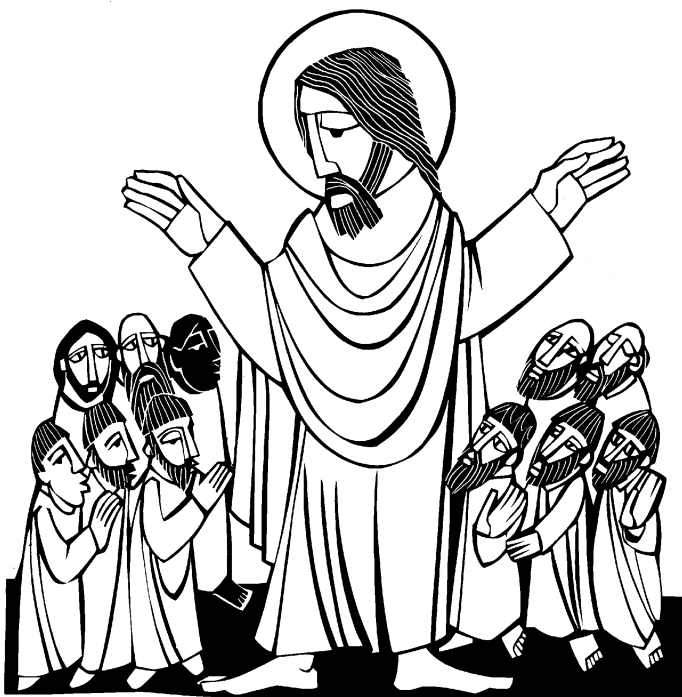




# Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

12th May 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 [englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk)

[www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk)

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How have I experienced disunity with other Christians? How can I reconcile with those whom I disagree with?

## CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal

CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal to support families in Sudan, as Sudan is in the grip of the world's worst hunger and displacement crisis.

Jo Kitterick, CAFOD's director of participation, said: "Many aid agencies exited Sudan when the current fighting erupted a year ago. Right now Catholic agencies in the Caritas network that CAFOD is part of, supported by the Church of Sudan, are some of the only organisations able to deliver aid to support the Sudanese people."

Donations made to CAFOD's Sudan crisis appeal – will go towards supporting families in Sudan and surrounding countries, who are already contending with extreme hunger, as communities strive to stop the crisis from becoming the worst in living memory. Donations can be made at [www.cafod.org.uk/SudanAppeal](http://www.cafod.org.uk/SudanAppeal)



## CORPUS CHRISTI

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ will be celebrated on Sunday 2nd June. This is a day when we give thanks for Jesus in the most holy sacrament and for leaving us this very special gift.

Following the 10.30 am Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place for the day, culminating in a Holy Hour at 5 pm. In order to do this we need people who are willing to spend at least 30 minutes in church. You will find a list at the back of the church for you to sign up and commit to spending a time of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please make every effort to make this a special day. Come to church and come along to the time of prayer at 5 pm.

## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

John writes that Jesus prayed to his Father that the disciples may be one. Ideally, the disciples would always pray and speak and act with one accord, but realistically, disagreements and discord arise. Therefore, it is crucial that the disciples commit to reconciling with each other whenever this happens. God's love is the glue that binds us together. Ultimately, we need to love each other with a selfless and forgiving love, as Jesus showed on the cross. This is why John writes to the early church that we must love one another. He is appealing to the entire faith community to love each other with a reconciling love so that all remain as one..

By remaining in love with each other, the early Christians committed themselves to taking care of each other, supporting each other, and defending each other, especially important in a fledgling community that was persecuted by the authorities. We too commit ourselves to caring for one another even when that places us in a difficult position.

Jesus would not have prayed specifically to his Father that his disciples may be one if he hadn't realized that this would be difficult and that their unity would be fragile. Already he knew one disciple would betray him and another would deny him. Soon he would send them out into the world, where they would have to deal with people and issues that would prove difficult. So he prays to the Father for their unity and their protection. Then he sends the Spirit to remain with them, to bind them together, to protect them in their faith.

**FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP** - we still have 4 tickets available for our trip to see 'Wicked' on the Empire on 27 June. Cost £74 includes transport. Come and join us - we always have a fun night!



## MARY IN A WORLD OF MARTHA?

14-16 June 2024. Limited residential spaces available. For more details, 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>Saturday 11th May</b>	<b>First Holy Communion Celebrations</b>
<b>Sunday 12th May</b> <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of The parish  <b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Miley Bradley
<b>Monday 13th May</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Maureen Wilkinson
<b>Tuesday 14h May</b> <i>St Matthias</i>	<b>10.00am</b> Alice Power
<b>Wednesday 15th May</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 16th May</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Tony Coady
<b>Friday 17th May</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Arthur Cranny
<b>Saturday 18th May</b>	
<b>Sunday 19th May</b> <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	<b>10.30am</b> People of The parish  <b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Freya Ferrigan



## SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**Michael McInerney**



## CATHEDRAL RECRUITMENT

Young people are at the forefront of music at the Metropolitan Cathedral. The Cathedral Choir sings at seven choral services each week, leading the congregation in the singing of hymns and psalms, and offering repertoire from the treasury of sacred music to enhance the liturgical celebrations and raise the hearts and minds of those present to God. It is through their ministry of music that many people who enter the cathedral come to know the beauty of God. The Metropolitan Cathedral is the only Roman Catholic cathedral in the UK that offers both boys and girls an equal opportunity to undertake a full choir school chorister experience – at no cost to parents. Children are recruited from Liverpool and surrounding areas, with choristers coming from as far afield as Widnes, Southport and St Helens. Opportunities to sing are offered to young people from age 7 to 18 and beyond.

Being a chorister is a unique opportunity for a boy or girl in our Archdiocese, allowing them to engage with music, to live the Catholic faith in the daily celebration of the liturgy, and bring joy and hope to many. The high musical standards that the choir achieves on a daily basis do not happen without sacrifice: many hours are spent in rehearsal, with liturgies taking place almost every day. But for those who are fortunate enough to have the experience of being a chorister, it is a life- shaping one.

Do you know a child who would like to be a chorister at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King here in Liverpool? The search is now on for our next generation of boy and girl choristers.

All choristers are educated at Runnymede St Edward's Catholic Primary School and St Edward's College meaning that a first-class Catholic chorister education for boys and girls in Liverpool is available at no cost. If you know of a Catholic family who might be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please share this information with them. Full details of choristerships at the Metropolitan Cathedral, go to: [www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs](http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs)

## **ST MARIA GORETTI**

This is a wonderful small team of people who help women living in Liverpool fleeing persecution, seeking asylum, are refugees or are survivors of trafficking. The team are hoping to recruit new members to support them in their work. Support is particularly required with visiting individuals who have been referred and/or transporting household items across the Liverpool region. If you are interested in finding out more about the valuable work this group undertake or would like to get involved, then please contact Cath Bradley on 07534 780 731 or 284 1866 or email: [chattymc6@gmail.com](mailto:chattymc6@gmail.com)

## **CHRISTOPHER GRANGE**

Do you have a few hours to spare every week or every couple of weeks? The RVS (Royal Voluntary Service formerly WRVS) are recruiting people to help in the coffee bar and shop at Christopher Grange Care Home, Youens Way, L14. All that is involved is making drinks and selling toiletries, sweets, biscuits etc to visitors and residents. Many of the current volunteers have been doing this for over 20 years and will continue to do so, but it is now time for some extra helpers to fill in for holidays or sickness so that it can be kept open every day. If you would like more information or would like to pay a visit to see exactly what it is all about, please contact Anne Halligan on 07790 148 177.

## **Pentecost 2024 Liverpool, 2 Cathedrals Celebration**

### **Sunday 19 May 2024, 3-5pm**

This year Pentecost Sunday 19th May 2024 will mark 100 years of Liverpool Cathedral and the 2 Cathedral Pentecost Service will be a family friendly event of celebration.

The event starts at 3pm at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral where Monsignor John Devine OBE will be preaching. Then everyone will be taking a pilgrimage walk down Hope Street and will receive a final blessing at Liverpool Cathedral.

You can meet characters from the last 100 years during the event, enjoy a thanksgiving picnic at Liverpool Cathedral by bringing your own picnic or dining in the Welsford Bistro.

It will be a family friendly event with live music and giant games. Please bring your friends.

### **'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>

### **LAY CHAPLAIN**

Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Academy, Whiston are looking to appoint a Lay Chaplain. Details can be found at [www.pfcmat.org/Lay-Chaplain](http://www.pfcmat.org/Lay-Chaplain) Visits to the academy are welcomed. Deadline for applications is Wednesday 22nd May at noon.

### **FEAST OF THE WEEK**

#### **St Matthias**

He was not one of the Twelve; but after the treachery and death of Judas Iscariot, someone was needed to take his place. Two candidates were selected, and lots were drawn to see which of them should be made one of the Twelve: the choice fell on Matthias. Nothing is known for certain about his subsequent history.



Drawing lots to select a candidate for an office sounds strange to us, but it was a recognised Jewish custom: for example, the priest who was to enter the Temple sanctuary and burn incense there was not chosen by some rota but by lot. Random events, independent of any obvious natural or human cause, were seen as a direct expression of God's will. Drawing lots was not a substitute for human decision – human beings had chosen Matthias as a candidate, human beings decided which priests were eligible on which days – but a way of putting the final choice into the hands of God.

When we attain some high or responsible position, we may be tempted to congratulate ourselves on being the best candidate for the job. We would do well to remember that we have got there because of the people we have met and the things we have found ourselves doing, and, more fundamentally, because of the gifts and talents that God has given us. These things are essentially random: like Matthias, we have been chosen by lot.

## **WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY 2024**

This annual day of prayer takes place this weekend. The theme for this year, chosen by Pope Francis, is 'Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication'. In his letter reflecting on this year's theme, Pope Francis says: "Artificial Intelligence is radically affecting the world of information and communication, and through it, certain foundations of life in society". A retiring collection will be taken to support the work of Catholic communication.

*O God, whose word is truth and in whose light we see light, guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image. Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity.*

*Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours, and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world, awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence and of longing for your peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

A meeting for Eucharistic Ministers will take place in church on Thursday 30 May, 7 pm. Fr Mark asks that all Ministers make an effort to come along. Ministers will be invited to make their annual promise and commitment on Sunday 2 June at the 10.30 am Mass, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

### **PENTECOST RETREAT, FROM 6.30PM FRIDAY 17 MAY TO 2PM SUNDAY 19 MAY**

Fr Chris Thomas is leading a Pentecost retreat at the Minsteracres Retreat Centre Nr Consett County Durham DH8 9RT. Suggested donation £190. If you are interested, contact Minsteracres. Tel: 01434 673 248 Email: [info@minsteracres.org](mailto:info@minsteracres.org).

### **Cathedral Guides and Welcomers**

The cathedral are seeking two new voluntary adult members for Wednesdays (1pm-4pm) and Fridays (1pm- 4pm) respectively. If you would like to assist with the welcome desk and/or conduct guided tours for our many visitors, then please contact Deacon Paul via email: [p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk)



## THE NEW LECTIONARY

Over the past few months, Fr Mark has been sharing with us news that the Catholic Church in England, Wales and Scotland will have a new Lectionary at the end of this year.



The Lectionary, which is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued with all the other liturgical texts.

For over 50 years, the Church in England & Wales has been using the Jerusalem Bible as its definitive translation for liturgical use; the new Lectionary will use both the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition (ECV-CE) and the Abbey Psalter for the psalms.

The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, to reflect current biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in a liturgical setting that is more easily proclaimed.

The Lectionary will become mandatory for use in all Catholic parishes and Mass centres in England, Wales and Scotland from Sunday 1st December 2024.

The CTS have been appointed to publish the new Lectionary and they have now released further information and cost.

Currently, the Lectionary is in 3 volumes, but the new Lectionary will be in 4 volumes at a cost of £695 (£173.75 each). It has been suggested that an individual or a family may wish to donate a volume. If anyone would like to do this, the CTS will provide a special 'Donor Bookplate' in which the donor's name will be placed in the Lectionary and will be there for future years to come. If you would like to do this, please have a word with Fr Mark for more details. Only one donor per volume.

The new Lectionary also means that any Sunday or Daily Missals will no longer be used because of the change of translation. CTS will be selling a new Sunday Missal at £19.95 or a gift edition at £29.95. Pre-orders can be made through the parish shop or office. Further items will be available near the publication date of October 2024

### **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.



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

### **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.

### **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)

## 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...*

## SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 5th JULY

We are super pleased to again have our 'annual' trip to the world famous International Musical Eisteddfod in the beautiful Welsh town of Llangollen on Friday 5th July.

We will leave the parish and travel by coach to Llangollen and we can stroll around the maes (Welsh for field) with its hundreds of stalls, food and drinking places. Your ticket will guarantee you a reserved seat in the Pavilion to watch the competitions You can walk around the town and enjoy the many shops and beautiful scenery. Friday is a spectacular day in the Pavilion with Mixed, Chamber and Adult Folk Song Choirs. The final rounds for the Vocal and Instrumental solo's and the Choreographed/stylized dance groups as well as introducing a brand -new Solo Dance (solo, duet, trio) competition. A day not to be missed!

We have managed to keep the cost similar to last year. The cost of the day is £69 which includes transport, entry to the Eisteddfod, reserved seat in the Pavilion and a 3 course evening meal. We are doing something slightly different this year as we will be eating in The Hand Hotel in Llangollen town centre. The hotel stands above a beautiful stretch of the river Dee close to the centre of the town and has a stunning riverside garden

Please give your name to the office as soon as possible with a £10 deposit which will secure your place.



**PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER!**



# ENGLISH MARTYRS NURSERY



Our 56 place nursery is a caring setting where your child will discover a world of awe, wonder and learning!

Contact us today to find out more about the flexible hours available or to arrange a visit!



**CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tel: 0151 928 5601**  
[www.englishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk)