

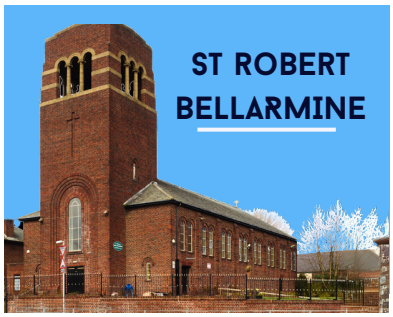
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



Palm Sunday always carries a strange mix of emotions. It begins with joy — palms raised, voices lifted, "Hosanna!" — and yet, almost immediately, the tone shifts. The same crowd that welcomes Jesus will, before long, cry out for his crucifixion. In a single liturgy, we are drawn into both triumph and suffering.

This year, I would like to offer a simple theme for Holy Week: "Stay with him." It is something I will reflect on each day at Mass throughout the coming week. It is a quiet invitation, but a profound one — not to rush ahead or stand at a distance, but to remain close to Jesus as he walks the path of his Passion.

Holy Week invites us not simply to remember these events, but to enter into them. It asks each of us: will I stay with him? It is easy to be part of the crowd on Palm Sunday, full of enthusiasm when things feel hopeful. But the deeper call of this week is to remain when the mood changes — when the road becomes difficult, when love becomes costly, when faith asks more of us.

We stay with him in the Upper Room, where he gives himself to us in the Eucharist. We stay with him in Gethsemane, where he asks his friends to watch and pray. We stay with him at the Cross, where love is poured out completely. And we stay, too, in the silence of Holy Saturday, holding onto hope when everything seems lost.

Perhaps this week we can simply take a little more time — for prayer, for Scripture, for quiet presence.

Because the heart of Holy Week is not just what Jesus does for us, but whether we will remain with him in love.

Fr Mark

Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



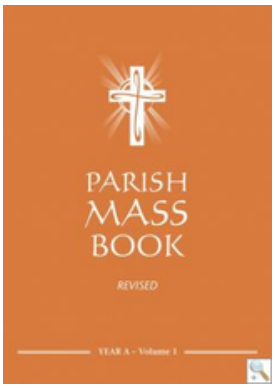
Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH



For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.
Lord in your mercy...



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 176 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.

PARISH OFFICE

The two parish offices will close on Thursday at 2pm and re-open Tuesday 7 April.

Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

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

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held this Sunday at 4pm in English Martyrs Church.

The Stations teach us that we are never alone in our own crosses. When we pray the Stations we place our struggles, our families, our parish and our world into Christ's wounded hands

Please come along and join us for this reflection

Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

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

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER CENTRE
Discerning your gifts- embracing your call

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/

LENTEN ALMS



During Lent the Church invites us to grow closer to God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Almsgiving reminds us to care for those who are most in need.
A Lenten Alms collection will be available in the parish throughout the season. Any donations received will go towards supporting charitable work and helping those who are struggling.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and kindness.

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.



HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29 March	9.30 am Mass	English Martyrs
	11.15 am Mass	St Robert Bellarmine

Please note the slightly later time at St Robert Bellarmine

Holy Monday

Monday 30 March	10:00 am Mass	English Martyrs

Holy Tuesday

Tuesday 31 March	10:00 am Mass	St Robert Bellarmine

Holy Wednesday

Wednesday 1 April	7:30 pm Mass of Chrism	Metropolitan Cathedral

Holy Thursday

Thursday 2 April	7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	English Martyrs

Good Friday

Friday 2 April	3.00 pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	St Robert Bellarmine

Holy Saturday

Saturday 3 April	8.30 pm The Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter	English Martyrs

Easter Day

Sunday 4 April	9.30 am Easter Mass	English Martyrs
	11.00 am Easter	St Robert Bellarmine



Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

EASTER BINGO AND RAFFLE - THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Wednesday for the Easter Bingo. It was a fun night - despite the technical hitches!

Thank you also to all those people who donated prizes. It is always quite overwhelming how generous everyone is. We raised an amazing £760 but more importantly had a wonderful social evening of coming together as the lovely community we are. Thanks also to all our helpers - you know who you are!

Details of raffle winners are at the back of English Martyrs Church

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.

SOLEMN EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
April 11th 2026 9:00AM - 9:00PM

All are welcome as St John the Evangelist holds their annual Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament will be out from 9-9, with Holy Mass celebrated at 6.30pm and Holy Hour with Benediction. at 8pm.

St John the Evangelist, Burscough, Chapel Lane, Lathom ,L40 7RA

FEAST OF THE WEEK
St John Payne



John Payne (or Paine) was born in Peterborough into a Church of England family but in his early adult life became a Catholic. He went to the English College at Douai in 1574 and was ordained priest in 1576; the short time he was at the college may suggest that he had studied theology elsewhere.

He returned to England in the company of Cuthbert Mayne (1st December). He went to Essex where he stayed at the home of the Petre family in Ingatestone Hall. From here he ministered to local Catholics, while apparently working as an estate steward.

In 1577 he was imprisoned for a short time, afterwards returning briefly to Douai. He came back to Essex and continued working as a priest until in 1581 he was once again arrested. He was imprisoned at Greenwich, being charged with conspiracy against the Queen, was racked in the Tower, and was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. He denied the evidence brought against him completely, stating at his trial "that he always, in mind or word, honoured the queen's majesty above any woman in the world; that he would gladly always have spent his life for her pleasure in any lawful service; that he prayed for her as for his own soul; that he never invented or compassed any treason against her majesty, or any of the nobility of England."

He was executed at Chelmsford on 2 April. He was so well known and respected in the neighbourhood that the crowd compelled the hangman to wait until he was dead before cutting him down.

CHRISM MASS

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

This very special occasion in the life of the Archdiocese takes place on Wednesday 7.30pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral. Bishops, Priests & Deacons will gather with Archbishop John to participate with him as he blesses the sacred oils.
The Church makes use of three holy oils: the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil. The first two are blessed, and the Archbishop consecrates the third. The oils are then distributed to all the parishes in the Archdiocese to be used until Easter 2026. Please go along and be part of this wonderful celebration.

Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

A Practical Way to Live for Holy Week
"Stay with him."

Holy Week is the heart of our faith. We walk with Jesus through the most sacred days of all — from the Upper Room to the Cross, and into the silence of the tomb. This week is not about doing more, but about staying close.

1. Choose to be present
Holy Week can easily pass by like any other week. Make a simple decision: I will be present. Come to one extra liturgy if you can. Give a little more time to prayer. Stay with him, deliberately.

2. Sit with the Gospel each day
Take just a few minutes to read the Gospel of the day slowly. Place yourself in the scene. Watch what Jesus does. Listen to what he says. Let the story unfold — and stay there.

3. Stay with him in the Eucharist
On Holy Thursday, Jesus gives himself completely. If you can, spend a few quiet moments before the Blessed Sacrament. No need for many words — just be there with him.

4. Stay when it becomes difficult
In Gethsemane, the disciples struggled to remain. Notice the moments this week when prayer feels dry, or life feels heavy. Instead of walking away, stay — even briefly.

5. Stand at the Cross
On Good Friday, take time to pause. Whether at church or at home, spend a few moments in silence. Let yourself be there. This is what love looks like.

6. Wait in hope
Holy Saturday is quiet, uncertain, unfinished. Resist the urge to rush to Easter. Stay in the stillness.
God is at work, even when nothing seems to be happening.

7. End each day simply
Ask yourself: Where did I stay with him today? Where is he inviting me to remain tomorrow?
Because the grace of this week is not that we understand everything — but that we do not walk away.

Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

Celebrating St Gerard, The Mothers' 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

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
You are invited to remember a departed loved one this Easter by purchasing a lily in their memory.

To take part, please place £5 and the name of your loved one in an envelope and leave it at the reception of Cathedral House, or give it to a member of the clergy. The lilies will be used to decorate the sanctuary during Easter, and the 10am Family Mass on Easter Sunday will be offered for those whose names have been submitted.

EASTER RAFFLE

Thank you to all those who supported St Robert's Easter Raffle. A list of prize winners is at the back of church.
We will let you know the total amount raised next week.



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 is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord 29 March 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 29th March **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Maureen Lynch **Margaret & Septimus Murphy**	**11.15am** People of the Parish **Cath and Walter Malcolm**
Monday 30th March	**10.00am** Judith Harrison	
Tuesday 31st March		**10.00am** Myron, Madhu and Sadeep
Wednesday 1st April	**7.30pm** Chrism Mass at	**7.30pm** Metropolitan Cathedral
Thursday 2nd April	**7.00pm** Private intention (MM)	
Friday 3rd April		**3.00pm** Solemn Celebration of the Passion of The Lord
Saturday 4th April	**8.30pm** Private intention (MM)	
Sunday 5th April	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Thomas Martin

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 inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?