

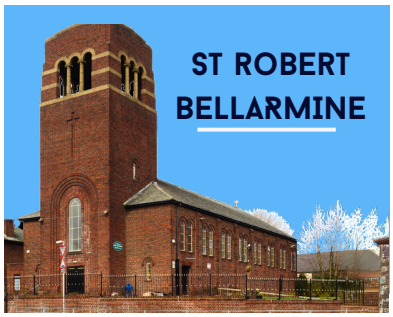
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



There's a quiet but powerful line in this Sunday's Gospel:
"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
At first hearing, it can sound a little demanding—almost like love has conditions attached. But Jesus isn't setting a test. He's describing a relationship.



Think of someone you truly love. You don't follow their wishes out of fear or obligation, but because your heart is already turned toward them. Love naturally shapes what we do. That's what Jesus is getting at. The Christian life isn't about ticking boxes or following rules from a distance—it's about staying close to Him.

And He promises something remarkable: we are not left alone. "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate." The Holy Spirit is given to us—not as a vague idea, but as a real presence, guiding, strengthening, and gently reminding us of who we are.

In a world that can feel uncertain and noisy, that matters. We're not left to figure everything out on our own. God is not distant. He is with us—closer than we sometimes realise.

Perhaps this week, the question isn't "Am I getting everything right?" but something simpler: "Am I staying close to Jesus?" Because when we do that—through prayer, through small acts of kindness, through quiet faithfulness—everything else begins to fall into place.

Fr Mark

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



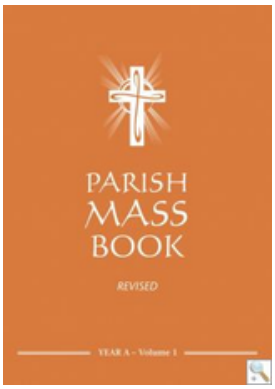
Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

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...



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 268 of the Parish Mass Book

MASSES/SERVICES

We again have some funerals this week at St Robert's:

Wednesday 13th at 2pm - Funeral service for William Harwood
Friday 15th at 10.30am - Funeral Mass for Mary Josephine ('Josie') Hooker

May they both rest in peace

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

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

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

Thursday 14 May, the Church celebrates the great feast of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus returns to the Father in glory, forty days after the Resurrection. It is a moment not of absence, but of promise. As he ascends, the Lord entrusts his mission to the Church and assures us: “I am with you always.”

The Ascension reminds us that our hope is not limited to this world. Christ has gone before us to prepare a place for us, and we are called to live with our hearts set on heaven, even as we continue his work here on earth.

This is a Holyday of Obligation, and all Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. Masses are 10.00am at English Martyrs and 12.00pm at St Robert Bellarmine

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 do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

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 do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

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

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE MEMORIES

This year marks 50 years of the Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, and we'd love your help to celebrate this special milestone by sharing your memories.

Did you meet your partner on the pilgrimage?
Have several generations of your family travelled to Lourdes?
Were you part of the very first pilgrimage, or did you experience a moment there that stayed with you forever?

Whatever your memories or experience – we want to hear from you!
Please send your memories and/or photos – to communications@rcaol.org.uk by 13 May. Selected submissions may be featured in The Pic, on the archdiocese and Animate's website and social media channels, and in a special scrapbook of memories being created for the youth pilgrims travelling this year.

Please note: By sharing photos with us, you confirm that you are happy for them to be used in archdiocesan publications and that you have obtained permission from everyone pictured, or from their family if they are deceased.

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

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

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.

CONTINUING ALONG THE PATH OF SYNODALITY

Pope Leo has invited us to continue to embrace the journey of synodality recognising that 'our relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to that of love.' As we journey through Eastertime towards the great feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost we have an opportunity to reflect on the document that came from the final session of the Synod on Synodality called by Pope Francis that Pope Leo is now urging us to embrace at every level in the life of the Church.

Tuesday evenings 12, 19 May, 7pm to 8.30pm
To join the zoom meeting:
Meeting ID: 899 8355 5285
Passcode: 981267

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

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!



SEFTON SOUTH WOMEN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP MEETING

14th May 2026 7:00PM

Join the latest Sefton South Women Faith and Friendship Meeting which will take place at The Irenaeus Project and will include a talk about the work of Irenaeus and a tour of he church. (The former St Thomas of Canterbury church)
The Irenaeus Project, 32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo L22 1RD

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

Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

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.

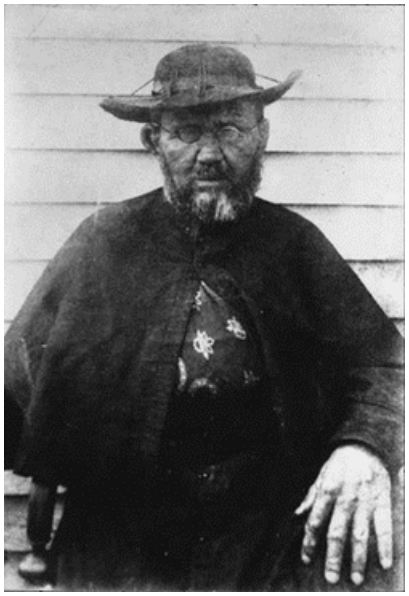
Where do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2026

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Damien of Molokai (1840-1899)



There's something deeply moving about the life of Saint Damien of Molokai, a priest who quietly lived the Gospel in one of the most forgotten places on earth.
In the 19th century, the Hawaiian island of Molokai became a place of exile for those suffering from leprosy (Hansen's disease). People were sent there and left, cut off from their families, often without proper care or hope.
Into that isolation stepped a young Belgian priest, Damien de Veuster. What began as a temporary mission soon became his life.
Damien didn't just minister to the people, he lived with them. He built homes, organised schools, dug graves, and celebrated the sacraments. But more than anything, he restored dignity. Where others saw disease, he saw Christ. Where others kept their distance, he drew close. Eventually, he contracted the disease himself, and from that moment he no longer spoke of "my parishioners," but "we lepers."
What makes his witness so powerful isn't just his courage, but his closeness. He didn't solve everything. He couldn't. But he refused to leave people alone in their suffering. He stayed.
In many ways, his life asks us a quiet but searching question: who are the "forgotten" people in our own world? They may not be far away. They might be the lonely neighbour, the struggling family, the person who feels unseen even in a crowded room. We may not be called to Molokai, but we are called to that same kind of presence, to draw near, to listen, to care, and to love without keeping our distance.

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 do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 10th May **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Pat Clarke **Irgens Family**	**11.00am** Joan Smith **Thanks for favours received**
Monday 11th May	**10.00am** Theresa McNerney	
Tuesday 12th May		**10.00am** Leila Bromilow
Wednesday 13th May	**NO MASS**	**2.00pm** Funeral Service William Harwood
Thursday 14th May	**10.00am** Gabriella (exams)	**12.00pm** Sheila Morley
Friday 15th May		**10.30 am** Funeral Mass Mary Josephine Hooker
Saturday 16th May	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 17th May	**9.30am** Carol Wynne	**11.00am** Anne Marie Hunter

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 do I notice God quietly present in my life right now—and how can I respond to that presence with love?