

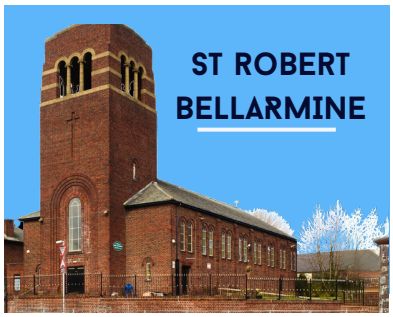
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



In the Gospel for this Sunday, we meet the disciples behind locked doors — afraid, uncertain, unsure of what comes next. And into that fear, the risen Jesus comes and stands among them. His first words are simple: “Peace be with you.” Not a rebuke, not a question — just peace. It’s a reminder that the Resurrection is not only about new life, but about a new kind of presence. Jesus comes to meet us exactly where we are, even when we feel closed in or unsettled.

Thomas often gets remembered for his doubt, but perhaps he is simply honest. He wants to see, to touch, to know for himself. And Jesus does not reject him for that. Instead, He invites him closer. “Put your finger here… do not doubt but believe.” Faith is not the absence of questions; it is the willingness to bring those questions to Jesus.

And then comes that beautiful moment: “My Lord and my God.” Thomas’ doubt becomes one of the clearest professions of faith in the Gospel.



This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, and that fits perfectly. The risen Christ shows His wounds — not hidden, not erased, but transformed. They become signs of mercy, not defeat. And He breathes that mercy out into the world through His disciples.

We are part of that same story. Like the disciples, we bring our fears. Like Thomas, we bring our questions. And like them, we are met by Jesus, who offers peace, mercy, and the quiet invitation to believe.

Fr Mark

Where do I need to let Jesus speak His peace into my life right now?

Second Sunday of Easter

12 April 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

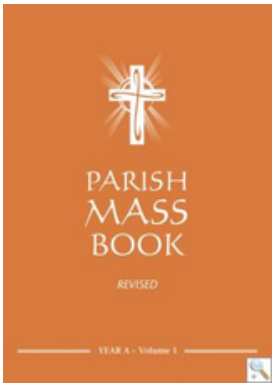
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL



For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Lord in your mercy...



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 255 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.

MASSES

Please note the change to Masses for this week. Mass on Thursday will be at 12.15pm at St Robert's and is a funeral Mass for Anthony Murphy. Mass on Friday will be at English Martyrs at 10.00am

Where do I need to let Jesus speak His peace into my life right now?

THANK YOU

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all those who worked so hard to make Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum, and Easter such a prayerful and grace-filled time in our parish.

Many people give their time, energy, and care. Nothing happens by accident, and your generosity helped create the space for our whole community to enter deeply into these sacred days.

Thank you also to those who simply came, prayed, and were present. Your participation is what brings the Church to life.

It has truly been a beautiful and moving journey together — from the stillness of Holy Thursday, through the solemnity of Good Friday, to the joy of Easter.

On a personal note, thank you as well for your kindness to me — for the Easter cards, good wishes, Easter eggs, and birthday cards and greetings. They were very much appreciated and a real encouragement.

With gratitude to you all.

Fr Mark

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.

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 or Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965
Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

GIFT AID ENVELOPES - ENGLISH MARTYRS

Envelopes for the new year are now at the back of Church for collection
As we are that beginning of a new tax year if you don't already Gift Aid and you are a tax payer please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme as this is a way of increasing our income without having to ask people for more money. For every £1 you give 25p extra will be claimed back by the parish. It is a simple process of completing a form

You can also make your contributions by completing a standing order form which means that the payment is taken direct from your account and reduces the amount of cash to be handled.
Both forms are available from the Parish Office.

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 need to let Jesus speak His peace into my life right now?

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER CENTRE
Discerning your gifts- embracing your call
Weekend Retreat 8-10 May 2026

An opportunity to reflect on our unique calling and gifting so that we can be fruitful in our mission.
Come and enjoy a peaceful and illuminating weekend with Michelle and Peter Moran in the tranquil settings of Freshfield close to the coast and in the wonderful 'Red Squirrel' territory ideal for reflection and peaceful walks

Costs for weekend – Full Board / Residential £190
The retreat starts on Friday 8th May at 4pm with Holy Mass followed by supper and 1st session
Saturday Discerning our gifts, Adoration, walks, Free time and Healing Mass at 7pm
To book or for further information please call Kathy on 01704 875850
OR Email – theprayercentre.stj@psmgs.org.uk

St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Formby, Liverpool L37 1PH
Visit our website at www.stjosephsprayercentre.com/

HELP FOR IRENAEUS

The box for donations to Irenaeus is at the back of St Robert's Church.

They are asking for food eg soups, tins of spuds, tins of macaroni cheese etc. NO PASTA needed. Toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc will be useful. They are also in need mens socks - these would be helpful.

Any donations can be placed in the box and will be taken to Irenaeus

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.



CONGRATULATIONS



To Clare and Joe, who were commissioned last Sunday by Fr Mark to be Ministers of the Eucharist.

We thank them for this important service to our community, and we ask the Lord to bless them and the people they are called to serve.



CATHOLIC FAMILY HOLIDAYS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room, chapel, and lounges, and Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families, or groups of friends. Head to www.castleriggmanor.com >> stay with us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

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

HELP US TO SHAPE A VISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH

We are currently reviewing youth ministry across our archdiocese, and we need your insight, enthusiasm, and ideas to help us live out the pastoral plan and become a Church where young people and young adults flourish.

Everyone is welcome and has a valued voice. Whether you are young or old, lay or ordained, a parent, carer or grandparent, have experience of working with young people or not. If you bring creativity, faith, enthusiasm, or simply a desire to help guide and shape the future of your local Church, then please join us and share your thoughts.

We especially want to hear from young people.
If you are in Year Seven or above, please come along- **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**
Come along to ONE of our open meeting on **TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 7 - 9.30pm St Monica's Fernhill Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 9GA**
For more information, contact Sarah McGeehan on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048.

FEAST OF THE WEEK
St Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879))



Saint Bernadette Soubirous is known for the apparitions at Lourdes, but the Church honours her not simply for what happened to her, but for how she lived.

Two virtues stand out: suffering and humility.

Despite lifelong illness, Bernadette never used her suffering as an excuse.
She endured it with patience and quiet strength — a challenge to us when we let smaller difficulties affect our attitude or responsibilities.

Even more striking is her humility. Though she became famous almost overnight, drawing crowds and attention, she never saw herself as important. Her famous image of the broom captures this perfectly: she was simply a tool used by Our Lady, then set aside. She was content to return to obscurity.

Her life reminds us that holiness is not about extraordinary experiences, but about how we respond to ordinary life — with patience in suffering and humility in success.
Her feast day is celebrated on Thursday

Where do I need to let Jesus speak His peace into my life right now?

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

All are welcome to St John the Evangelist Church, Fountains Road, on Divine Mercy Sunday, Sunday 12 April. The day will feature a talk on the Divine Mercy Message, followed by Adoration and Benediction, then by Holy Mass, veneration of the image, and a blessing with the relic of the true cross. Confessions all day and events will begin at 2.00pm ending with Mass at 4.00pm. All are welcome.

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. The full details can be found on the website https://wwme.org.uk. For enquiry and booking please go to https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/me-weekend-27th-28th-june-2026-liverpool-st-margaret-clitherow-centre-tickets-1109462846239?aff=oddtdtcreator

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

MARY'S MEALS - FOREIGN CURRENCY COLLECTION

We have received acknowledgment from Mary's Meals of the amount raised from the collection of leftover Foreign Coins at English Martyrs.
They are pleased to advise that we have provided 457 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

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) -Discerning God's Call in your life 15th - 17th May, Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along?
There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to live alongside the religious community and to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.
For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org To register: https://bit.ly/Vocation2026

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

CELEBRATING ST GERARD, THE MOTHER'S SAINT -

Bishop Eton, Saturday 25th April 2026
April 6th 2026 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of St Gerard Majella C.Ss.R., patron saint of a good confession and of mothers. To mark the occasion, Bishop Eton will be hosting a special day of events, including Mass with the Archbishop, Blessing services, Exposition and a Taizé service.

The church will be open all day and a team of Redemptorists and parishioners will be available to ensure that all those who wish may reverence the relic of St Gerard and receive medals and prayer cards. The first copy of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour to leave Rome will be on display.

Light refreshments, crafts for children and young people, and information on St Gerard will be available in the parish hall.

We look forward to welcoming you and your families for this very special occasion.

The full schedule and information on St Gerard can be found by visiting www.bishopeton.org.uk/a-day-in-honour-of-st-gerard.html

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

Parishes and Catholic communities are asked to join with the Bishops of England and Wales to pray a Holy Hour for the dignity of all human life. The Holy Hour will be held at 16:30 on Sunday 19 April as peers in the House of Lords continue to debate whether to make Assisted Suicide law. For the full article please visit the CBCEW website: Holy Hour for the Dignity of Life - Catholic Bishops' Conference

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

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN



We encourage all young people who wish to be confirmed next year to visit the Liverpool Called website with their parents/guardians.

The details you provide the online form will be shared with the Dean of the area of which you have applied, your local parish, and the Diocesan administration team. It may be shared with other parties associated with Diocesan sacramental preparation and relevant and appropriate Diocesan bodies and authorities.

Your local parish will be in touch after registration period ends on the 13 February (you will not be contacted beforehand) with details about meetings in your local area. You will likely be contacted after Easter. Please do not worry if you are not contacted immediately. If you have any queries, please contact your own parish priest.

The information you provide will be held for the sacramental year (which ends on the day new application forms go online for the succeeding sacramental preparation year) and your contact information may be used to contact you by email, text, letter or phone. For more information on how your data may be used and our retention policy please see https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy

ST ROBERT'S OVER 50's CLUB

The Over 50's Club meet in St Robert's parish centre on Thursday afternoons between 1.00 and 3.00pm. and is open to all.
Why not pop along and join in the fun - tea and coffee are available and, for a small charge, there is a raffle and a couple of games of Bingo for you to enjoy.
Regular members are asked to make a payment of £1.50 per week

Where do I need to let Jesus speak His peace into my life right now?

Second Sunday of Easter

12 April 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 12th April **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Suzanne & Stephen McQuade **Nickson Family**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Robert Jones**
Monday 13th April	**10.00am** Rita Courtney	
Tuesday 14th April		**10.00am** Jane - Special Intention
Wednesday 15th April	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 16th April		**12.15pm** Funeral Mass Anthony Murphy
Friday 17th April	**10.00am** Carol Wynne	
Saturday 18th April	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 19th April	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Carl Jones

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 need to let Jesus speak His peace into my life right now?