

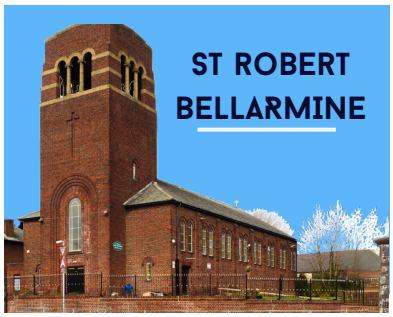
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



In today's Gospel we hear of Zebulun and Naphtali ,as well as Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee, which were on the outskirts of Jewish Palestine, outside Judea proper. Here Gentiles lived alongside Jews, bringing a strong Hellenistic influence to the region. People from Judea often looked down upon those who lived outside Judea, much as we may look down on those who come from outside our own community, society, or country.

Isaiah's and Matthew's words declare that it is insiders' negative attitudes toward outsiders, not the outsiders themselves, that bring gloom and darkness to the land. The presence of outsiders can bring either diversity or division; the choice is up to the insiders. Let us not forget that Jesus himself is one of those outsiders.
The first disciples Jesus called—Simon and Andrew, James and John—were all fishermen, one of the most stable occupations of first-century Galilee. Yet they immediately left their way of life to follow Jesus into the great unknown. No longer could they be assured of putting food on their tables or income in their pockets. But as they traveled around Galilee, they were rewarded by seeing firsthand the wonders that Jesus did.

Today we celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God, established jto remind us that scripture is central to our faith. Christ is the center of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, for, as John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (1:1).
Through stories and myths, histories and testimonies,
visions and parables, oracles and letters and songs,
God is revealed to us through the Word.



Fr Mark

Can I commit myself to studying scripture daily making it central in my life?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Mary Spofforth

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

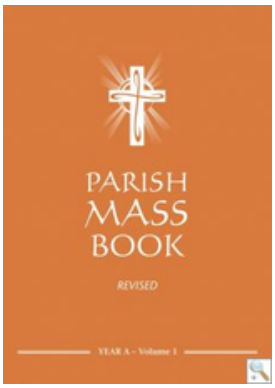


For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Lord in your mercy...

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 127 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.

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PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

In every parish family there are times when someone's world changes overnight through the loss of a loved one. In those moments, the simple presence of a compassionate fellow parishioner can make all the difference. Fr Mark would like to form a new Parish Bereavement Team—a small group of volunteers who can offer gentle support to grieving families through prayer, listening, and practical help around funerals.

You just need a caring heart, a willingness to listen, and a desire to bring Christ's comfort to those who mourn. A training course within the deanery will begin at the start of February for those interested.

If you feel you could offer a little time to this quiet but essential ministry, please contact the parish office. Together we can ensure that no member of our community walks through grief alone.

BE A TRUST GOVERNOR:

Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust are looking for Governors to support leaders in providing the best Catholic education for pupils in our schools.

If you are interested in using your skills to benefit our pupils, please contact:
governance@pfcmat.org
or go to https://www.pfcmat.org/Governance/

Pope Francis
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

"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

THANK YOU AND WELCOME HOME!



A HUGE 'Thank you' to Fr Stephen who has again been helping us with Masses whilst Fr Mark has been in The Holy Land. We really are blessed to have him!

Also 'Welcome Home' to Fr Mark who returns this weekend from his very busy time with the Bishops Holy Land Coordination Group.





Meetings with the Tabana & Mihtawish Bedouin Communities



Sunday Mass in Taybeh



Meeting with H.B. Archbishop Michel Sabbah Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem



Solemn Mass at The Tomb The Church of The Holy Sepulchre



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CRIB COLLECTIONS 2025



Your generous donations for the crib collection will this year go to help the minor seminarians of the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Beit Jala, in the Holy Land.
These are boys from the age of 13 who are discovering if God is calling them to the priesthood. Because of the recent situation in the Holy Land and the war in Gaza, many of their families have no employment and so are unable to financially support their children through the minor seminary. Our generous donations will help to pay for uniforms, school fees, etc.

Please give generously and help support future priests in the Holy Land.

The cribs will remain in church until 2nd February.

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

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" JANUARY DRAW

1st	£20	No. 1	F Birrell
2nd	£15	No. 95	J Smartt
3rd	£10	No. 135	F Cavanagh
4th	£10	No. 197	S Rocheh

Many thanks for your continuous support. The December donation together with a generous donation and the 'Big Give' was doubled to raise £1000. Our annual donation for 2025 therefore amounted to £2200. Well done to everyone - especially Myra who continues to work tirelessly to raise these funds.

Just a reminder that those who pay annually in January their donations are now due. There are still spare numbers available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

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 April 2026:
Date: 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 21 May (all Thursdays)
Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm
Venue: St Agnes & St Aidan Church, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 5SQ

There is a fee of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. Please book online here at https://forms.office.com/e/hgy2JbUpy3?origin=lprLink For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

WORLD LEPROSY DAY



Sunday 25th January marks World Leprosy Day, which aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people think no longer exists.

Each year 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy and there are millions more who are living with the damaging consequences of delayed leprosy treatment because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease.

St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG) - which is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity - has been caring for people with leprosy for 130 years. Through shared values and faith, we encourage our community to support SFLG's vital work and keep people with leprosy in your prayers.

You can donate to St Francis Leprosy Guild at https://www.stfrancisleprosy.org/
Any donation, large or small, takes us a step closer to a leprosy free world. Thank you.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CATECHISTS NEEDED

Would you like to help engaged couples to prepare for marriage? The archdiocese is now recruiting catechists to join the marriage preparation team. The catechist training will be provided at St Monica's Church, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9GA and consists of 5 sessions:

· Monday 23 February 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
· Monday 2 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
· Monday 9 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
· Monday 16 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
· Saturday 28 March 2026 (10am – 2pm)

Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice a year. If this is something you are interested in, please sign up here https://forms.office.com/e/JGbP8AtZwn?origin=lprLink For more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

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.



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. There is no registration to join. For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

FEAST OF THE WEEK
ST THOMAS AQUINAS (January 28th)

St Thomas Aquinas was a 13th century Dominican friar. Famous as one of the Church's leading philosophers and theologians, he spent much of his time studying, writing and teaching. But he was also a great man of contemplation, as this brief prayer of his shows:
Grant me, O Lord my God,a mind to know you.a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.



Can I commit myself to studying scripture daily making it central in my life?

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

Archbishop John will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 8th February 2026 at 11:00. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room. For those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate which will be collected on the day. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT

Do you work with people in the church, or are you interested in doing so? Have you ever thought about how can you can become an Adventurous Accompanier? Adventurous Accompaniment focuses on walking alongside people in their faith journey. It emphasises listening, presence, and empowering individuals to discover their own path, rather than directing them.

Through the journey of a 6-week programme including 3 full-day workshops, you will not only explore the core principles of accompaniment but also going in-depth to embed those principles in practice.

All costs of the programme will be covered by the archdiocese. Please register online if you are interested. Sign up here https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/accompaniment

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk You will choose either one workshop for each weekend when you sign up.

ST HELEN'S CHURCH CROSBY

St Helen's Church in Crosby will be putting on an extra Sunday Mass at 4pm every week.

·OLD AND NEW' REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Hosted by the Irenaeus Project (Great George's Road, L22 1RD), reflections will be Wednesday mornings (10:30-12:00) on 14th, 21st, 28th, January and 4th February. Zoom links are available from jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

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MEET YOUR ARCHBISHOP – WEDNESDAY , 28 JANUARY, 5:00pm



The Friends of the Metropolitan Cathedral are delighted to start the New Year with an evening with Archbishop John Sherrington.

It will commence with Mass at 5.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Then we will adjourn to the Gibberd Room where we will enjoy a hot pot supper and a glass of wine. There will be an opportunity to meet Archbishop John and share with him his ambitions and plans for our Archdiocese.

The cost is £30.00 per person which will include a hot pot supper, wine and a donation to the Friends. Anyone wishing to sign up should email Claire at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk in the first instance and details of how to pay will be shared. Numbers are limited so sign up fast!

COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART: A SILENT RETREAT

Led by Sr Moira Meeghan at the Irenaeus Centre (Great Georges Road, L22 1RD) from 18:00 Friday 20 February – 13:00 Sunday 22 February. Those interested are advised to book early:
residential places are £95, non-residential with meals is £70, non-residential (self-catering) is £30. To book and for more information please contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 01519491199

B&B STAYS AT CASTLERIGG MANOR

Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic retreat centre in the Lake District owned and operated by the Diocese of Lancaster. They work with more than 3,000 young people a year from around the north and beyond. When the building is empty, they offer B&B stays to individuals, families and small private groups and the money this raises supports their mission with young people.
Some B&B dates have opened up this January and February. Specifically, January 5-7th, February 9-11th, and February 16-18th. It's very affordable to book and a nice chance to spend a few days in the Lakes - head to https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/

CIVIC MASS – SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY

The Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, Monsignor Anthony O'Brien, has pleasure in inviting you to attend the Annual Civic Mass, celebrated by Archbishop John Sherrington. Light refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after Mass. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk. We hope very much that you will be able to attend, and we look forward to welcoming you and your guest to the Civic Mass to celebrate all that is good in our City.

LECTIO FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Every Friday at 18:00 at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN, there is a "lectio" prayer group for young adults.

There will be a Mass at 18:00, followed by a short time of sharing the Sunday readings at 18:30. It's a friendly group and sometimes they also organise trips and retreats.
Follow this link to join my WhatsApp community: https://chat.whatsapp.com/H7vBavJ4Jlm2spPNI9d2DT If you want more information please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or 07546667394

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



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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

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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

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time 25 January 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 25th January	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Duncan Morrison and Neil Llvingstone
Sanctuary Lamp	**Thanksgiving (CJA)**	**Bjork Family**
Monday 26th January	**10.00am** Margaret McCoy	
Tuesday 27th January		**10.00am** Thomas Callaghan
Wednesday 28th January	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 29th January	**10.00am** Funeral Mass Kathleen Murray	
Friday 30thJanuary		**10.00am** Diane Gillespie
Saturday 31st January	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 1st February	**9.30am** Patricia Budgen	**11.00am** People of the Parish

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

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