

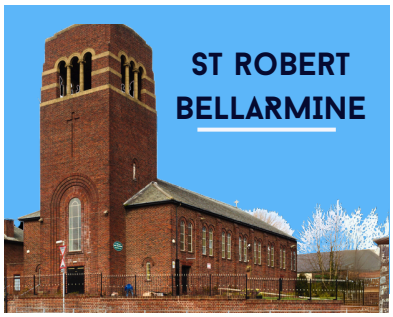
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



In today's Gospel (John 1:29–34), John the Baptist does something very simple and very brave: he points away from himself and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God." He recognises Jesus not through noise or spectacle, but through attentiveness — watching, listening, and trusting what God is quietly revealing. John speaks of seeing the Spirit descend and remain upon Jesus. That word matters. God is not distant or passing through. In Jesus, God chooses to stay, to dwell among us, especially in places marked by uncertainty, struggle, and hope held onto against the odds.

This week, I will be taking part in the Vatican's Holy Land Co-ordination meeting in Jerusalem. Today, we are visiting Taybeh, the last remaining entirely Christian village in the West Bank — a community of deep faith and resilience, but one living with real pressures and daily challenges.

Over the course of the week, we will also be meeting many people and institutions across the Holy Land to see how they continue to be people of hope, often in very difficult situations: parishes, schools, charities, and dialogue groups who quietly refuse to give up, and who continue to witness to faith, dignity, and perseverance.

Like John the Baptist, the role of the Holy Land Co-ordination is not to draw attention to itself, but to point — to Christ alive and active in His people. Our presence is an act of solidarity, a way of saying: you are not forgotten; you are not alone; God remains with you.

As we hear John's words this Sunday, may we learn again to recognise the Lamb of God — not only at the altar, but in the lives of those who continue to hope, believe, and love in His name.

Please keep the people of the Holy Land, and all whom we meet this week, in your prayers.

You can follow the meeting and its many photographs: www.cbcew.org.uk & www.theholyland.org.uk

Fr Mark

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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

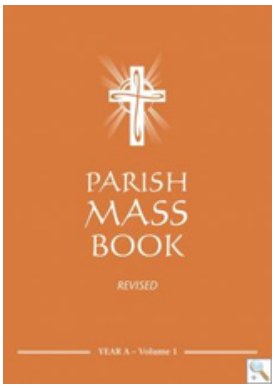


For prayer with the Word of God

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...

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 125 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.

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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

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

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 18th January3.00pm - 4.00pm

Cathedral of Christ the King

A journey following the star in words and music featuring works by Stopford, Whitacre and Britton

All are welcome

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi (1903-1964)



Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi (1903–1964) was born in Aguleri, in eastern Nigeria. Baptised as a young man, he quickly developed a deep love for prayer, the sacraments, and disciplined Christian living.
Ordained a priest in 1937 for the Archdiocese of Onitsha, he became widely respected for his holiness, pastoral zeal, and firm but compassionate guidance, especially in strengthening Christian marriage and moral life.

Drawn to a more contemplative path, Fr Tansi discerned a vocation to the monastic life and, in 1950, entered Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in England, becoming a Trappist monk and taking the name Cyprian. Despite fragile health, he embraced monastic life with humility, silence, and fidelity until his death in the Leicester Royal Infirmary on 20 January 1964, aged 61.

Blessed Cyprian Tansi was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1998 and is remembered as a bridge between cultures and vocations, witnessing that holiness is found in faithful obedience, prayer, and quiet perseverance.

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

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 18-25 JANUARY

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18-25 January.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2026: One hope, one calling' - comes from Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4).

In a world with diverse and often divided traditions and expressions of Christian faith, Ephesians 4:4 reminds us that all believers are part of the "one body" of Christ.

For more information and resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 see: www.oikoumene.org/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity organisers of the Week of Prayer invite everyone to use this material to pray together for the unity among churches throughout the year.

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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

On Tuesday 20 January (18:30-20:00), the group will meet with Chris Reynolds from Stella Maris to discuss how we can stand in solidarity with seafarers and fishers. To reserve your place please scan the QR code or follow the link:
https://forms.office.com/e/Rc8CSK0XbW?origin=lprLink

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

PEACE SUNDAY - 18th JANUARY

Today is Peace Sunday. Pope Leo has announced the theme -
'Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming peace' Pope Leo has continued the exhortation of Pope Francis that the call to live nonviolent 'disarmed' lives is core to Catholic Social Teaching and the key to peace in a world scarred by violent conflict. To find out more visit paxchristi.org.uk which is a Catholic peace organisation or maybe even consider joining the group

PEACE SUNDAY MEMORIAL LECTURE – Sunday 18 January

The Archdiocese of Liverpool's Justice & Peace Commission invites you to this year's Peace Sunday Memorial Lecture. In light of Pope Leo XIV's recent World Peace Day Message, Dr Joanna Frew will speak on "Towards an 'Unarmed and Disarming Peace': Seeking Sustainable Security for an Unstable World."

This will take place on Peace Sunday: January 18th at 2pm, at St Vincent de Paul, L1 5JN.

All those who wish to deepen their understanding of Pope Leo's message, and reflect on what it means for us today, are warmly welcome to join us for this lecture.
Please sign-up using the following link:
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=PM621XT32U21f8Y1zmskbDJcNivFEmJNvz8x3h6zvspUNlY4RTVGQkFHNkhWVjlHTERMOUk5Q0g1Ny4u&route=shorturl

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

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/

Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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



Where is God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

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 God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 18th January **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Michael McDermott **Deceased members of Lovelady Family**	**11.00am** Eileen Callaghan **Special Intention (Noreen)**
Monday 19th January	**10.00am** Christopher Day	
Tuesday 20th January		**10.00am** Lily Williams
Wednesday 21st January	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 22nd January	**10.00am** Peter Wynne	
Friday 23rd January		**10.00am** Successful Operation
Saturday 24th January	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 25th January	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Duncan Morrison and Neil Livingston

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 God inviting me this week to recognise the Lamb of God and to stand in quiet solidarity with people of hope