



# Our Lady & The English Martyrs

## Litherland

33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 17th November 2024



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I balance the vigilance I am called to exercise in anticipation of the end of the world with the comfort I take in God's merciful presence?

### **JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE - 8-15 September 2025**

Places are still available for the Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome, San Giovanni & Assisi, Monday 8 September - Monday 15 September 2025. Fr Mark and the Pilgrimage Company have now finalised the last remaining details of the flights:

Monday 8 September

10:15 am depart Manchester on Ryanair

13:55 pm arrive Rome

Monday 15 September

21:30 pm depart Rome on Ryanair

23:30 pm arrive Manchester

The timing of the flights is excellent, as it gives us more time in Rome on our arrival day and a full day before we depart for home. The cost of the flight is between £310 £340, depending on the time of booking. Ryanair will not accept a group booking, so the Pilgrimage Company must book each seat individually, which they have started to do.

If anyone one is interested in booking, you need to take a booking form from the parish office as soon a possible, complete it and bring it back to guarantee the current cost of the flight.



## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The days are growing shorter. The nights are getting longer. For those few who live above the arctic circle, the sun has disappeared for weeks now and won't return until March. The first part of the Gospel resonates loudly for them! As terrifying as some of the images are, as unpleasant as our long nights of winter are, we can take comfort in knowing that God is in charge. The Son of Man will come with his angels and gather those who live in the Lord to be with God. May that give us comfort as the nights continue to grow longer and colder.

The Bible is full of many different genres, from Jewish histories to Jesus' parables, from the poetry of the psalmist to the apocalyptic literature we hear today. As they are in poetry, the words in apocalyptic writings are meant to be understood differently from those of other parts of the Bible. In writing down these terrible images, Daniel and Mark were not trying to describe what would literally happen in the future, but to shake their listeners out of their somnolence. "Watch out!" "Look ahead!" But each includes words of reassurance. Daniel's image of the wise and just fixed like stars in the night sky reminds us of God's promise to Abraham. And Jesus' reference to himself coming in glory on the last day reminds his disciples that he will always be with us, even as he was facing his crucifixion, death, and burial.

We end where we began just about an entire year ago. The Gospel we heard on the first Sunday of Advent, on December 3, 2023, was the passage of Mark that immediately follows today's Gospel. "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come" (Mark 13:33). But remember the context then. Christmas was not even four weeks away. From the time Jesus was born into this world, and even more now that he is risen to new life, he has been with us. So we can face whatever tribulations may happen - in the world, in our lives - for we know that no matter what, Jesus is with us. We have no need to be afraid.

## WEEKDAY MASS

Please note there is no mass on Thursday and Mass on Friday will be at 9.00am. The coach for Chatsworth will then leave at 9.30am after mass

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 17th November</b> <i>Thirty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Luna Robertson</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday 18th November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.00am</b> Joan Morrison</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 19th November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.00am</b> Terry Ryan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday 20th November</b></p>	<p><b>NO MASS</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday 21st November</b> <i>Memorial Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	<p><b>NO MASS</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday 22nd November</b> <i>Memorial of St Cecilia</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9.00am</b> Kathleen Willis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday 23rd November</b></p>	<p><b>NO MASS</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 24th November</b> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10.30am</b> People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.45am</b> Baptism - Penelope Daly</p>

## **WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY 2024**

The 2024 theme for World Youth Sunday in England and Wales is, 'Let Your Kingdom Come' and this will be celebrated next Sunday.

This year's celebration is particularly meaningful as it aligns with the ongoing Year of Prayer, a time of preparation for the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025: 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

The theme 'Let Your Kingdom Come' resonates deeply with the mission of young people in the Catholic Church today. It is a call to action, inviting them to be active participants in building God's Kingdom on earth. It challenges them to reflect on how they can embody Christ's love, justice, and peace in their daily lives and be instruments of God's will in a world that desperately needs hope and renewal.



A retiring collection will be taken after Mass next Sunday to help youth ministry.



**WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY**

**Luna Robertson**

Baptised Sunday 17 November 2024



**JANE WOOD** - many people will remember Jane who was a truly valued member of our parish family. She helped with flowers, little church and First Communions. Sadly Jane passed away recently. Her funeral will take place on Friday 6 December at 10am. Rest in Peace Jane

## **NOVEMBER BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

Envelopes are now available at the back of the church if you wish to include the names of loved ones in this year's Book of Remembrance. Please print the names, add a donation and bring it back to church. The book is now on display



## **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

**The Molloy family**



## MUSIC AT THE MET 2024

During 2024 the Metropolitan Cathedral are celebrating the return of their restored grand organ with a series of concerts and events that will demonstrate the versatility of the instrument.



- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| - Advent Sequence,          | Sun 1st Dec, 17.00  |
| - Bach and Handel,          | Sun 8th Dec 15.00   |
| A Celebration of Christmas, | Sat 14th Dec, 19.00 |
| A Ceremony of Carols        | Sun 15th Dec 15.00  |

For more information, please call 0151 708 7283 or email [music@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@metcathedral.org.uk)

## SOMETHING NEW IN THE PARISH HALL! Thursdays 12.30pm - 1.15pm

Seniors Chair Exercise Class

Benefits of this low-impact seated chair class include:

Reducing the risk of falls, Improving heart and lung health, helping you to do everyday activities with more ease gaining increased flexibility and strength, and relieving stress and tension. It's sociable and good fun to music. Suitable for people with reduced mobility. Cost is £3 per session

Next week (21 Nov) is the last session before Christmas break. Class will return on 2 January 2025



## Celebrating Young People in the Life of the Church:

### A Time of Prayer

To mark Youth Sunday we are hosting a time of prayer, reflection and celebration at Lowe House (North Rd, St Helens, WA10 2BE) at 5pm on the 24th November.

We hope the evening will be an uplifting event at which we can pray for young people and those that work with them, whilst listening to different speakers offer thoughts and reflections on their work with young people. The service will end with a social time.

All are welcome. Please come along to pray for our young people and hear what opportunities we offer young people across the diocese.

## **WHEN YOU PRAY -**

**A clear path to a deeper relationship with God.**

The next evening will take place tomorrow:

Monday 18 November at 7.00pm.

## **ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" NOVEMBER DRAW**

1st	£20	No. 12	M Lovelady
2nd	£15	No. 188	M Harewood
3rd	£10	No. 24	C Lovelady
4th	£10	No. 109	J Wishart



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136 .

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE POOR**

Pope Francis instituted the World Day of the Poor in 2016 so we can prepare for the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King, who identified with the poor and who will judge us on our works of mercy. This Day of Prayer is celebrated this weekend, and it is a day to help communities and each of the baptised reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel and that without this realisation, there can be no justice or social peace. This year, 2024, the Pope's message is headed by **'The prayer of the poor rises up to God'** In this message, the Pope talks about the "new poor" resulting from the violence of war, from "misguided policies involving weapons" which claim many innocent victims.

**PARKING** Following an incident last Monday night, Merseyside Police ask everyone coming to church by car to park responsibly, especially when parking in the avenues opposite the church. Motorists must ensure they leave enough room for cars to pass down the road. This is important for emergency services.

**TOYS, WARM COATS & BLANKETS** The Irenaeus Centre are collecting new and almost new toys to give to people in need. And are asking for donations of warm coats, blankets or sleeping bags. 32 Great Georges Rd, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 1RD Tel: 0151 949 1199

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

### Saturday 30th November 1-4pm Christmas Fayre and entertainment

The **Irish Guards Choir** will be joining us in the Parish Hall to entertain us with some festive tunes. They will perform twice during the afternoon so come and join in the 'sing-a-long'.

We are also making that a Christmas Fayre with stalls, tombolas, lucky dips etc etc. We still need some donations to make that a success so please 'dig deep' and pass items in to the office.



Charge for entry is £3 which will include refreshments. We need people to come to make this an enjoyable afternoon

### Tuesday 10th December 7pm Christmas Bingo and Raffle

It wouldn't be Christmas without our Bingo! Always popular and good fun. Tickets for Bingo and raffle now on sale

**We look forward to your support. It is always lovely to spend some time together as a Parish. Especially at such a special time of year. So please come along!**

## CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life-changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at [worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk) or pick up a catalogue in church.





## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

### For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

*Lord in your mercy...*



## NEW MISSALS

Two new missals will be on sale to coincide with the introduction of the new Lectionary.

### **The Parish Mass Book. £7**

Completely updated and re-set according to the new Lectionary. 6 volumes for the complete set, each volume used every 6 months. This will be used free of charge in church. Sunday readings and the Order of Mass included.

### **Sunday Missal. £18.99**

The official New ESV Lectionary Readings for every Sunday in Years A, B & C and Order of Mass

The Sunday Missal provides the Order of Mass, along with the full text of each Sunday's scripture readings for the 3-year liturgical cycle.

Short introductions to every Mass help you prepare for Mass.

Extended reflections to each season of the church year.

A choice of elegant bindings, complete with four marker ribbons to match the colours of the liturgical seasons.

-- Stations of the Cross (for Lent) and Stations of the Resurrection (for Easter)

-- An introduction to praying the Rosary

-- A Pentecost Novena (nine days of prayer to the Holy Spirit)

-- A simple Morning and Night Prayer to memorise

-- A guide to Confession and an examination of conscience

-- Traditional prayers to Our Lady

-- An introduction to the Sacraments

-- And much more!

The Parish Mass Book is now available in the parish shop. The Sunday Missal will be available in the coming days.

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### St Cecilia

Devotion to St Cecilia, in whose honour a basilica was constructed in Rome in the fifth century, has spread far and wide because of the Passion of Saint Cecilia, which holds her up as a perfect example of a Christian woman, who embraced virginity and suffered martyrdom for the love of Christ.



As with early Martyrs, nothing much is known about Cecilia except her existence and her name; with the additional complication that so many stories have grown up round her that any remaining historical facts are obscured. No-one knows quite why she should suddenly have become popular in the middle of the sixth century, some 200 years after her death, and her association with music is also a mystery. It may be real, or it may come from the description in the Passion of Cecilia singing to God “in her heart” while the musicians were playing on her wedding day, or it may come from a linguistic confusion: where the Passion describes her being stifled to death *candentibus organis*, “with the pipes glowing red-hot,” this could have been misread as *cantantibus organis*, “with the organ playing.”

### **NSPCC Carols By Candlelight - Tuesday 3 December 7-8.30pm**

The NSPCC Carols By Candlelight will return once more to the beautiful surroundings of Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral, to celebrate the festive season on Tuesday 3rd December. The event is kindly sponsored by Home Bargains and has an array of fantastic performers from across Merseyside, including the talented PopVox, Cantemus At Calday, Wirral Schools' Concert Band and the Merchant Taylors' School Choir. Cost is £12 for adults, children go free. Book via [liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/events](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/events)

"We want to answer every call to our Childline service here in Liverpool and reach every child who needs us. We're constantly inspired by the courage and resilience of our children and young people in Merseyside and across the UK.

By joining us for Carols By Candlelight in Liverpool on 3rd December you can help us be here for more children this Christmas and beyond."

## **OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE**

In early September 2024, when parliament returned and a Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – started its passage through the House of Lords, our Lead Bishop for Life Issues, Bishop John Sherrington, called for Catholics to unite in prayer and compassionate action.

### **Act Now! Contact Peter Dowd MP**

The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to input your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.

[www.righttolife.org.uk](http://www.righttolife.org.uk) **There are also some postcards available at the back of Church. Just enter your details and pop it in the post. The vote is at the end of this month so act now!**

### **Pray**

We are a praying Christian community and, as Bishop Sherrington says, the legalisation of assisted suicide undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. “The Catholic Church accompanies those suffering and nearing the end of their lives with hope and affection, but also reminds them that their life is precious until the very last breath,” he says. “In preparation for these challenging debates, let us offer our prayers for those facing the end of their lives, that they may receive the care and support they need to live their final days with respect for their dignity.

“Let us also pray for our politicians and our country that wisdom and compassion may guide their decisions. I also urge all Catholics to become better informed about the serious problems associated with the legalisation of assisted suicide.

Cardinal Nichols’ Pastoral Letter can be found at the back of the church. It is also on the Parish website. More information can be found on the Bishops’ Conference website: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

## **PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS MEAL - 3 December at 12.45pm**

The pensioners club would like to invite you to their Christmas meal in the Parish Hall on 3 December. Cost is £25 per head. Names and payment to the office or pop in and speak to pensioners on Tuesday afternoon from 1pm

CHRISTMAS FAYRE &  
IRISH GUARDS CHOIR

*Come and join us on  
Saturday 30th  
November 1-4pm*



*For some lovely festive  
entertainment and stalls galore!*

*Entrance £3 - tickets at back of  
Church*

