

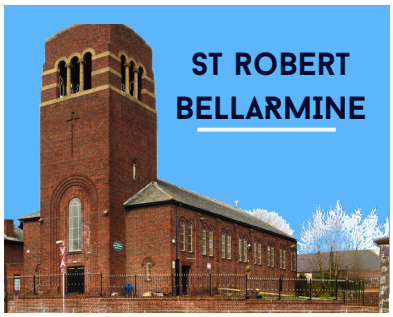
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



There's a lovely moment in today's Gospel when Jesus lifts His eyes to heaven and begins to pray for His disciples. It is a deeply personal prayer, spoken just before His Passion. Knowing all that lies ahead, Jesus does not focus on Himself, but on those He loves. He prays that they may remain faithful, united, and protected in the Father's love.

Perhaps one of the most comforting truths of our faith is that Jesus prays for us. Sometimes we imagine prayer as something we do for God, but in today's Gospel we are reminded that Jesus Himself intercedes for His people. Even in moments when we struggle to pray, when faith feels difficult or life feels uncertain, Jesus holds us before the Father.

A few years ago, Pope Francis spoke about this very passage and said that Jesus "never stops praying for us." It is a simple but powerful thought. We are never forgotten. Our worries, our families, our fears, our hopes, all are carried in the heart of Jesus.

This Sunday also falls between the Ascension and Pentecost, a time when the disciples were waiting, uncertain of what would come next. They had seen Jesus ascend to the Father, but the gift of the Holy Spirit had not yet arrived. They were living in that uncomfortable space between promise and fulfilment. Many of us know that feeling well. We wait for answers, for healing, for peace, for clarity.

Yet the disciples teach us something important: they stayed together and they stayed faithful. They prayed. They trusted. And in time, the Holy Spirit came with power and hope.

As we prepare for Pentecost next Sunday, perhaps we might ask ourselves a simple question: do I truly believe that Jesus is praying for me, even now? If we hold onto that truth, it can give us courage for whatever lies ahead.

Fr Mark

Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

Seventh Sunday of Easter

17 May 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



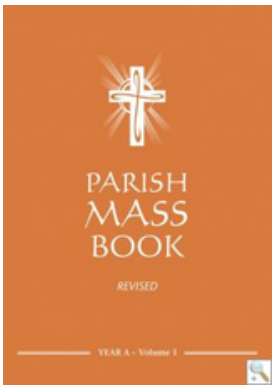
Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY



That everyone might have food
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Lord in your mercy...



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 275 of the Parish Mass Book

MASSES THIS WEEK

Please note changes to Masses this week:
Mass on Thursday will be at St Robert's at 10.00am
Mass on Friday is at 11.00am in English Martyrs and is a funeral Mass for Maureen Mullarkey
May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

PARISH MEETING

A meeting has been arranged to gather your views on the two current proposals from the Deanery Development Strategy Group.

Monday 8 June at 7:00pm
St Robert Bellarmine Church

This meeting is one of several ways you can share your thoughts. You can also submit your comments using the box at the back of church, or by scanning the QR code on the leaflet, which will take you to a simple online form.
Please note that all feedback should relate specifically to the two proposals.

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

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" MAY DRAW

1st £20 No. 109 J Wishart
2nd £15 No. 56 L Lovelady
3rd £10 No. 108 J Corbyn
4th £10 No. 38 S Hall

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

JEAN DORAN AND MARGARET WILLCOX

We were saddened to learn of the death of Jean Doran during the week. Jean, together with her late husband Paddy, were well known at St Elizabeth's. Please pray for her and all members of her family at this sad time.

Margaret Willcox also sadly passed away this week. She was much loved at English Martyrs and we keep her and Jack and all the family in our prayers. Margaret's funeral will take place on 1 June at 11.00am

May they both Rest in Peace and rise in glory

PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS/ 2 CATHEDRALS SERVICE



Sunday 24 May. 3.00 pm starting at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

This year, the stalls will focus on the Manifesto for Hope launched last November. CTMR Church Leaders have also extended an invitation to our Civic Leaders.

This year Pentecost falls on the May bank holiday weekend.

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen will doing their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in October. It is open to everybody - prices start at £650 per person, and £750 for solo travellers. For more information, please contact Rose Curry 07932 729896

Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

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

COFFEE MORNING

Join us after mass at St Robert's on Sunday mornings for a cup of tea, coffee and a biscuit in the George Inch Hall. All are welcome.



Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

AN EVENING TALK BY ARY HARDIMAN: 'WALKING WITH JESUS' - 7:00pm WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

All are invited to an evening talk entitled 'Walking with Jesus'. A captivating and thought-provoking speaker, Mary will be presenting her thoughts on the gospel story of The Road to Emmaus. She will be asking searching questions and helping us see its relevance in our faith journey.

A former school teacher, Mary is now a counsellor working in North West prisons with people affected by trauma, as well as the author of "My Name is Beloved", a book bringing to life an assortment of gospel stories. She also does voluntary work for a charity that supports inmates on Death Row in the United States.

This event will take place at Our Lady and All Saints school in an informal, café-style setting, with refreshments provided.

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.

FRANCISCAN ROSARY RESOURCE

To mark the Franciscan Jubilee this year, the Archdiocese Pastoral Development have produced a resource to help pray the Franciscan Rosary. There are some leaflets at the back of both Churches . Please take a copy to help celebrate this special year of St Francis

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'.



Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

PRAY IN MAY – MARY'S MEALS

During the month of May, Mary's Meals is inviting churches and schools to take part in their Pray in May campaign, encouraging prayer and reflection for children around the world who rely on a daily school meal.

Mary's Meals provides nutritious school meals to children living in poverty, enabling access to education and long-term hope.

The charity website gives more information and resources for you to take: wwwmarysmeals.org.uk or you can contact Anna Houghton at: anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

MAY PROCESSION

You're very welcome to join the Missionaries of Charity May procession on Saturday 30 May . Fr Peter Ross, assistant priest at St Wilfrid's parish in Widnes, will lead the procession, starting at St Peter's Square, before moving on to Bold Street, Church Street and Whitechapel, before finishing at the Blessed Sacrament Shrine on Queens Square. If you would like to volunteer at the procession, contact Jim Ross on jimmy.ross7@gmail.com.

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!

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK: 'LORD INTO YOUR HANDS, I COMMEND MY SPIRIT'
21st May 2026 7:30PM
Archbishop John Sherrington will lead this talk for the Newman Association on the topic of Assisted Dying. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served from 7.10pm.
St Helen, Alexandra Road, Crosby,L23 7TG

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

Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

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

BBC'S SONGS OF PRAISE SING GOSPEL Tuesday 19th May 2026 - recording at 7pm (doors open from 5.30pm) – Free event

Invitation to come and join BBC Songs of Praise at Liverpool Olympia celebrating the joy and power of Gospel music with very special guests and plenty of opportunity to lift your voice and your spir-its! There is no minimum age for entry, all ages are warmly welcomed but children aged 17 and un-der must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Venue: Liverpool Olympia, West Derby Road, Liverpool, L6 9BY. Tickets can be obtained at no cost https://lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1422

EASTER HOLY WATER- A SIGN OF NEW LIFE

At the Easter celebrations, the blessing of water is a quiet but powerful moment. This year, it took place both at the Easter Vigil and again on Easter morning, reminding us of our baptism—when we were brought into the life of the risen Christ.

Fr Mark blessed the Easter water with the new Paschal Candles—a beautiful sign of the light and life of the Risen Lord.

Each time we bless ourselves with holy water, we are not just recalling the past; we are renewing who we are now: people of the Resurrection.

The Easter water is available in both churches throughout the Easter season, and you are warmly invited to take some home. Let it be a simple, daily reminder: Christ is risen, and His life is alive in you.

Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

FEAST OF THE WEEK
St Bernardino of Siena (1380-1444)



Bernardino ("Little Bernard") was born in Tuscany. His parents died when he was a child. While still a student at the University of Siena he took charge of the hospital there when an epidemic killed most of the staff. Later he looked after a bedridden aunt until her death; and then, at the age of 22, he became a Franciscan.

Inspired by St Vincent Ferrer, he was an energetic and popular preacher and spent years travelling on foot through Italy preaching to enormous audiences. He denounced usury, promoted peace among the warring Italian cities, and worked hard for the reform and discipline of the Franciscan order, and for church unity. Bernardino's achievements before he became a Franciscan show what the young can achieve if given the chance. Let us try not to confirm them in a culture of enforced irresponsibility, but to encourage each of them to give to others whatever they have been called into this world to give.

KEVIN McCLOUD'S LISTED BRITAIN - Started Wednesday 13th May at 9pm on More4

We're excited to announce that our mother church, the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, will be featured in the new series 'Kevin McCloud's Listed Britain' which started on Wednesday, 13th May at 9pm on More4.
Tune in to episode 4 on Wednesday 3rd June at 9pm to see Kevin McCloud explore the stories behind our wonderful cathedral and it's stunning, unusual architecture.

ST BENET'S CHAPEL.
St Benet's Chapel is a cherished part of our community's history—a place that has stood for generations as a testament to our shared heritage. We are now hoping to form a small group of local people who are interested in helping to preserve this special site and open it to visitors on selected days throughout the year.

By volunteering, you'll be helping others appreciate the chapel's unique story and ensuring it continues to be enjoyed for years to come. Whether you have a passion for history, enjoy welcoming visitors, or simply want to play a part in safeguarding our local heritage, we'd love to hear from you. If you're interested in joining the group or would like more information, please contact: Fr Grant Maddock @ g.maddock@rcaol.org.uk

Where in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?

Seventh Sunday of Easter

17 May 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 17th May **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Carol Wynne **Jean Maloney**	**11.00am** Anne Marie Hunter **Peter Allen**
Monday 18th May	**10.00am** Pat Mahon	
Tuesday 19th May		**10.00am** Tom Ryan
Wednesday 20th May	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 21st May		**10.00am** Sheila Morley
Friday 22nd May	**11.00am** Funeral Mass Maureen Mullarkey	
Saturday 23rd May	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 24th May	**9.30am** Maureen Mullarkey	**11.00am** People of the Parish

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 in my life do I most need to trust that Jesus is praying for me?