

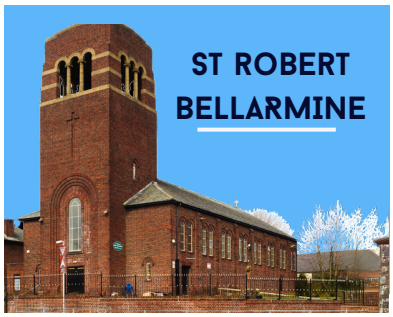
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



This week I am writing my weekly reflection from the Holy Land, sitting on a rooftop overlooking Bethlehem, where I am staying at the Latin Patriarchate Seminary to attend the ordination of three new priests. There is something profoundly moving about being here, just ten minutes from where Jesus was born. It is also a place that constantly reminds us that, even in the midst of suffering, God continues to call people to follow him.

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus says: "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Those words have echoed in my heart throughout this week. They are an invitation to trust that the Lord is always faithful, even when the road ahead is uncertain.

One of the joys of my visit has been meeting the fifteen boys who have entered the Minor Seminary, the first such group here for six years. Aged between 13 and 18, they are beginning to ask whether God might be calling them to the priesthood. Watching them has taken me back 44 years to my own days in the Minor Seminary, when I too first began to hear that quiet call of the Lord.

It has also been a reflective week for another reason. Next week, I will celebrate the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Looking back, I could never have imagined where that first "yes" would lead me. It has been a journey filled with unexpected blessings, challenges, wonderful people and countless reminders of God's faithfulness.

This week I will also bring Salameh, one of the seminarians, back to spend some time with us in the parish.I know you will make him feel very welcome. Please keep the newly ordained priests, these young seminarians, and all those discerning their vocation in your prayers. And perhaps this Gospel invites each of us to ask once again: where is Jesus calling me to place my trust, and how might I respond with a generous heart?

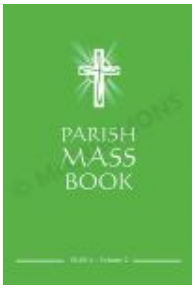
Fr Mark

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 July 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 99 of the Parish Mass Book

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO MASSES THIS WEEK

There is a funeral Mass on Tuesday at 10am in St Robert's for Joseph Ruddock. May he Rest in Peace

On Wednesday at 12 noon there is a Mass in English Martyrs to welcome home Fr Mark and Salameh. our visiting seminarian. Please make every effort to come along and say 'hello' to him

There is no Parish Mass on Thursday but Parishioners are invited to Our Lady Queen of Peace Church at 10am to celebrate the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle and to have some refreshments in the hall afterwards. The hospitality of the Syro Malabar congregation is amazing. Please try and join them for their lovely celebration.

Mass on Friday will be at 9am in English Martyrs before we set off for our trip to Llangollen

Mass next Sunday at St Robert's will be at 11.15am as our welcome for Salameh Archbishop John will celebrate the Mass. Please come along

Where is Jesus calling me to place my trust, and how might I respond with a generous heart?

WELCOME HOME AND 'THANK YOU'



This week we welcome Fr Mark home from his travels to the Holy Land. A very busy but successful and rewarding trip. He will also bring with him, Salameh, our visiting seminarian from Bethlehem.

Please make sure you come along at some point over the next few weeks to make him welcome.



We also need to say a huge 'Thank you' to Fr Stephen who has again been an amazing help while Fr Mark has been away. We really are blessed to have him as part of our Parish family. He will be back again when Fr Mark goes on his well earned holiday in August but for now he will return to Mill Hill to his 'day job'! Thank you Fr Stephen!

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY



For respect for human life
Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Lord in your mercy…

SAFEGUARDING

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services. Or you can contact our safeguarding team direct- Ring Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 or Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237, or email - safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

SALAMEH AZAR



Fr Mark was delighted to receive some good news that, after a period of uncertainty, Salameh Azar, a seminarian from the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Bethlehem, has been granted a visa to visit us in July.

Salameh is 26 years old and comes from the town of Beit Jala, situated just outside Bethlehem. He is currently studying for the priesthood for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and is looking forward to spending some time with us here in the parish.

Fr Mark and Salameh will arrive home on 7 July, and Salameh will remain with us until the final week of July. During his visit, he hopes to experience the life of the Church outside the Holy Land, improve his English, and enjoy a period of rest and relaxation before continuing his formation for the priesthood.

God willing, Salameh will be ordained to the Diaconate shortly before Christmas as he enters the final stages of preparation for his priestly ordination, hopefully in the Summer of 2027. We are privileged to accompany him for a small part of that journey and to support him with our friendship and prayers.

His visit is also a reminder of some of the realities faced by Palestinians in the Holy Land. Although Salameh lives less than an hour from Tel Aviv Airport, he is not permitted to travel through it. Instead, he and Fr Mark will have to travel into Jordan and fly from Amman, adding an extra day or two to their journey. It is one of the many practical difficulties that affect everyday life for Palestinians.

Over the ten years that Fr Mark has served in Litherland, the parish has welcomed many seminarians and priests from the Holy Land. Many parishioners will remember meeting them, sharing stories with them, and supporting them with prayers and friendship. Salameh will be the last seminarian to visit the parish before Fr Mark moves to St Paul's, West Derby, in September, making this visit particularly special.

The Christian community in the Holy Land faces many challenges, and opportunities such as this are both valuable and encouraging for seminarians preparing for ministry. We hope that Salameh will feel at home among us and will take away happy memories of his time in Liverpool.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Salameh when he arrives. Keep him in your prayers as he continues his journey towards ordination, and please make him feel very much part of our parish family during his stay.

Where is Jesus calling me to place my trust, and how might I respond with a generous heart?

MASS OF WELCOME

On Sunday 12 July at 11.15 am in St Robert Bellarmine, we will celebrate a very special Mass to formally welcome Salameh Azar to Liverpool

We are delighted that our new Archbishop, John Sherrington, has kindly agreed to celebrate the Mass. This will be Archbishop John's first visit to our parish, making the occasion even more significant. Archbishop Malcolm has also been invited.

Adding to the celebration, a number of Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem will be present in their robes and insignia. The Order supports the Church in the Holy Land through prayer and practical assistance, and their presence makes it a colourful occasion.

This Mass will be an opportunity not only to welcome Salameh but also to express our solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land and to pray for peace in the land where Our Lord lived, died and rose again.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. We would be delighted to see a large congregation present for this special occasion. Please make every effort to join us and help give Salameh a warm Liverpool welcome.

FR MARK ANNIVERSARY

On Monday 13th July Fr Mark reaches an amazing milestone in his priestly life. On that day he will celebrate 30 years since his ordination. The Parish Mass on that day will be at 10am in English Martyrs school and will be for those children in Year 6 who will be leaving us for High School in September. Parishioners are invited to attend. The Mass will be held in the new Prayer Garden (weather permitting!) to enable Fr Mark to bless the lovely new worshipful place in school.

St Robert's leavers mass is on the same day at 1.30pm and is for the Year 6 children and parents.

Ad Multos Annos Fr Mark!



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Fr Mark has been invited by our Syro-Malabar brothers and sisters to celebrate Mass in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on Thursday 9 July, 10:00, as part of their annual celebration for the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle, the Founder of the Christian Church in India. Fr Mark has invited Yr6 from Our Lady Queen of Peace School to participate in their Leavers' Mass. Following Mass, refreshments will be served in the hall. Please make every effort to come along.

ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN LOURDES MASS

The annual archdiocesan Lourdes Mass will take place on Sunday 19 July at 3pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

All are welcome - whether you are travelling on this year's pilgrimage, have joined us in previous years, or are simply a supporter of the pilgrimage.
Archbishop John Sherrington will be the celebrant.

FLAME

The archdiocese is organising a trip to FLAME - the largest Catholic youth event in the country where 10,000 young people gather together at Wembley Arena to listen to speakers, pray and praise.
It is open to young people in Year 9 and above. If you're interested in bringing a group of young people, please contact Sarah McGeehan on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048.
Please note: young people must be accompanied by a teacher, youth leader or chaplain.
More information: https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/

WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS
PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF OUR TIME
Scripture sharing with strawberries and cream.
Tuesdays 7pm, 7, 14 July 2026 at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. zoom link available
centreirenaeus@gmail.com

The Irenaeus Project
the glory of God is a person fully alive

AGAPE MASS
7pm Thursdays 6th August '26

Where is Jesus calling me to place my trust, and how might I respond with a generous heart?

Mass on Friday will be at 9.00am in English Martyrs.

The coach for our day trip to Llangollen will then leave after Mass at 9.30am

EISTEDDFOD GERDDOROL RYNGWLADOL
LLANGOLLEN
INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

The July Catholic Pic is now available at the back of both Churches. The lead article is the 50 year Anniversary celebration of Liverpool Youth Lourdes Pilgrimages.

Make sure yopu pick up a copy!



BBC SONGS OF PRAISE SPECIAL – YOUNG CHORISTER OF THE YEAR – 8th - 9th JULY

The BBC have invited parishes, churches and choirs in the Archdiocese of Liverpool to come along to the filming of Young Chorister of the Year at the iconic Hallé St Peter's in Manchester.
WHEN:
· Wednesday 8th July 2026 - Junior Semi-Final (doors open 10:30am)
· Wednesday 8th July 2026 - Senior Semi-Final (doors open 4:00pm)
· Thursday 9th July 2026 - Grand Final (doors open 11:30am)

Book your FREE tickets here: lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1436

RETREAT DAY – FRANCIS: A SAINT FOR TODAY? - SATURDAY 1st AUGUST

with Hazel Bradley of the L'Arche Community - 9.30am for a 10am start, finishing 4pm. At St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Freshfield, Formby, L37 1PH. Sign up here: https://forms.office.com/e/r1T8RkZshD

Where is Jesus calling me to place my trust, and how might I respond with a generous heart?

SUMMER FAITH CHALLENGE

Most of us know that physical fitness requires regular exercise. The same is true of our spiritual lives. Faith grows stronger when it is nourished by prayer, Scripture and acts of charity. A few minutes each day can make a real difference.
Over this Ordinary Time of the Church year, why not choose one simple spiritual habit and practise it each day?

Read a few verses of the Gospel.
Spend five minutes in prayer before bed.
Visit church for a few moments of quiet prayer.
Pray a decade of the Rosary.
Thank God each day for one blessing you have received.
Reach out to someone who may be lonely or in need.

Small acts of faith, practised faithfully, can make a big difference. Which one will you choose this summer?

VOLUNTEER YOUR TEACHING TALENT

Are you a retired or part time qualified teacher? You could be part of the Cathedral's Education Service team! Come and help hundreds of school children and young people learn about this wonderful Cathedral.
Contact education@metcathedral.org.uk for more information.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PENSIONERS CLUB

The pensioners invite you to join them for a meal and entertainment on Tuesday 14th July in the Parish Hall. Cost is £25 which is 3 course roast dinner plus tea/coffee and mints. If you are interested just bob into the parish hall on any Tuesday afternoon to sign up.
The group are also looking for new members. It is a lovely few hours each Tuesday afternoon with bingo, refreshments and some wonderful company. If you are interested just call into the hall any Tuesday to have a chat with the group

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION

There are a number of ways in which you can respond to the two current proposals from the Strategic Planning Group:
• Complete the online response form using the QR code or web address provided in the consultation leaflet, available at the back of church.
• Write your comments on a sheet of paper and place them in the consultation box at the back of church.
• Leave a Post-it note with your comments on the consultation poster.

This period of consultation will end in mid September.

CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

On Wednesday 24 June, two catastrophic earthquakes struck near Caracas in Venezuela within seconds of each other. Buildings collapsed in minutes, leaving widespread destruction across the country.

Thanks to our supporters, we have allocated £100,000 to our trusted Church partners in Venezuela to help provide emergency water, food and hygiene kits to people affected by the earthquakes.

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives.

Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code.

Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.

Crafting the Word of the Lord

An exhibition of knitted Bible scenes created by Francesca Vause will be on display at Our Lady & All Saints Church, Parbold, WN8 7HS, from Monday 7 to Friday 11 September.
The exhibition is free to visit and all are welcome.
Opening times



Monday: 11.00am - 3.00pm
Tuesday: 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday: 11.00am - 3.00pm
Thursday: 11.30am - 4.00pm
Friday: 11.00am - 3.00pm

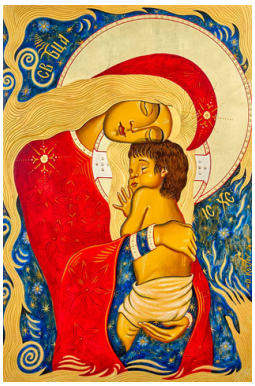
Free entry and parking on site.

Enquiries: parbold@hotmail.com

WeBelieve Festival– 24 - 27 July, St Mary's College, Oscott

WeBelieve festival brings thousands together to encounter Jesus Christ in His Church. it's an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to grow in authentic community, and to encounter the transforming love of God.
Tickets: https://www.webelievefestival.com/tickets

A MOTHER'S WARMTH: ICON EXHIBITION AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL 30 JUNE – 30 AUGUST



The Metropolitan Cathedral will be hosting Mother's Warmth, an exhibition by Bulgarian artist and iconographer ian Kostov. Through contemporary artwork inspired by the image of the Virgin Mary as Mother, the exhibition considers how compassion and care for one another can bring hope and healing in a divided world.
Admission free.

ST BENET'S CHAPEL

If you are interested in helping to conserve and celebrate the gift of St Benet's in Netherton, an initial meeting will take place on: Monday 13th July at 4.00pm in the Chapel.

We will be joined by representatives of the Archdiocese, who will explain the conditions attached to the return of the chapel by the Historic Chapels Trust. These conditions form part of the Deed of Covenant which must be honoured.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to look around the chapel and begin discussing an initial vision for its future, including both restoration work and the long-term sustainability of St Benet's as an historic Catholic building serving the local community.

All are welcome. St Benet's Chapel, Chapel Lane, Netherton

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UK

Are you a doctor, nurse, healthcare student, or allied health professional? The Catholic Medical Association UK invites Catholics working in healthcare to join a growing community of fellowship, prayer and formation.

The Association supports healthcare professionals in living out their faith and vocation, while providing opportunities to connect with others working in the medical and healthcare professions.

Find out more about membership and upcoming events at catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk

Due to the growing need to support Catholic patients at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and Broadgreen Hospital, the Chaplaincy Management invites kind and caring individuals to join the Catholic hospital volunteer team.

This apostolate involves listening, praying, bringing Holy Communion to patients, and offering a comforting Catholic presence.

To get started: Contact the Catholic Chaplaincy at the Royal Hospital via the Chaplaincy Office on 0151 706 2828 or email the Lead Chaplain at faustinus.ugwuanyi@rlbuht.nhs.uk.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 July 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 5th July **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Maureen Mullarkey **James and Doreen Hunt**	**11.00am** Tommy Kelly **Family and friends of the Jones/Breen family**
Monday 6th July	**10.00am** Veronica Curphy	
Tuesday 7th July		**10.00am** Funeral Mass Joseph Ruddock
Wednesday 8th July	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 9th July		**NO MASS**
Friday 10th July	**9.00am** Terry O'Connor	
Saturday 11th July	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 12th July	**9.30am** Margaret Willcox	**11.15am** People of the Parish and Mass of Welcome

English Martyrs Office 0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
School Lane, Litherland,L21 7LX Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm
St Robert Bellarmine Office 0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 6DZ Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

Where is Jesus calling me to place my trust, and how might I respond with a generous heart?