

ELLESMERE PORT & HOOTON

Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Bernard | St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels



This Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations and we are called particularly to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood. Priests are needed by all of us - even priests need priests! I cannot absolve myself of my sins nor can I anoint myself when I might be suddenly or gravely ill. I did not baptise myself nor did I give myself my first Holy Communion or Confirmation! I need a priest as we all need a priest. Today, then, might be a moment to thank God for all the priests that we have had in our lives as Catholics: the priest who baptised us, the priest who absolved us in our first Confession, gave us our first Holy Communion. The priest who perhaps blessed our wedding, who buried our parents, the priest who gave the Last Sacraments to our husband or wife. We are in real need of priests, and priests come from families and from parishes like your family and our parish. Please pray that God will give us what would be a little miracle: that one of the boys or young men of our parish might consider becoming a priest. Please say a prayer for that intention now, as you read this week's Parish Newsletter. Thank you. God bless us all in the week ahead.

Father Edmund

Online Donations to the Parish

To making giving easier, please consider donating online via the Parish Website www.rcchep.co.uk or via the QR code printed here. Thank you for your generosity.



1HC COURSE

The second session of the preparation for Holy Communion for children at non-Catholic schools is Monday at 6.30pm



CONFESSIONS

Please pray for children from three of our four Primary Schools who make their first Confession on Tuesday



ST GEORGE

Say a prayer for England as we mark the feast of our patron saint, George



Update: Deacon Tony and Sandra Nuttall

Deacon Tony writes: *Thank you so much for all the supportive messages and prayers that myself, Sandra and our family have received since my stroke, it certainly has been a humbling experience. I was fortunate that it was only my speech that was affected, which thankfully has fully returned. A little rest prescribed, medication for life now, a few appointments and family watching over me.*

My recovery is progressing really well, daily walks undertaken and plenty of time for reflective ministry, and of course, all of you and your families are in my prayers. God willing you will see me over the next couple of weeks as I integrate back into parish and hospital ministry. God bless you all.

First Confessions

This Tuesday evening, three of our four Catholic Primary Schools will present children to make their first Confession.

Hearing the confessions of children is always a privilege and a moment of grace for them and their families: they learn that being sorry and asking forgiveness is important, they learn that anything can be forgiven if we are truly sorry and strive, through God's grace, not to sin in that way again. They learn that our actions can have negative consequences for those around us and that in asking forgiveness we must try to put right that which we have done wrong.

One can appreciate what a significant time this is for the children in that they are now regarded as being able to make moral choices and to take responsibility for their actions both in their lives with others and in their life with God. Please pray for them. And, if it has been sometime since your last confession, let the example of the children encourage you to return to this beautiful Sacrament yourself.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

Thank you to all those who have booked so far for the pilgrimage to Rome 2-5 September. 24 pilgrims so far - we can have as many as 30, so if any parishioners are considering Rome, please do be in touch.

FEAST OF SAINT MARK THIS FRIDAY

This Friday is the feast of St Mark, one of the four Evangelists and author of the Gospel that bears his name. Tradition tells us that St Peter dictated this Gospel to St Mark whilst they were in Rome, and it was written in a time of intense persecution, committing the memory of the Apostles to parchment when it looked as if the first generation of Catholics might be wiped out. If you have never read a Gospel cover-to-cover, I would encourage you to read St Mark's Gospel. It is only sixteen chapters long and is the shortest of all of the four Gospels. Perhaps 'Mark' St Mark's day by reading his Gospel and rediscovering Jesus' life.



Congratulations, Mr and Mrs Britten!

Congratulations to Sue and Steve who were married at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church at 3pm yesterday (Saturday) afternoon. Please pray for them. My thanks especially to all those who have helped get Sue and Steve to their special day, remembering with gratitude Pauline, Margaret, and all who helped. Congratulations, Sue and Steve.

Holy Communion: Non-Catholic Schools

The programme continues tomorrow, Monday 22 April, and takes place at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church as follows:

Preparation Session 2

Monday 22 April

Preparation Session 3

Monday 29 April

Preparation Session 4

Monday 13 May

First Confession

Saturday 18 May 2024 at 10.30am

First Holy Communion

Saturday 25 May 2024 at 10.30am

Let's ask God to bless the children and their families preparing to receive these Sacraments for the first time in May.

Safeguarding: Photos and Videos at Mass

In the efforts of good safeguarding practice please refrain from taking photos of the children during the Mass. If any parents/carers wish to take a photo of their child with work from Children's Liturgy you are more than welcome to stay behind after the Mass and take a picture of your own child/ren.

Vigil Mass Refreshments: A Break

There will be no tea and coffee after 5pm Mass 20 April 2024 and 27 April 2024.

Missio

Noreen Darwent writes: *In 2023 our parishes in Ellesmere Port raised the magnificent sum of £3,250.23 through our Red boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill missionaries. Our missionary community here in Ellesmere Port is a part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Thank you all very much.*

Netflix Series: Moses

Parishioners may be interested to know, if you subscribe to Netflix, that there is an interesting documentary about the life of Moses now available to stream on this service. Moses is perhaps the most significant figure of the Old Testament and a forerunner of Christ.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for: Margaret Kenny, Winnie Harty, Deacon Tony Nuttall, Mary Howard, Antoinette Denney, Francis Ellis, Babies Avery and Vincent White, Angela Oldroyd, Christine Fernandes, Christine Brown, Kath Leahey, Jim Shepherd, Baby Isaac, Joanne, Michael, Sophie, Elliott, David, Karen Seymour, Mavis O'Donnell, Baby Alana, Chris Laycock, Honora Ellis, Marie, Sheila, and Pat Doyle.

Please pray for the repose the souls of: Marie Dunne, Patrick Grant, Ethel Doyle, James Hunter, and Georgina Walker.



PARISH HOLY MASS & LITURGY

Monthly devotion | April is dedicated to God the Holy Spirit

Sunday 21 April Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm Bryan Armstrong RIP 3rd Anniversary -----
	Our Lady	5pm	
	St Mary	9am	John Cubbins RIP Anniversary
	Our Lady	11am	Liam Sixsmith RIP
	St Saviour	11.30am	Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite
	Our Lady	12.45pm	Baptism: Katherine Helen Patrick
	Our Lady	1.30pm	Baptism: Phoebe Willow Hampson
Monday 22 April Eastertide	Our Lady	2.15pm	Baptism: Elsie Ruth Jones
		12.15pm	James and Kathleen Brennan RIP
Tuesday 23 April St George	Our Lady	12.15pm	Giuseppe and Elisa Contini
	Our Lady	6pm	First Confessions
Wednesday 24 April Eastertide	Our Lady	12.15pm	Michael Murphy
	Chester	2.40pm	Funeral: Georgina Walker RIP
	St Saviour	6.15pm	Novena
Thursday 25 April St Mark	Our Lady	12.15pm	John Joseph Lee RIP and John Anthony Lee RIP
Friday 26 April Eastertide	Our Lady	1pm	Funeral: Ethel Doyle RIP
Saturday 27 April Eastertide	Our Lady	11am	Confessions available until 12noon
Sunday 28 April Fifth Sunday of Easter	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm Parishioners -----
	Our Lady	5pm	
	St Mary	9am	Pauline Galvin RIP Birthday Remembrance
	Our Lady	11am	Kath and Eddie Lambe RIP
	St Saviour	11.30am	Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite
	Our Lady	1.30pm	Baptism: Maisie Ellis

Parish Priest:

Fr Edmund Montgomery

Parish Deacon:

Rev Tony Nuttall

Parish Deacon Emeritus:

Rev Paul Sutton

Parish Secretary:

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(Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Bernard)

(St Saviour and St Mary of the Angels)

The Parish Office is staffed Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9am-4pm.

The 'phone and answer machine is monitored outside these times for sick calls and emergencies.