

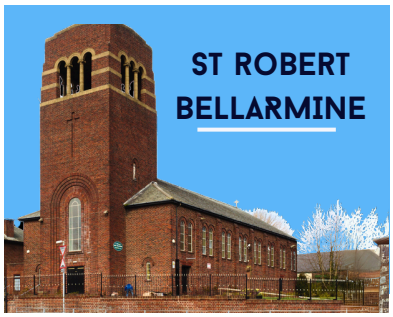
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



There's something deeply reassuring in the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." He knows how easily we can become anxious, uncertain, even discouraged. And yet he doesn't offer quick fixes or easy answers—he offers himself. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." In other words, the path forward is not a plan, but a person.

That matters, especially when things don't go as expected. This week, I should have been travelling to Jerusalem to fulfil my duties as a Canon, a journey I had been looking forward to, not just practically, but spiritually. That visit, however, has had to be cancelled. And with that comes a certain disappointment, perhaps even a sense of being unsettled. Instead, I have been invited to Rome to attend meetings of the Bishops' Holy Land Co-ordination Group, an unexpected change, and one that reminds me that the Lord's work continues, even when it takes a different shape.

The Gospel gently brings us back to what really matters: our peace does not come from everything going according to plan. It comes from trusting that Jesus is still leading us, even when the road changes. "Do not let your hearts be troubled… trust in me."

Jerusalem holds a special place in the heart of the Church, but the presence of the Risen Jesus is not confined there. He is just as present here, in our parish, in our homes, in the ordinary rhythms of daily life. And perhaps that is part of the invitation this week, to rediscover that the "way" is not always about where we go, but how we walk, and with whom.

Even in disappointment, Jesus remains our guide. And if we stay close to him, we are never truly off course.

Fr Mark

Where is Jesus asking me to be faithful, even in the small, hidden moments of my life

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



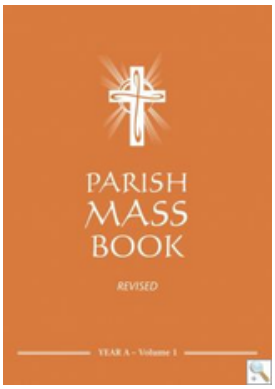
Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

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...



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 265 of the Parish Mass Book



SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a week please just write the dedication on a piece of paper and pass to the Parish Office or place in the collection bags with £5 offering. Thank You.

Welcome Back!
This weekend we welcome back Fr Stephen who will be helping us with our Masses and Services while Fr Mark is away.
We are blessed to have him as part of our Parish family.

Where is Jesus asking me to be faithful, even in the small, hidden moments of my life

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

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.

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

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

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.



PARISH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:

At Masses this weekend you will receive a leaflet describing the work of the Parish Development Strategy (PDS). You will know that since March last year groups from each parish in the Deanery have been meeting to look at our parishes and to try to put together a coherent vision of the way we hope to live as the Catholic Church in our area in the future. This has been done bearing in mind the strengths and challenges in each community as well as the number of priests and people we have now and into the future.

The vision that has been discerned is a challenging one – but it gives us a spirit led and filled emphasis as we move forward. It asks this question: "How can we best serve the people in our communities and not just which buildings can we preserve."

In the leaflet there are 2 proposals and a question. Between now and 20th September it is time for you to have your say. The leaflet describes ways in which you can let your voice be heard.

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

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

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 21, 28 April, 5, 12, 19 May, 7pm to 8.30pm
To join the zoom meeting:
Meeting ID: 899 8355 5285
Passcode: 981267

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE 2026



Tuesday 5 May marks the National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. We invite all parishioners to remember in their prayers those whose lives have been affected by abuse.

This year's theme is support for survivors of domestic abuse, and we hold in prayer all those who have suffered or continue to suffer as a result of this form of abuse.

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 our safeguarding team direct at 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk



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

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

GENERAL CATECHIST COURSE 2026

Beginning from 6 May until 27 June, a General Catechist Course will be provided by the archdiocese. The course will be taking place over 8 weeks at St John Fisher Church, Widnes. We will talk about the key elements of Catholic faith and how they can be explored through
Catechesis. If you are considering being catechist or are existing catechist (e.g. RCIA, first holy communion, confirmation etc) looking to refresh your knowledge, this course is for you.If you are interested, please sign up here https://forms.office.com/e/vXWAjbxJdc?origin=lprLink. For more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May 2026

FEAST OF THE WEEK
The English Martyrs



There is something quietly powerful about the witness of the English Martyrs. They were not people seeking attention or drama. Most of them simply wanted to live their faith, celebrate the Mass, and remain faithful to Jesus and His Church in a time when doing so came at a very real cost. And yet, in that quiet fidelity, they showed extraordinary courage.

Think of St Edmund Campion, a brilliant scholar who could have enjoyed a comfortable life, but instead returned to England knowing what awaited him. Or St Margaret Clitherow, a wife and mother who risked everything to shelter priests. Their lives were different, but their faith was the same: steady, faithful, and rooted in love.

What strikes us is not just how they died, but how they lived. They were ordinary people placed in extraordinary circumstances. They didn't wake up one morning suddenly brave. Their courage was formed over time, through prayer, through the sacraments, and through daily acts of trust in God.

And here, in our own parish, their witness is not distant. We see it every time we look around our church. Their names adorn our walls, and we are rightly proud of that. Not as a decoration, but as a reminder. These were real people, who lived and suffered for the faith we share today. Their presence among us calls us to something deeper.

We may not be asked to face what they faced, but we are asked to live with the same faithfulness. In a world where faith can feel private or even inconvenient, the martyrs remind us that Jesus is worth everything, not just in moments of crisis, but in the quiet, hidden choices of each day.

Happy Feast Day!

CHOIR CHAPERONE OPPORTUNITY
The Department of Music within the Archdiocese of Liverpool is seeking Choir Chaperones to support their work with young singers.

This role involves supervising Cathedral choristers and ensuring their safety, wellbeing, and pastoral care at rehearsals, services, and performances.
Chaperones help with organisation, attendance, and communication with parents, while supporting a safe and welcoming environment in line with safeguarding policies.
A rewarding opportunity to support young people and the Cathedral's music ministry.
Closing date is 23 April. For more information, take a look at the job section of the Archdiocesan website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 3rd May **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** People of the Parish **Special intention (CR)**	**11.00am** Janet Fowler **Paul Jones**
Monday 4th May	**10.00am** Doreen Callaghan	
Tuesday 5th May		**10.00am** Glad Pearson
Wednesday 6th May	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 7th May	**10.00am** Alice Power	
Friday 8th May		**10.00am** Peter McLoughlin
Saturday 9th May	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 10th May	**9.30am** Pat Clarke	**11.00am** Joan Smith

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 is Jesus asking me to be faithful, even in the small, hidden moments of my life