1984, Mgr. Patrick Kelly was ordained bishop of Salford - in 1996 he was translated to Liverpool to take up the pastoral leadership of our local church - we give thanks for his 40 years of episcopal service and ministry to the church particularly as our archbishop and his service to the Holy Land and to the Catholic Deaf association - please offer a prayer for him.*



Fr Mark saw Archbishop Patrick last Wednesday and offered him our best wishes and prayers for this important milestone in his life

## 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)



## 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**.

Bernie finished her 200km walk with a week to spare! Thank you to everyone who sponsored. Final total raised for CAFOD was £301.



**CRAFT WORKSHOP AT IRENAEUS** 1:00PM - 3:00PM - 8 April

The Irenaeus Project will be putting on a Craft Workshop. You must book in order to secure your place. To do so, contact :

jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or phone 0151 949 1199

## 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.



Archdiocese of Liverpool CIO no 1199714