



Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

5th May 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What sacrifice have I made this past week for someone I love? What sacrifice can I make this coming week? What sacrifice am I willing to make for someone I hardly know?

WELCOME

A warm welcome back to Fr Pradeep Lakra, his first time with us since he was ordained to the sacred priesthood in January. We are lucky to have him as part of our parish family and we promise him our love and prayers as he continues to serve God and his people. Fr Pradeep will be the main celebrant at Mass this weekend after which he is happy to give his first priestly blessing to anyone who would like to receive it.

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and is a Holyday of Obligation meaning that we are obliged to attend Mass. It's now our custom to coordinate Mass times with our neighbouring parishes to give a wider opportunity for Mass on the day:

Wednesday 8 May

7 pm Mass St Robert Bellarmine

Thursday 9 May

9.30 am Mass St Elizabeth of Hungary

12noon Mass English Martyrs



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

We miss this in the selection from Acts that we hear today, but Cornelius is a Roman centurion, employed to exercise the authority of the Roman occupiers over that part of Judea. Most Judeans- whether Jewish or Christian- would avoid him. But Cornelius is no ordinary Roman centurion, as we see in the way he falls on his knees when Peter enters his home. After this display of humility, Peter tells him, “You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with, or visit, a Gentile, but God has shown me that I should not call any person profane or unclean”. How many of us are willing to say the same about someone on the opposite side, say, of our culture wars or political wars?

“God,” Peter points out, “has no favourites” (Acts 10:34). Indeed, while Peter preached about God and Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down upon Cornelius and all the other Gentiles, prompting Peter to see to it that these outsiders were baptised. Remember, Peter was one of those personally told by Jesus, “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you”. Today we hear him put it into action. May it challenge us to show God’s love to one another as well.

Love makes us feel all warm and fuzzy inside, right? But, Jesus tells us, the ultimate show of love is “to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”. That brings us up short. Love is over-the-moon wonderful until you start talking about its cost. Love can cause you to put someone else’s life before your own. Love can leave you vulnerable. Love can lead to heartbreak and grief. But this is what Jesus himself did, and what he calls us to do. Self-sacrificing love is the countercultural and, to many, absurd idea of putting others before yourself, for, as John wrote in his letter, God is love, and this, from the start of creation, is what God has done.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make Mass last Sunday a great success despite our VIP not being here. Fr Mark has received many emails from visitors commenting on the welcome received and how beautiful the church looked, the refreshments and the liturgy were. Thank you to everyone!

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.



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
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
Monday 6th May	10.00am Irene Dempster
Tuesday 7h May	10.00am Teresa Birmingham
Wednesday 8th May	NO MASS
Thursday 9th May <i>Solemnity of the Ascension of The Lord</i>	12.00pm Perpetual Mass List
Friday 10th May	9.30am Funeral Mass—Maureen Wilkinson
Saturday 11th May	First Holy Communion Celebrations
Sunday 12th May <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am People of The parish 11.45am Baptism - Miley Bradley



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Jean Maloney



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

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

Your prayers are requested for James (JIM) Halpin who died recently RIP

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.

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

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.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Maureen Wilkinson



Funeral Mass Friday 10th May 9.30am

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK - a huge thank you to everyone who donated. We raised an amazing £376 to date. If anyone would still like to donate the page is still open: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/bernies-big-lent-walk2024> or see Bernie in the office. Thank you!

FEAST OF THE WEEK

The English Martyrs



On 4 May 1535, at Tyburn in London, there died three Carthusian monks, the first of many martyrs of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, forty-two have been canonised, and a further 242 have been declared Blessed; but the true number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or were tortured or persecuted for their faith cannot now be reckoned. The persecution lasted a hundred and fifty years and left a permanent mark on English culture: to this day Catholics continue to suffer certain minor disabilities under English law.

The martyrs celebrated today came from every walk of life. There were rich and poor; married and single; men and women. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith and courage in the face of persecution.

From 2001, there are also celebrated on this day the forty martyrs of England and Wales who were canonised on 25 October 1970 and formerly celebrated on that day. They include Saints Cuthbert Mayne, John Houghton, Edmund Campion, and Richard Gwynn, as well as Saints John Roberts and Ambrose Barlow from the Benedictine monastery of St Gregory at Douay (now at Downside Abbey in Somerset).

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY 2024

This annual day of prayer takes place next Sunday, 12 May. 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.

FIRST COMMUNION

Please pray for the children in our parish family who are celebrating their First Holy Communion over the next two weekends. Fr Mark wishes to thank the wonderful team of catechists for all their hard work



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.

Craft Workshop

The Irenaeus Project will be putting on a Craft Workshop on Monday, 13 May between 1pm-3pm. You must book in order to secure your place. To do so, contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or phone 949 1199.

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...

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