

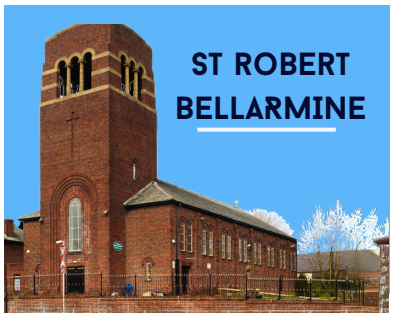
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow who never gives up seeking justice. Day after day, she pleads with an indifferent judge until, worn down by her perseverance, he finally grants her request. Jesus concludes: if even an unjust judge can be moved by persistence, how much more will our loving Father respond to those who cry out to Him in faith.

This weekend, we celebrate World Mission Sunday, when Catholics across the world unite in prayer and generosity for the Church's missionary work. Like the widow, missionaries often labour in difficult places, where progress is slow and hope seems fragile. Yet they persevere—trusting in God's promise that faithfulness will bear fruit.

The widow's persistence mirrors the Church's mission itself: patient, courageous, and rooted in hope. To "pray always and not lose heart" is a call not only to perseverance in prayer, but also to perseverance in love. Every Christian is called to be a missionary—through prayer, witness, and support for those who dedicate their lives to the Gospel.

Today we give thanks for all who serve the mission of the Church, especially priests like Fr Stephen and his brother priests, who bring Christ's presence to our parishes and communities, both here and abroad. Through their prayer, service, and sacrifice, the mission of Christ continues in our midst.

May we, too, be persistent in prayer and steadfast in faith, so that when the Son of Man comes, He will indeed find faith alive on the earth—and burning brightly in us.

Fr Mark

For what do I feel I am praying in vain? Can I find the will to pray for it persistently? Meanwhile, how can I be part of God's answer to someone else's persistent prayer?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER



For collaboration between different religious traditions
Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity
Lord in your mercy...

PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The parishes of the three Sefton deaneries are in the process of completing surveys and collecting parish data. You are welcome to join the process by coming along to a meeting on Tuesday 21st October, 7pm in English Martyrs Hall.

Participants will have the opportunity to answer 7 questions with the answers being fed into the Deanery Strategy Group.

This is open for everyone who goes to both English Martyrs and St Robert Bellarmine.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

Two further courses for those who would like to become Eucharistic Ministers will take place at the Ireneaus Centre on Saturday 25 October and Saturday 14 March. If you would like to be considered to be part of this important ministry, please see Fr Mark. We particularly need more Ministers at St Robert Bellarmine's.

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WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
'Missionaries Of Hope Among All Peoples'

Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio – the Pope's charity for world mission – we stand united as God's global family, in prayer, solidarity and action. We are called to be 'Missionaries Of Hope Among All Peoples' as everyone deserves to hear that God loves them and to be strengthened by God's Spirit. Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection, bringing God's compassion, peace and justice to those in need. To donate, use the Missio envelope, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

Please give generously.

LIGHT OF TRUTH: ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS (ONLINE WORKSHOP), Saturday 6 December, 9.00 to 12.00
Join the Dominican Sisters on Saturdays, from 9.00 to 12.00 noon for a short course of 3 sessions, to discover the essential nature and principles of catechesis, the sources of catechesis, and the best ways to prepare and deliver our catechesis. This course is open to everyone involved or interested in any kind of catechesis for adults, young people or children. This course is free, and the Dominican Sisters gratefully accept any donation you may be able to contribute.
https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/essential-training-for-catechists-2025-12-06-09-00

NOVEMBER MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

Envelopes are now available at the back of both churches for names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the month of November. Please print the names, add a donation and bring it back to church.



Masses in remembrance will be said throughout the month.

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LECTIO FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Every Friday at 6pm at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN, there is a "lectio" prayer group for young adults. There will be a Mass at 6pm, followed by a short time of sharing the Sunday readings at 6.30pm.
It's a friendly group and sometimes they also organise trips and retreats. If you want more information please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or 07394 503 911

LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2026

Applications for the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage with Sefton Coach 7 are LIVE now at liverpoollourdesyouth.co.uk. Young people aged from Year 10-age of 22 are invited to be part of Coach 7 this year (22nd-31st July 2026). The cost of the pilgrimage is £720 but fundraising will reduce this cost. For more information email coach7@rcaol.org.uk

HELP PLEASE!

Irenaeus Outreach and Spirituality Centre, Great Georges Road, Waterloo are asking for our help with donations of food or personal items to help people who are struggling and the homeless.
There is now a box at the back of St Robert's for donations.
Thank you

Donations left at the back of English Martyrs will continue to be given to the hub on Moss Lane - providing support for families in our immediate local area

ST CARLO ACUTIS EUCHARISTIC EXHIBITION

St Stephen's Church, Orford, Warrington, WA2 9HS have an exhibition running until the end of October 2025. The exhibition is open every Wednesday from 10am (after mass) to 2pm.

QUIET DAYS AT THE CENACLE 25 OCTOBER 10:00AM - 4:00PM

We all need time to stop, ponder, be still, be find it hard to have the time. Why not come for a few hours, with like minded people, and just stop and be away from the daily round of life? Bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided, suggested offering £10 No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. For further information contact Sr Winnie, Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, L15 6TW tel 0151 722 2271

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ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" OCTOBER DRAW

1st Prize £20	No. 13	S McLean
2nd Prize £15	No. 105	L Smith
3rd Prize £10	No. 99	Babs J
4th Prize £10	No. 196	F Bracken

Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month.
Contact Myra on 928 1136

Exploring Faith, Work and Civic Life: Reading the Signs: Where Are We, Really?

Together Liverpool is running three linked events exploring faith, work and civic life led by Jenny Sinclair, the second is on October 30th, and the final on November 27th. The event is aimed at Church leaders, volunteers and activists, Community organisers, local councillors and curious neighbours, anyone interested in a deeper, hope-filled vision of public life. More information at eventbrite.co.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER ON MERSEYSIDE
Faith in the City Anniversary Survey

As part of the Faith in the City 40th anniversary project CTMR/Together Liverpool are developing a manifesto that will be presented to civic leaders within the Liverpool City Region at a 40th anniversary event taking place in November 2025. That manifesto will be developed by asking people to contribute their perspectives through a brief survey. Please see the link(s) below. Thank you in advance for your time.
https://togetherliverpool.org.uk/whats-new/faith-in-the-city-survey/

FAMILY AND GROUP STAYS AT CASTLERIGG MANOR THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM

Castlerigg Manor is a Retreat Centre in the Lake District, owned by the Diocese of Lancaster, and they are opening their doors to family groups, individuals and other small groups once again during October Half Term (Oct 27-31). A good option for anyone looking for a budget get-away in a beautiful part of the country. Book at https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/ or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

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PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The parishes of the three Sefton deaneries are in the process of completing surveys and collecting parish data. You are welcome to join the process by coming along to a meeting on Tuesday 21st October, 7pm in English Martyrs Hall. Participants will have the opportunity to answer 7 questions with the answers being fed into the Deanery Strategy Group. This is open for everyone who goes to both English Martyrs and St Robert Bellarmine.

The meeting is not a time for discussion, but for people to simply express their views on the following seven questions which you are encouraged to reflect upon:

1. Are we a parish that accompanies people through life?
What are the most effective ways in which we accompany people in our church and community?
What groups or people might not feel that they are being accompanied?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

2. Are we a parish that honours the vocation of all the baptised?
What are the most effective ways in which we honour the vocation of all the baptised?
What groups or people might not feel that they are being honoured?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

3. Are we a parish where synodality is embedded?
What are the most effective ways in which we have embedded synodality in parish life?
What groups or people might not feel that they are being heard?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

4. Are we a parish that renews its organisational structures and administers its property to serve its mission?
What are the most effective ways in which we use our resources for mission?
What are the issues that prevent us from fulfilling this task?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

5. Are we a parish where young people and young adults flourish?
What are the most effective ways in which we enable young people to flourish?
What would young people say we are not getting right?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

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6. Are we a parish that cares for its priests?
What are the most effective ways in which we support our local priest(s)?
What ways might our priests(s) feel unsupported?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

7. Are we a parish that is aware of "green shoots". Positive signs for the future?
What are the encouraging signs of hope in our parish?
What are we not getting right that we could with changes?
What do we see as the potential for future development?

Please give your consideration to these questions and then come along on 21st October at 7pm

FEAST OF THE WEEK
Saint John Paul II (1920-2005)



Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. After his ordination to the priesthood and theological studies in Rome, he returned to his homeland and resumed various pastoral and academic tasks. He became first auxiliary bishop and, in 1964, Archbishop of Kraków and took part in the Second Vatican Council.
On 16 October 1978 he was elected pope and took the name John Paul II. His exceptional apostolic zeal, particularly for families, young people and the sick, led him to numerous pastoral visits throughout the world.
Among the many fruits which he has left as a heritage to the Church are above all his rich Magisterium and the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church and for the Eastern Churches.
In Rome on 2 April 2005, the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter, he departed peacefully in the Lord. He was canonized alongside Pope John XXIII by Pope Francis on 27 April 2014. The Canonisation Mass was unique as 4 Popes were involved: Pope Francis & Pope Benedict in attendance, with the remains of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II in St Peter's Sq

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LEFTOVER FOREIGN CURRENCY?

Holidays probably already seem a life time away.
However, you can maybe help Mary's Meals with a new initiative.
Do you have any leftover foreign coins rattling around in pockets or purses? Or UK coins that are no longer legal tender (eg old 50p's).
Mary's meals are collecting these and can turn them in to contributions to help those millions of children who are hungry and need help.
We can offer our support as a parish if we work together to collect any coins.
So - dig deep! Check pockets, bags, purses and if you have any foreign coins (no matter how small) please pass them in to either of the parish offices.
Let's see if we can help feed some children who need our help!

YOUNG ADULT SERVICE DAY- 1st NOVEMBER - St Vincent's Centre, Leeds

Looking for an opportunity to share kindness this autumn?
If you're 18-35 and would like to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), we're delighted to welcome you to join our young adult service day on 1st November!
Beginning at 11am, with an optional 10am Mass, the day will offer a chance to give back to the community with kindness via one of the SVP's Community Support Projects!
A travel bursary is available to support those who might want to get involved.

To register, please email KeziaH@svp.org.uk or call on 07917923605.

THANK YOU

The family of the late Sheila Morley wish to thank all friends and family for the many messages of sympathy and the support and kindness received recently.

A mass will be said in thanksgiving for you all.

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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DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION – TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate?
Deacons are ordained ministers of service and compassion in the Church, assisting both in liturgy and in the pastoral and practical life of their communities.
An online information session will take place on Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 7.00pm, led by the diocesan formation team. The session will offer insight into the role and ministry of deacons and help those discerning a possible calling.
Book by scanning QR code or visiting: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/are-you-interested-in-becoming-a-deacon-tickets-1802040524719?aff=oddtdtcreator

ADOREMUS 2025 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All are invited to join Adoremus 2025 at the Metropolitan Cathedral on
Saturday 8 November, 9.00am–5.00pm.

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

Come and spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration,Holy Mass, and shared prayer, with workshops and opportunities for Confession throughout the day. We're also looking for volunteers to help welcome and assist pilgrims.

If you'd like to get involved, please email the Pastoral Development department at PD@rcaol.org.uk

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

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ROSARY MATERIALS - GET INVOLVED!

The Pastoral Development Department and the communications team are working together to create some materials on the rosary for October and we would love for you to get involved!

If you, or someone in a rosary group in your parish would be happy to speak about one of the mysteries of the rosary and what it means to you – either by being filmed or providing a voiceover – please get in touch! You can email the communications team on: communications@rcaol.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE - ADOREMUS

Mark your calendars - this year's Adoremus will take place on Saturday 8 November. The theme this year is Ministry, and the timetable of workshops will be released in due course.

SONGS WE REMEMBER

Come and join us at Irenaeus Centre on Wednesday 22nd October for a sing-a-long

.Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday 2.0pm - 4.00pm

CSSA PUBLIC CALL FOR SURVIVOR INPUT

As part of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency's (CSSA) focus on survivor engagement and support, they have created a public survey inviting survivors to contribute their experiences.

The purpose of this public call is to gather information from anyone who has had recent contact with a diocese or a Religious Life Group. This includes experiences that are new or ongoing, as well as those connected to non-recent abuse.

Their primary focus is the period from July 2024 onwards, but they do not wish to limit what survivors choose to share. More information regarding this survey can be found here: Public Calls for Information

The direct link to the survey is https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fT0OpJmB_Xy63KLBEXoG2tlVAm_9UYqKjMSFUOTc5TzlLTEdTWkUySjhaTlU0QURaOU05SC4u

This process is being conducted with transparency, respect, and in a survivor-centred way. Cooperation will help the CSSA hear from as many voices as possible, enabling them to identify good practice and areas for improvement across the Church.If you have any questions, please contact their Quality Assurance team at: qualityassurance@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

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CHRISTMAS OUTINGS AND FUNDRAISING

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2025 - CHATSWORTH HOUSE



Day Coach trip to Chatsworth House for their Christmas Extravaganza and Christmas Markets. This is always a popular trip as the market is excellent with many stalls and places to eat.
Cost is £65 which includes entry to the House, garden light trail and the Markets. The decorations in the house are spectacular with each room having a different theme and the dressed Christmas trees will take your breath away!

MONDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2025 - LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

This is a wonderful evening of classic carols, seasonal readings, audience singalongs and festive fun, all wrapped up and delivered by the fabulous baritone Benjamin Appl. He'll be hosting the entire extravaganza and of course treating us to some musical magic along the way. Last year's performance was amazing and was also very popular with everyone. Cost for this one is £60 which includes your ticket and transport to and from the Hall.

As usual, a £10 deposit will secure your place on either of the above. Name and deposit to either Parish Office please.

BACK BY VERY POPULAR DEMAND!!

We again have the Irish Guards Choir joining us for an afternoon of entertainment on Saturday 29th November. This was an absolutely wonderful few hours last year. The choir perform twice during the afternoon giving us some 'golden oldies' and a festive sing-a-long. We will have a fun Christmas tombola. Tickets for this will be on sale **NEXT WEEK.** Entry is £3 - a bargain for a lovely afternoon's entertainment

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Christmas Bingo in English Martyrs will be on Wednesday 10th December. Put it in your diary - tickets will be on sale nearer the time

DONATIONS PLEASE!

We would be very grateful for any donations of bottles/fancy goods etc to assist in our Christmas fundraisers.

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Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 19th October **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Thanksgiving for help (ES) **Brenda Davenport**	**11.00am** Guiseppe Savio Anzalone **Noreen**
Monday 20th October	**10.00am** Juan Farias	
Tuesday 21st October		**10.00am** Aspinwall Family
Wednesday 22nd October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 23rd October	**10.00am** Francis Molloy	
Friday 24th October		**10.00am** Leila Bromilow
Saturday 25th October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 26th October	**9.30am** Stephen McQuade	**11.00am** Brian Murray

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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