

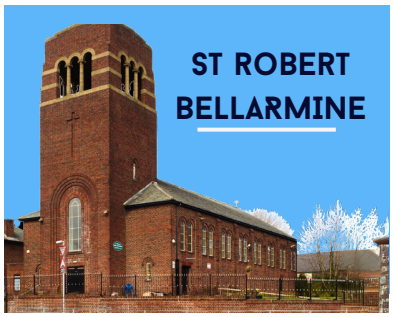
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



Tomorrow the Church celebrates the feast of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, two remarkable men who gave their lives for Christ and the truth of the Gospel. Their witness holds a special place in the history of our parish.



When English Martyrs Church was being built, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More had recently been canonised by Pope Pius XI in 1935. Their canonisation renewed interest in the courage and sacrifice of those who remained faithful to the Catholic faith during the Reformation. It was in that context that the new church was dedicated to the English Martyrs, honouring all those who suffered and died for their faith in England and Wales.

John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, and Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England, were very different men. One was a bishop, the other a husband, father and statesman. Yet both shared a deep love for Christ and an unwavering commitment to conscience. They refused to compromise their faith, even when it cost them their freedom and ultimately their lives.

Their example remains important for us today. We may not face the same dramatic choices, but we are still called to live our faith with courage and integrity. In a world where it can be tempting to follow the crowd, Fisher and More remind us that holiness often means standing firm in what is right, speaking the truth with charity, and placing God first in our lives.

As a parish, may we continue to draw inspiration from their witness, asking their prayers that we may be faithful disciples of Christ in our own generation.

Fr Mark

What does being faithful to God mean in my daily life?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons

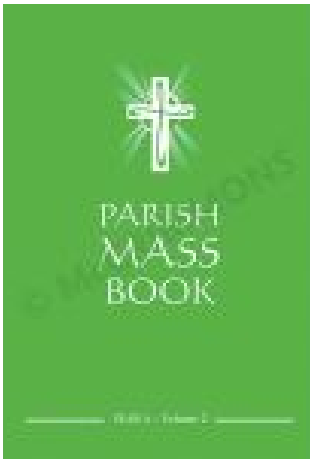
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE



For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Lord in your mercy...



TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 93 of the New Parish Mass Book

SERVICES THIS WEEK

On Wednesday 24th we have a funeral service at 12 noon at St Robert's for Nathan Ellis Swanson. May he Rest in Peace

What does being faithful to God mean in my daily life?

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

PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF OUR TIME

Scripture sharing with strawberries and cream. Tuesdays 7pm, 23, 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

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

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

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.

What does being faithful to God mean in my daily life?

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 will now be away from the parish for a number of important Church commitments both in England and the Holy Land.

He will begin by travelling to London to attend meetings of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the International Affairs Department. From there, he will travel to Arundel Cathedral for the annual Investiture weekend of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, where he serves as the National Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies and Spiritual Director. This year's Investiture will be a particularly special occasion for our parish, as one of our parishioners, Shaun Lavery, will be invested as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. We offer Shaun our congratulations and assure him of our prayers as he begins this new chapter of service to the Church.

After a brief return home for a couple of days, Fr Mark will then fly to Jordan to attend two ordinations before travelling on to Bethlehem for a further ordination. These visits form part of his ongoing work and support for the Church in the Holy Land.
Fr Mark and Salameh will return to Liverpool on 7 July. A huge thank you to Fr Stephen for looking after us.

What does being faithful to God mean in my daily life?

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" JUNE DRAW

1st £20 No. 165 E McQuade
2nd £15 No. 138 A Jones
3rd £10 No. 187 B Morrin
4th £10 No. 149 J Byrne

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

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE IN LIVERPOOL

The Marriage Encounter Experience offers the opportunity to refresh, enrich, deepen and bring love, joy and sparkle back into marital relationships. The experience is priest led with laity couple presenters, and offers precious quality time to support lifelong marriage, personal growth and spiritual growth in a Catholic faith context. The experience is also open to couples in long term relationships, who are often drawn into marriage as a consequence through the sessions on the power of the sacrament and convent love.

In partnership with the Archdiocese, a Marriage Encounter experience will be taking place at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre on Saturday 27th and 28th June 2026. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 0151 522 1000

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.

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

DAY FOR LIFE

This Sunday, 21 June, we mark Day for Life, the day in the Church's calendar when we come together to celebrate the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

This year's theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'. A child is a gift from God to be nurtured and cherished, but the theme also recognises the tragedy of babies who died before birth and the grief experienced by their parents and families.

Pope Leo has said he "was pleased to learn of the theme chosen for this year, focused on the wonder of the full humanity of the child in the womb, as well as of efforts to support mothers and fathers who have suffered the loss of an infant."

The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the website: www.dayforlife.org.

The second collection today will go toward the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. You can also donate online on the Day for Life website.

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.

THEOLOGY IN THE PUB – ST FRANCIS: SEEING GOD IN CREATION - THURSDAY 25th JUNE

with Danny McKillop - 6.30pm arrivals & grab a pint for a 7pm start. At The Blackburne Arms Allerton, 135 Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 2DD
Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/3ybc6vma

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

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
The Nativity of St John the Baptist



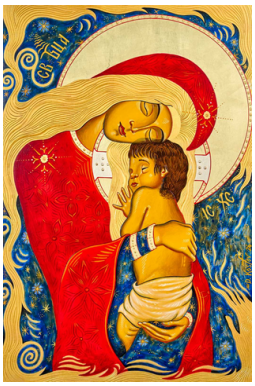
On 24 June the Church celebrates the Nativity of St John the Baptist, one of the few saints whose birth, rather than death, is commemorated in the liturgical calendar. This reflects the unique role that John played in God's plan of salvation.

John was chosen by God from before his birth to prepare the way for Jesus. His mission was simple but vital: to point people towards Christ. Throughout his life he never sought attention for himself. Instead, he constantly directed others to the Lord, famously saying, "He must increase; I must decrease."

The feast falls close to the longest days of the year. As the daylight begins gradually to diminish after John's birth, the Church sees a beautiful symbolism in his words. John steps back so that Christ, whose birth we celebrate six months later as the days begin to lengthen, may shine more brightly.
In a world that often encourages self-promotion and recognition, John the Baptist offers a different example. He teaches us humility, courage and faithfulness. He was not afraid to speak the truth, even when it cost him dearly, and he remained steadfast in his calling to prepare hearts for the coming of Christ.

As we celebrate his feast, we might ask ourselves: how can we, like John, help others to encounter Jesus? May his example inspire us to live our faith with humility and confidence, always pointing beyond ourselves to the One who is the Light of the World.

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.

STEP INTO THE ELEGANCE OF THE ART SCHOOL RESTAURANT
WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

The Cathedral is delighted to invite you to indulge in an unforgettable fine dining experience. Savour a beautifully curated seasonal tasting menu that celebrates the very best of British ingredients, thoughtfully crafted into dishes that are as refined as they will be memorable.

With a welcoming drink on arrival, impeccable service, and an atmosphere that blends sophistication with creativity this exclusive evening promises the perfect setting to relax, connect, and enjoy exceptional food in one of the City's most elevated dining destinations.

The date you need to keep in your diary is Wednesday 1 July 2026 from 6.30pm onwards. 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, whilst raising money for the Cathedral. Tickets are £50 per person. To book your ticket and to arrange payment please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

Sefton Coach 7 are hosting a Quiz Night to support young people going to Lourdes on Friday 26th June at 7.45pm (doors open 7.15pm) at Saint Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TQ. Please come and join for a fun night (with prizes for the winners!). Bring your own refreshments, bring friends and family, and help our young people with their pilgrimage! Entry is £5 on the door (£3 for under 18s).

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

21 June 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 21st June **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Margaret O'Dea **Wendy Dunne**	**11.00am** Elizabeth Lawton **The Evans Family**
Monday 22nd June	**10.00am** John Sinnott	
Tuesday 23rd June		**10.00am** Nora Houlton
Wednesday 24th June	**NO MASS**	**12.00pm** Funeral Service Nathan Swanson
Thursday 25th June	**10.00am** Maureen Mulhaney	
Friday 26th June		**10.00am** Maureen Ryan
Saturday 27th June	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 28th June	**9.30am** Barr & Lewis families	**11.00am** Patrick Coughlin

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

What does being faithful to God mean in my daily life?