

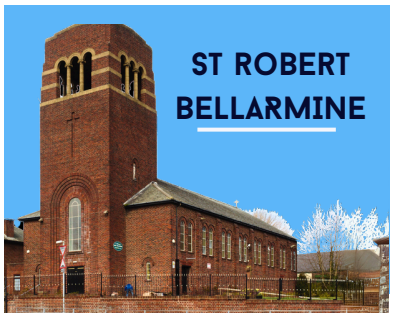
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



The Feast of Corpus Christi invites us to pause and reflect on one of the greatest gifts Jesus has given to His Church: the Holy Eucharist.



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that shocked many of His listeners:
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven."
He goes on to say that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood will have eternal life. Some found these words difficult to accept, yet Jesus did not soften His teaching.
e wanted His followers to understand that He was giving them something far greater than a symbol or a reminder. He was giving Himself.

Every time we gather for Mass, we encounter the same Jesus who walked the roads of Galilee, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead. Under the humble appearances of bread and wine, He comes to nourish us with His own life. The Eucharist strengthens us in times of difficulty, forgives us, deepens our union with Jesus, and binds us together as one family of faith.

The Eucharist is not simply something we receive; it is a way of life. Having been fed by Jesus, we are sent out to become His presence in the world through acts of kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and service.

As we celebrate this beautiful feast, let us renew our gratitude for the gift of the Mass and ask the Lord to deepen our love for the Blessed Sacrament. May we never take for granted the privilege of receiving the Bread of Life, who remains with us always.

Fr Mark

How can I show greater love and reverence for Jesus present in the Eucharist?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



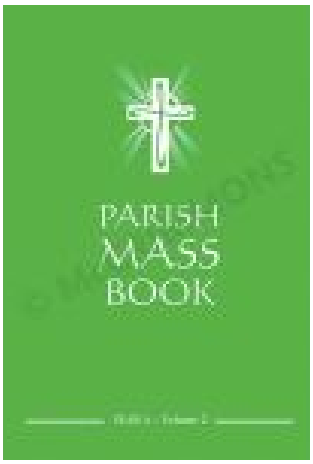
Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons

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...



CORPUS CHRISTI

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 83 of the New Parish Mass Book

MASSES THIS WEEK

We have two Funeral Masses this week, both at St Robert Bellarmine:
Monday 1.15pm for James Reardon and Tuesday 10.30am for Chris McElhinney.
May they both rest in peace.

How can I show greater love and reverence for Jesus present in the Eucharist?

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.

A consultation meeting will take place on Monday at 7.00 pm in the George Ince Room at St Robert Bellarmine. This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for parishioners to submit comments on the two proposals. Please note that it is not a discussion meeting, but an opportunity for individuals to record their observations and feedback.

This period of consultation will end in mid September.

NEW PARISH PRIEST

It is now confirmed that Fr Mark's final weekend in the parish will be the August Bank Holiday weekend. He will formally cease to be Parish Priest on Tuesday 1 September. During that week, Fr Mark will move from the presbytery and Fr Anthony will take up his appointment as Parochial Administrator of the parish.

Fr Anthony will arrive during the week and will celebrate his first Sunday Masses with us on Sunday 6 September.

Please keep both priests in your prayers during this time of transition and change.

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK
St William of York (-1154)



St William of York, also known as William FitzHerbert, was born around 1090 into a noble family in Yorkshire. He became Treasurer of York Minster and was later appointed Archbishop of York in 1140. His appointment, however, became the centre of a bitter dispute. Some questioned the manner of his election, and opposition led by the Cistercians resulted in his removal from office. For several years William lived in exile, enduring humiliation and uncertainty with patience and faith. Eventually, after an appeal to Rome, his election was confirmed, and he was restored as Archbishop in 1153. According to tradition, when he returned to York, the crowds were so great that the Ouse Bridge partially collapsed under the weight of those who had gathered to welcome him. Miraculously, no one was killed.

William's second period as Archbishop was brief. He died on 8 June 1154, only a year after his restoration. Soon after his death, reports of miracles at his tomb led to a widespread devotion among the people of Yorkshire. He was canonised by Pope Honorius III in 1227.

St William is important because he is a model of perseverance, humility, and forgiveness. Despite suffering injustice and public criticism, he remained faithful to the Church and did not seek revenge against those who opposed him. His life reminds us that holiness is often found not in success or power but in patient endurance and trust in God.

Today, St William remains the patron saint of York, and his shrine in York Minster continues to attract pilgrims who seek his intercession and example of steadfast faith.

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Are you planning to get married in a Catholic church? Are you looking for some time out from the busy wedding planning, providing you and your partner with an opportunity to focus on your relationship and to learn more about each other?

The Liverpool Archdiocese is now offering a marriage preparation course for engaged couples. The course will involve four sessions, meeting in group with other couples. To be led by trained lay facilitators, the course will help the couples develop skills which could facilitate good communication within their relationship and an understanding of unconditional love set within a Catholic faith. The next course will be available in June 2026:

Date: 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, and 2 July (all Thursdays)
Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Venue: St Monica's Parish Centre, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9JD

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

MARY'S MEALS - FOREIGN CURRENCY COLLECTION

We have received acknowledgment from Mary's Meals that the amount raised from the collection of leftover Foreign Coins at St Robert's has provided 422 meals for some of the world's poorest children.
We will continue to collect so don't forget to hold on to those unwanted coins when you go on holiday this year. Thanks for your support

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS



Pope Leo XIV has published this week his first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas ("The Greatness of Being Human"). In it, he reflects on the gifts and challenges of modern technology, especially artificial intelligence (AI). An encyclical is an important letter from the Pope that offers teaching and guidance on matters of faith and life.

The Pope recognises that technology can do many good things. It can help people communicate, learn, work, and care for one another. However, he also reminds us that technology must always serve people and never replace them.

One of the main messages of the encyclical is that every person has a God-given dignity. We are more than information, numbers, or data. We are created in the image and likeness of God, and each of us is precious in his sight.

Pope Leo encourages us to use technology wisely and responsibly. He warns against becoming so dependent on screens and machines that we forget the importance of real relationships, kindness, prayer, and community.

Above all, the Holy Father reminds us that no machine can ever replace the human heart. Technology may be powerful, but it cannot love, forgive, show compassion, or have faith. These are gifts that come from God.

The encyclical is a message of hope. It encourages us to embrace new developments while always keeping Christ at the centre of our lives and remembering that people matter more than technology

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.

How can I show greater love and reverence for Jesus present in the Eucharist?

SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 10th JULY

We are super pleased to again have our 'annual' trip to the world famous International Musical Eisteddfod in the beautiful Welsh town of Llangollen on Friday 10th July.
Fr Mark's favourite day of the year!

We will leave the parish and travel by coach to Llangollen and we can stroll around the maes (Welsh for field) with its stalls, food and drinking places. Your ticket will guarantee you a seat in the Pavilion to watch the competitions You can walk around the town and enjoy the many shops and beautiful scenery. Friday is a spectacular day in the Pavilion with Mixed, Chamber and Adult Folk Song Choirs. Entertainment not to be missed

We always enjoy a meal at the end of the day to share our stories and have sourced a new place for this year – The Sun Trevor bar and restaurant. They have kindly allowed that we can choose from their full menu – rather than a set menu as we have had in previous years. The menu is available from the parish office. Pre order is required but not pre-payment so you can just pay on the day. You can have 1,2 or 3 courses – your choice.

We therefore only need payment for transport and your ticket. This is £41.

This will, sadly, be our last parish trip with Fr Mark so please come and join us. We always have a lovely day

Please give your name to either office as soon as possible with a £10 deposit, which will secure your place.

Some recent Trip advisor reviews for The Sun Trevor:
'The welcome was lovely and the service second to none. The food was very tasty, excellent value and in ample portions.We couldn't fault it and will be back, definitely.'

'The food was outstanding. What really stood out were the staff. They are friendly, attentive, and true ambassadors for Llangollen',

'The food was very tasty, excellent value and in ample portions. We couldn't fault it and will be back, definitely'.



How can I show greater love and reverence for Jesus present in the Eucharist?

CONGRATULATIONS

Over the past few weeks, we have had the great joy of celebrating First Holy Communion with many of our young parishioners. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to all the children who have received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time this year.



This is a very special moment in their journey of faith, and we thank their parents, families, catechists, teachers, and everyone who has helped prepare them for this important day.
Please continue to keep these children in your prayers as they grow in their friendship with Jesus and in their love for the Mass.



This week, we also look forward to another important celebration as a group of our young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, they will be strengthened in faith and commissioned to live as witnesses to Jesus in the world today.

As a parish family, we congratulate all our First Holy Communion children and Confirmation candidates, and we assure them of our prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

ALL AGES PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI: 26-30 October 2026

The Parishes of St Mary's Woolton and St John Vianney invite you to join us on Pilgrimage to Assisi Monday 26 - Friday 30 October 2026, led by Fr Peter McGrail and provided by Joe Walsh Tours.

This is a very special year to visit Assisi since Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 A JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, which marks 800 years since his death Pope Leo announces the Franciscan Jubilee Year for 2026. - Centro Laudato Si.

The cost is £1,165.00 per person to include: Direct return flights from Manchester to Rome, 10kg bags included (optional 20kg at extra cost), all transfers and tours by private coach, 4 nights in Hotel Frate Sole – Assisi on a half board basis (drinks excluded), full religious programme led by Fr Peter McGrail, fully guided with tours and visits as per itinerary. Travel Insurance required at the time of booking.

For more information, contact Joe Walsh Tours: www.joewalshtours.co.uk

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE 2026 – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Archdiocese of Liverpool invites you to register your place for this year's Catholic Social Ac-tion Conference, due to place at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Friday 10 July 2026.
The social action conference is an annual event in the life of the Archdiocese, bringing together people working in the faith-based charity sector, volunteers, and anyone with a particular interest in social justice advocacy and Catholic Social Teaching. It's a chance to meet others working to-wards similar goals, learn and share experiences from the ground, and explore current issues shaping social action today.
In line with current emphases in developing Catholic Social Teaching, this year's conference theme is 'Humanitas: Flourishing in Action'. We'll be reflecting on the emerging risks and challenges as-sociated with prioritising human flourishing in Catholic Social Action.
We're delighted to have an excellent line-up of speakers and workshop hosts, including a keynote from Jenny Sinclair, Director of Together for the Common Good and host of the Leaving Egypt podcast.
More details will be announced soon. To register your place ahead of the curve, please complete the following form: https://forms.of-fice.com/e/ePUXSkJrCj?origin=lprLink
We look forward to welcoming you at the conference soon!

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

CATHOLIC PIC

The June edition is now out and available from the back of church.

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2027

A Flower Festival to celebrate the Cathedral's 60th Diamond Jubilee 2027 - Florists Needed

The Cathedral is at the very early stage of planning this event to mark the Cathedral's Diamond Jubilee. The dates they are looking at are: Friday 14 May 2027 - Monday 17 May 2027. The theme of the Festival will be 'Hope' in all its different forms.

They are reaching out to established and experienced individuals and groups who have a proven history of creating floral arrangements for their own parishes and similar settings. Their expertise, creativity and sensitivity would make a valuable contribution to this significant occasion.

If you are interested, please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

DAY FOR LIFE - Sunday 21 June

Archbishop John Sherrington is inviting all parishes and parishioners across the archdiocese to join together in praying a Novena in preparation for the forthcoming Day for Life on Sunday 21 June.

The Novena will run from Saturday 23 May to the Feast of the Visitation (Sunday 31 May). This is the third year in which the Dioceses of England and Wales will join with those of Scotland and Ireland to pray this Novena.

The Novena is available on the Bishops' Conference website: https://cbcew.org.uk/novena-for-life, as well as at https://prayforlife.ie

A joint message from the lead Bishops for Life of the three conferences can be found on Archdiocese website A booklet resource for Day for Life can be found here: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dfl26-booklet/ and the prayers for this year's Day for Life - focussing on baby loss – are also online: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dfl26-prayers/

JOIN THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Applications are open for children currently in Years 2–5 to audition for the Cathedral Choir at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. Choristers receive exceptional musical training, sing at regular services and special events, and become part of a welcoming and supportive choir community.

If you know a child who loves to sing, we would love to hear from you. Our recruitment flyer and video include more information about choir life and how to apply. Watch the video at: archdioceseofliverpool.org/choristervid

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

How can I show greater love and reverence for Jesus present in the Eucharist?

Corpus Christi

7 June 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 7th June **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Bridget McDermott **Neil McLean**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **The O'Brien Family**
Monday 8th June	**10.00am** Jean Seddon	**1.15pm** Funeral Mass James Reardon
Tuesday 9th June		**10.30am** Funeral Mass Chris McElhinney
Wednesday 10th June	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 11th June	**10.00am** Eileen Campbell	
Friday 12th June		**10.00am** Thomas Callaghan
Saturday 13th June	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 14th June	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Patricia 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 can I show greater love and reverence for Jesus present in the Eucharist?