Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 28 June 2026



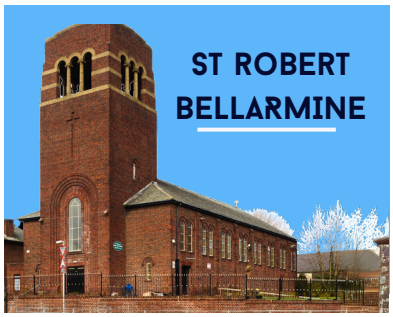
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

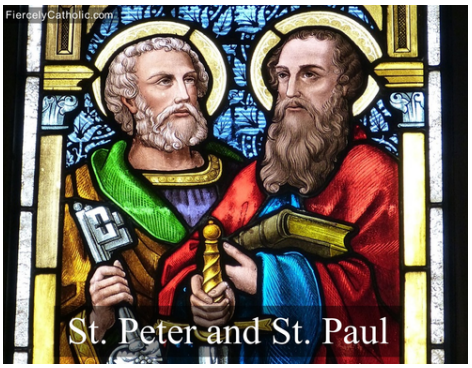




PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA





This weekend, we keep the memory of two pillars of our faith, the apostles Peter and Paul, two very different men whom God used in extraordinary ways.

Peter was a fisherman from Galilee. Impulsive, generous, and sometimes fearful, he is remembered for his great profession of faith: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Yet he is also remembered for denying Jesus during the Passion. Despite his weaknesses, Christ chose Peter to be the rock on which the Church would be built.

Paul, by contrast, was a learned Pharisee who initially persecuted Christians. His dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus transformed him into the Church’s greatest missionary. Through his preaching, letters, and tireless travels, he helped bring the Gospel to the wider world.
Together, Peter and Paul remind us that holiness is not about perfection but about allowing God to work through us. Peter teaches us that our failures do not have the final word. Paul shows us that no one is beyond the reach of God’s grace.

Both Apostles eventually gave their lives for Christ in Rome, bearing witness to the faith they had preached. Their courage, faithfulness, and love continue to inspire Christians throughout the world.

As we celebrate their feast, let us pray for the Church, for Pope Leo, the successor of Peter, and for the courage to share our faith with confidence and joy in our own time.

Fr Mark

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 28 June 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



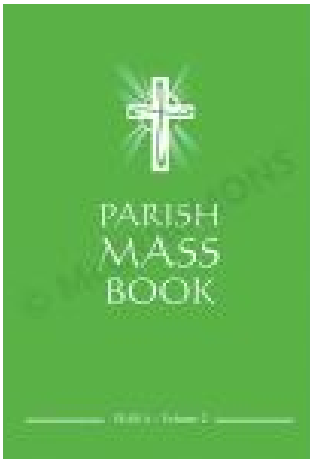
Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons

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...



SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 170 of the New Parish Mass Book

SERVICES THIS WEEK

On Friday we have two funerals:
Mass at 11.45 at St Robert's for Ann Bolton
Service at English Martyrs at 10.30am for Joan Gibb
May they both Rest in Peace

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

RETIRING COLLECTION - PETER'S PENCE

A collection will be taken after Masses this weekend, the annual Peter's Pence. Peter's Pence is an annual collection that supports the Pope's charitable works and his mission worldwide. It helps fund aid to those suffering from war, oppression and natural disasters. The collection is the Church's gift to the Holy Father as we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.

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

WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS

PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF OUR TIME

Scripture sharing with strawberries and cream. Tuesdays 7pm, 30 June, 7, 14 July 2026 at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. zoom link available centreirenaeus@gmail.com

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY AT IRENAEUS

Mass and BBQ at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD, 3pm 28 June 2026. For more information contact centreirenaeus@gmail.com

AGAPE MASS
7pm Thursdays 2nd July & 6th August '26

COME AND SEE

Saturday 4th July '26 10.30am - 4.00pm '
Lord Teach us to Pray'
Keynote speaker Archie Cameron. Suggested donation £10. Bring a packed lunch

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.

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

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 AWAY

Fr Mark is in Jordan today to attend the ordination of two new priests for the Holy Land. Today he crosses the Israeli border and will stay at the Latin Patriarchal seminary in Beit Jala, near to Bethlehem, to attend a third ordination in Ramallah later this week.



As a Canon of Jerusalem, he has the privilege of celebrating Mass in the Empty Tomb within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the holiest place in Christendom.
As he begins his last few weeks in the parish, he will offer Mass in the Tomb for you all, in thanksgiving for his ten years in Litherland/Bootle.

Fr Mark and Salameh will return to Liverpool on 7 July.
A huge thank you to Fr Stephen for looking after us.

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

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.

CATHEDRAL FRIENDS EVENT – Saturday 4 July

You are warmly invited to an exclusive guided tour of the Lutyens Crypt – a hidden architectural gem rich in atmosphere and heritage. Discover the vast, awe-inspiring underground space, hear its fascinating story, and experience a side of the Cathedral few ever see.

Following the tour, indulge in a delightful afternoon tea featuring delicate sandwiches and hand-crafted, artisan cakes.

Tickets are only £35. Email friends@metcathedral.org.uk for yours early to avoid disappointment.

L8 INTERFAITH WALK – THURSDAY 2nd JULY

St Philip Neri Church, together with other places of worship, are organising a community walk to learn about faiths and explore our places of worship in L8. Starting with a tour of St Philip Neri at 5pm, the walk will take you to the Greek Orthodox Church of St Nicholas, Princes Road Synagogue, Al Rahma Mosque, before finishing with a meal at the World Faith Café at 8:15pm.
(Please note the dress code at the mosque is modest clothing covering arms and legs, and women are invited to wear a headscarf. All will be required to take shoes off before entering the prayer areas.)



How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 10th JULY -
LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE!!!

There are still a couple of place available for our trip - this is your last chance to 'sign up' to join us.

Can those people who have paid their deposit now please pay the balance. Cost for transport and ticket is £41 and you pay for your meal on the day

We also now need your pre-orders for food. Please collect a menu if you haven't already taken a copy. Pre order needs to be submitted on 29th June so please let us know as soon as possible

Thank you!

Looking forward to our lovely parish outing.

EISTEDDFOD GERDDOROL RYNGWLADOL
LLANGOLLEN
INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

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

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

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.

DAY FOR CATECHISTS 4 JULY 2026

Are you a catechist looking for spiritual refreshment? No matter what kind of catechesis ministry you are involving (e.g., baptism, first holy communion, confirmation, children liturgy, RCIA or mar-riage preparation), there is a good opportunity for you to refresh your vocation of being a catechist. On Saturday 4 July, the Annual Day for Catechists will be taking place at St Joseph's Prayer Centre at Formby. Led by Fr Luke Dominic Onwe, there will be spiritual input and practical discussion on the day.

Please book here https://forms.office.com/e/zibHn7RDY7?origin=lprLink For en-quiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Lay Board Members wanted for Archdiocesan Parish Centre Management Company (APCMC)

For the first time, APCMC is seeking to appoint two new lay board members to bring professional expertise and fresh perspectives to the management of our parish centres.
APCMC will host two events at our parish centres to give potential candidates an insight into our work. Please email Jade Williams on j.williams@rcaol.org.uk by Friday 19 June with details of your experience and why you should be considered for the role.

FEAST OF THE WEEK
St Pier Giorgio Frassati



On Saturday the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, one of the most inspiring young saints of modern times. Born in Turin, Italy, in 1901, Pier Giorgio came from a wealthy family but chose to dedicate his life to serving the poor, the sick, and those on the margins of society.

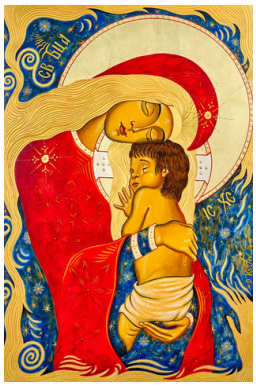
What makes him so appealing is that he lived an ordinary life. He loved sport, mountain climbing, friendship, laughter, and spending time with others. Yet at the centre of everything was his deep love for Jesus in the Eucharist and his commitment to prayer. His faith was not something he kept private; it shaped the way he lived every day.

When he died at the age of just 24, thousands of poor people whom his family had never met came to his funeral. Only then did many realise the extent of his quiet generosity and service.

Canonised by Pope Leo in 2025, Saint Pier Giorgio reminds us that holiness is not reserved for a few extraordinary people. It is found in ordinary lives lived with extraordinary love. He shows us that faith can be joyful, adventurous, and deeply committed to serving others.

His motto was Verso l'Alto – "To the Heights." May his example encourage us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and always strive for the heights of holiness.

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.

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

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.

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 28 June 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 28th June **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Barr & Lewis families **Anne Howells**	**11.00am** Patrick Coughlin **Lisa Dilworth**
Monday 29th June	**10.00am** Megan Hilton	
Tuesday 30th June		**10.00am** Killian Deignan
Wednesday 1st July	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 2nd July	**10.00am** Frances McDonagh	
Friday 3rd July	**10.30am** Funeral service Joan Gibb	**11.45am** Funeral Mass Ann Bolton
Saturday 4th July	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 5th July	**9.30am** Maureen Mullarkey	**11.00am** Tommy Kelly

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

How is God calling me to witness to my faith more boldly this week?