

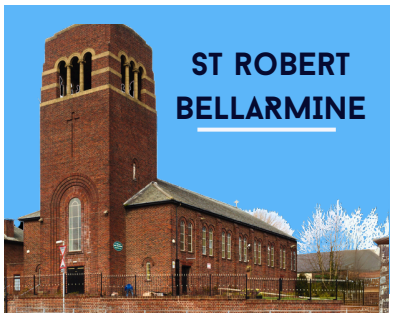
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



In the Bible, important things happen on mountains.

Moses met God on a mountain. On Mount Sinai he received the Ten Commandments. It was a place of silence, awe and listening. Later, Jesus would go up a mountain to teach the Beatitudes. Again and again in Scripture, a mountain is a place where heaven seems close and hearts are changed.



On the Second Sunday of Lent, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a high mountain. There He is transfigured before them. His face shines. His clothes become dazzling white. For a moment, the disciples see who He truly is.

Why a mountain?

Because mountains lift us above the noise. They help us see more clearly. From the top, the view is different. What seemed large below can appear small. What seemed confusing can begin to make sense.

Lent is a kind of mountain. It asks us to step away from distractions and climb a little higher in prayer, sacrifice and charity. It may take effort, but the view is worth it. On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father says, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

That is our task this Lent. To climb. To listen. To let Christ show us who He is — and who we are called to become.

Fr Mark

What “mountain” can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

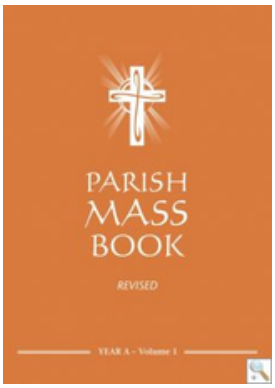
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH



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...

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 155 of the Parish Mass Book

SANCTUARY LAMP



We are running a bit low on dedications for the Sanctuary Lamp at both Churches. 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.

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday in Lent, we walk with Jesus on the road to Calvary. The Stations of the Cross invite us not simply to remember what happened long ago, but to stand close to the Lord in His suffering love. At every fall, every encounter, every moment of pain, we see how far God is willing to go for us.

The Stations teach us that we are never alone in our own crosses. Christ has walked this path before us. When we pray the Stations, we place our struggles, our families, our parish, and our world into His wounded hands. Lent gives us this quiet space to slow down, to reflect, and to let His sacrifice shape our hearts.

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday after the 10:00am Mass at St Robert Bellarmine and on Sundays at 4:00pm at English Martyrs.

There will be some occasions when Fr Mark is unavailable. If you would be willing to lead the Stations on one of those days, please give your name to the Parish Office.

PILGRIMAGE THROUGH LENT

The Irenaeus Centre would like to invite you to a series of Lenten Evenings held on Tuesdays at 7pm on the following dates: 3, 10, 17, 24 March.

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought.

Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

The Irenaeus Centre will be leading a Eucharistic ministry training day on 14 March 2026. Speak to Fr Mark if you are interested and we can get you registered for the training for this important ministry

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

SVP and CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21st – 26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Apply here. Applications close on the 6th April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

This annual event will take place from 10-18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers.

You can be part of the Novena by sending your petitions and requesting a Novena booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

You can also donate by picking up a 'Red Box' and fill that with all your loose change. Every little helps!



Speak to either office if you would like a box

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

The Second Sunday of Lent takes us up the mountain with Jesus at the Transfiguration. Peter wants to stay there — "Lord, it is good that we are here." And who can blame him? Light. Clarity. Certainty. But Jesus leads them back down.

That's important. Lent isn't about escaping life. It's about letting what happens on the "mountain" change how we live in the valley. So what might that look like — practically?

1. Choose one moment of light each day.
Five quiet minutes. No phone. No noise. Just sit with the Lord. Read the Gospel slowly. Let one line stay with you. The Father's words are simple: "Listen to him." Lent is a season of listening.

2. Bring the mountain into your home.
A small prayer corner. A candle at the dinner table once a week. A family decade of the Rosary. Faith grows when it is visible and shared.

3. Come down the mountain differently.
After Sunday Mass, ask: What am I taking with me? A word from the homily? A line from Scripture? Let it shape one decision during the week — a harder kindness, a forgiven hurt, a phone call you've been putting off.

The Transfiguration reminds us that glory is real — but so is the road ahead. Lent is not gloomy; it is purposeful. We glimpse the light so that we can walk through the darker places with hope.

This week, keep it simple:
Listen.
Carry the light home.
And walk back down the mountain changed.



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.



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'COME AND SEE'

On 7th March, we welcome Ronan and Joanne Johnston to lead our 'Come & See' day at the Irenaeus Centre, Great Georges Road L22 1RD.

Faith has been a constant inspiration in Rónán's life, leading him to co-found the Emmaus Christian music band and community. The band has released 15 albums of worship and contemporary Christian music, and Rónán has become an international conference speaker and teacher on praise and worship.

It all began for Rónán – also affectionately known as Rojo – growing up in a musical family in Cabinteely, Co. Dublin.
"It was all about music from an early age," Rónán says. "I played piano from the age of six and started writing songs from the age of seven. Dad and granddad were both musical, but everyone in the house played and we would sing in the car – music was part of who we were."

Rónán is married to Joanne, a session vocalist and primary school teacher. They have two children, Naoise and Siún, and they live in Co. Wicklow where Rónán has a music studio.

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

Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor // March 27-29th // £160-230 per family- For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick. For more info >> castleriggmanor.com >> events

May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor - In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more info >> castleriggmanor.com >> stay with us

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EASTER BINGO AND RAFFLE



Easter Bingo will take place on
Wednesday 25 March in English Martyrs Parish Hall.
Doors open at 6.30pm for 'eyes down' at 7pm.
Tickets for bingo and raffle on sale at back of church. Last year was a sell out so get your tickets asap! Cost for both is just £1

Entry to Bingo will be ticket only

Donations for prizes would be greatly appreciated

"9th Bootle and Litherland, English Martyrs Brownies, currently have spaces for any girls aged between 7 and 10 who wish to join. They meet on a Thursday evening in the Parish Hall, School Lane 6.15pm to 7.45pm.
If you wish for your daughter to join, please register their name on the following website:



www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter.

If you have any queries or questions please email:engmartbrownies@outlook.com

MARY'S MEALS – UNWANTED CURRENCY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted foreign currency. We have now sent off the first batch of coins and notes. The process takes approximately six weeks for the currency to be converted into the donation to provide meals for children in school.
We will be advised how much we have raised after the conversion.

The appeal is continuing so, if you are travelling abroad again this year, please hold on to that loose change and pass it in to the office when you return.

Mary's meals does amazing work in some of the world's poorest countries. Any small donation helps to provide food for the schoolchildren. You can donate at marysmeals.org.uk

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

FEAST OF THE WEEK
St David (520-589)



The earliest life of St David dates from five centuries after his death, probably in 589.
He became eminent as abbot and bishop at the site now known as St David's, but formerly Mynyw, from which the present diocese of Cardiff-Menevia is named. He is credited with a monastic rule based on the example of the Eastern Fathers, and also with a Penitentiary.

He was invited to preside at the synod of Llandewibrefi. Monks trained at his monastery evangelized South Wales and made foundations in Cornwall, Brittany and Ireland.

St David is said to have sent a Mass rite to Ireland. At his death his contemporary St Kentigern, founder of St Asaph's in North Wales, witnessed in vision his joyful entrance into the joy of his Lord.

His holy relics have been found hidden in the fabric of St David's Cathedral, where they are carefully preserved. He was canonized by Pope Callistus II in 1123.

St Robert Bellarmine School

During 2023 the children from SRB school were involved in an attempt to have a memorial placed in Derby Park to commemorate those who lost their lives to COVID. In May 2024 the school council were delighted to hear that the memorial was under construction. The memorial is due to be unveiled/opened on Friday 6th March in Derby Park at 11.00am and all are welcome to attend

CENTRING PRAYER DAY - SATURDAY 21st MARCH

Led by Fr Richard Sloan, this day focuses of teaching and practice of this beautiful way of silent, simple, meditation prayer in the presence of God, lovingly active within you.
Saturday 21st March, 10am – 4pm in St Teresa's Church, Norris Green, L11 3BW including simple lunch.
No charge: places must be booked by contacting: st.teresasng@rcaol.org.uk

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

LENTEN PRACTICES

Lent has a very particular feel to it — and that is quite deliberate.

From Ash Wednesday, the Church gently changes her tone. The sanctuary looks simpler. The rubrics are clear; flowers disappear, and we won't see any until Easter, although some pink flowers are allowed on the 4th Sunday. The Gloria falls silent. Even the music becomes more restrained and can only be used if it includes people singing. It can feel a little stark at first — especially if we're used to colour and celebration — but this simplicity is not about gloom. It is about focus.

The absence of flowers is not because beauty doesn't matter. It is because we are creating space. Just as we might clear a room before beginning something important, the Church clears away what is decorative so that we can concentrate on what is essential: prayer, repentance, and renewal. When the flowers return at Easter, they will speak all the more powerfully of resurrection and joy.

You may also notice that the Gloria is not sung during Lent (except on certain feasts), and the word "Alleluia" disappears entirely from the liturgy until the Easter Vigil. Music remains an important part of our worship, but it is simpler and more reflective. The organ is used more sparingly. Silence is allowed to breathe.
All of this helps us enter more deeply into this sacred season.



Lent is not meant to be miserable. It is meant to be intentional. The Church, like a wise mother, adjusts the environment so that our hearts can adjust too.

Over these forty days, may the simplicity of our liturgy help us rediscover what truly matters — and prepare us to rejoice with full hearts when Easter dawns.

ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at the Pauline Book Centre (Church Street, L1 3AY) in Liverpool City Centre. Anyone aged 18-35 is most welcome.

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY: CARRYING OF THE CROSS - SATURDAY 28 MARCH

The annual Carrying of the Cross will take place on Saturday 28 March 2026 at 2PM. Led by Fr Peter Ross of St Bede's Parish, Widnes, we will begin from Church Street, passing through Bold Street and finishing at St Luke's Church (bombed out church), and will be followed by a short service.
Please join us from 1:45pm at the junction of Church Street and Lord Street, Liverpool for a 2pm prompt start.
You are very welcome to join. We also need stewards – if you would like to steward, please contact Jim Ross on email: jimmy.ross7@gmail.com

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD are again running their 'Big Lent Walk' challenge to walk 200KM in 40 days to raise funds for life-saving water projects.

You can walk alone or with a group of friends or why not organise a group of parishioners?

Sign up online at CAFOD.org.uk You will also find an article in this month's Catholic Pic

EASTER RAFFLE

St Robert's are holding an Easter Raffle and tickets will be on sale at the back of church this weekend.



What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

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

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 1st March **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Michelle McMullen **Maureen Wilkinson**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Stephen Fell**
Monday 2nd March	**10.00am** John Molloy	
Tuesday 3rd March		**NO MASS**
Wednesday 4th March	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 5th March	**10.00am** Funeral Mass Kathleen Brady	
Friday 6th March		**10.00am** James McCloskey **11.30am** Funeral service Colin Grant
Saturday 7th March	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 8th March	**9.30am** People of the parish	**11.00am** William Chegwin

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

What "mountain" can I climb this week — even in a small way — to step away from noise and truly listen to Jesus?