

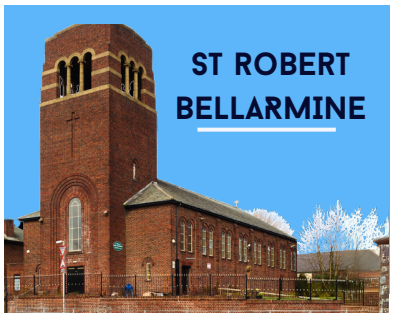
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



The Baptism of the Lord often feels like a quiet ending rather than a great feast. Christmas decorations have come down, ordinary time looms, and yet something decisive happens in today's Gospel.

Jesus steps into the waters of the Jordan — not because He needs repentance, but because He chooses to stand where we stand. He enters fully into human life, shoulder to shoulder with ordinary people, wounded people, searching people. The Son of God takes His place in the queue.

And then heaven opens.

The Spirit descends. The Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son; with him I am well pleased." Before Jesus teaches, heals, or suffers, He is named and loved. His mission flows from relationship, not performance.

This feast invites us to remember our own baptism. Before anything we do, before success or failure, we too have been named and claimed. We are God's beloved sons and daughters. That truth stands even when life feels fragile, uncertain, or heavy.

As the new year unfolds, the Baptism of the Lord reassures us that God is already present in the ordinary waters of our lives — in our work, our struggles, our relationships. And like Jesus, we are sent from those waters not with loud certainty, but with gentle courage, bearing hope into the world.

Fr Mark

Where do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons
Mary Spofforth

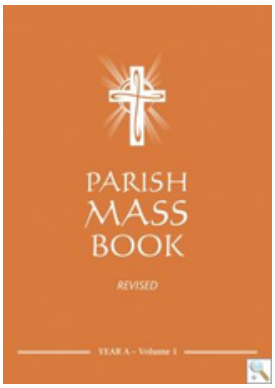
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY



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...

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 118 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 do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

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 do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

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 do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

FEAST OF THE WEEK



St Benet (Benedict) Biskop (628-690

He was born of a noble Northumbrian family and was for a time a thegn of King Oswiu.

While returning from a journey to Rome, he visited Lérins, a monastic island off the Mediterranean coast of Provence, and stayed there for two years, from 665 to 667, during which he took monastic vows and the name of "Benedict".

Ecgfrith of Northumbria granted Benedict land in 674 for the purpose of building a monastery. He went to the Continent to bring back masons who could build a monastery in the Romanesque style, and St Peter's, at Jarrow, was the first ecclesiastical building in England to be built in stone. Its library became world-famous and it was here that Benedict's student Bede wrote his famous works.

For the last three years of his life Benedict was bed-ridden. He suffered his affliction with great patience and faith. He died on 12 January 690.

ONLINE ALPHA COURSE - THURSDAY 15 JANUARY



On Thursday 15 January at 6:45pm, the Archdiocese of Liverpool will begin a new online Alpha Course that will last 11 weeks until Thursday 26 March.
If you're curious about faith and wish to explore life, faith and meaning; all are welcome.
If you wish to attend, please complete the form below and a zoom link will be sent to you in the week prior.

NOTE: There have been some problems with the previous form, so can you please sign up using this form: https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/Alpha2026

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

Are you interested in becoming a deacon? Online Event – 14 January

Join us for an online event organised by the Archdiocese of Liverpool for men discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate. The event will be held on 14 January from 7pm to 8:30pm, and you can sign up here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/are-you-interested-in-becoming-a-deacon-tickets-1979860549199

CATHOLIC PIC

The January edition is now available from both Churches free of charge. The main article looks back at the 'Year of Hope'.

Where do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

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 do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

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

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

· **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!



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/



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

THE BIG LENT WALK

Where do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this 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 do I need to remember that I am God's beloved this week?

Feast of The Baptism of The Lord 11 January 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 11th January **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Rose Harwood **John Hesp**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Jones Family**
Monday 12th January	**10.00am** Alice Power	
Tuesday 13th January		**10.00am** Patrick & Ignatius McNulty
Wednesday 14th January	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 15th January	**10.00am** Ann Morris	
Friday 16th January		**10.00am** Leila Bromilow
Saturday 17th January	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 18th January	**9.30am** Michael McDermott	**11.00am** Eileen Callaghan

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 remember that I am God's beloved this week?