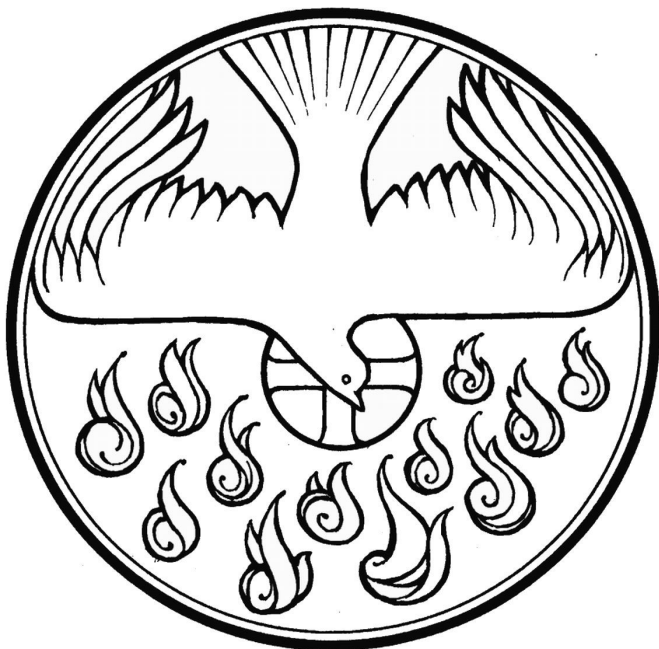




Our Lady & The English Martyrs Litherland

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday 19th May 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk

www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I sense the movement of the Holy Spirit in my life right now?
Does it feel more like a gentle breath or a powerful wind from heaven?

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



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

An E-fit (Electronic Facial Identification Technique) is used to identify someone's features, usually when the police are investigating a crime. It is the most up-to-date computerised method of describing a person.



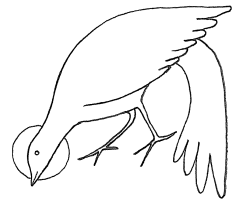
If today, Pentecost, we were to try and provide an E-fit of the Holy Spirit, what evidence could we offer?

At Jesus' baptism in the Jordan the Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a dove. We tend to think of peace when we think of doves. But anyone who tries to get close to a dove will know that they immediately fly away. They can't be tied down and they can only be studied by people who approach them calmly and slowly. The Holy Spirit cannot be "pigeon-holed" and only with prayer and reflection can we begin to understand his (or her?) machinations.

Of course, we are introduced to the Holy Spirit on the first page of the bible in the form of the breath of God hovering over the waters of the earth. The Spirit breathes life, inspires and vivifies. It is the Spirit that motivates us and enthuses our actions.

And in the story of the very first Pentecost we see two more characteristics of the Holy Spirit: wind and fire. The Spirit appears like a powerful wind from heaven and also as something that looks like tongues of fire. We sometimes speak about a "wind of change" that sweeps through a society or a continent. The Holy Spirit blows wherever he wills, bringing a blast of fresh air and then disappearing as quickly as he arrived. No one can catch the wind. And the tongues of fire burn to bring heat, light and warmth. Fire casts out darkness, provides comfort and enlightens.

We know a lot about the Spirit and yet we know almost nothing. Our E-fit would show a dove, breath, wind and fire. A strange mixture for a photo! Each time we get close to thinking that we have got a handle on the Holy Spirit we realise that the Spirit cannot be categorised. For the Spirit is the wind that blows through our cobwebs and changes our hearts. The Spirit is the flame of fervour that burns within us and makes us ardent witnesses to Christ. The Spirit is the very life-breath of God within us that inspires all we say and do. And today we recall the gift of the Spirit to the Church and the world.



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Saturday 18th May	NO MASS
Sunday 19th May <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	10.30am People of The parish 11.45am Baptism - Freya Ferrigan
Monday 20th May <i>Our Lady Mother of The Church</i>	10.00am Owen Roe O'Neill
Tuesday 21stMay	10.00am Alice Power
Wednesday 22nd May	NO MASS
Thursday 23rd May <i>Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest</i>	10.00am Tony Coady
Friday 24th May	10.00am Arthur Cranny
Saturday 25th May <i>St Bede</i>	NO MASS
Sunday 26th May <i>Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity</i>	10.30am People of The parish 11.45am Baptism - Abel Ernie Proffitt



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Ann Henderson



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

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.

St Joseph's Prayer Centre in Freshfield are running two retreats in June:

Come Apart and Rest awhile - 9th - 16th

Longing for some quiet time with God - 16th - 24th

Please see website for further information –

www.stjosephsprayercentre.com



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 Visits to the academy are welcomed. Deadline for applications is Wednesday 22nd May at noon.



FEAST OF THE WEEK ST BEDE 25th May

St Bede was born about 672 and was a monk in the northeast of England at Sunderland and Jarrow.

He is feted as a beacon in the Dark Ages, a scholar and saint who stands in between the Roman period and the medieval monastic years. He is most renowned for writing his Ecclesiastical History of the English People, although he also wrote other works including studies on how to measure time.

He was venerated throughout Europe as a scholar and a saint, but it was not until 1899 that the Church promoted his feast universally and gave him the title of Doctor of the Church.

In 735, the Venerable Bede died on Ascension Day at Vespers having sung the antiphon addressed to Christ “O Lord, King of glory, Lord of hosts, who today did ascend in triumph above the heavens, leave us not orphans, but send upon us the promise of the Father, the same Spirit of Truth.” Today his remains are to be found in Durham Cathedral where a famous Latin rhyme tells us that the Venerable Bede’s bones are housed within the casket on view: “*Hac sunt in fossa, Bedae venerabilis ossa*”.

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.

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

FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP -

we still have 3 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 or call 949 1199.



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, Sugnal 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 Sugnal 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

Missionaries of Charity May Procession - Saturday 25 May at 2pm

Missionaries of Charity are hosting their annual May Procession. Starting at St Peters Square, it will process via Seel Street, Berry Street, Bold Street, Church Street, Whitechapel and finishing at the Shrine on Queens Square. A special invitation is extended to anybody making their 1st Holy Communion in May 2024. For more information or to help on the day, please contact Jim Ross on 07766 706 766

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