

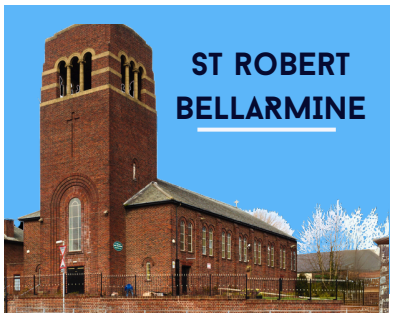
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



It's lovely for me to be back with you after my summer break. I had the chance to spend some precious time with family and friends, as well as speaking at a number of events around the country about the current situation in the Middle East. Now, as we gather again, we look forward to the months ahead with fresh energy and hope.

The Gospel this Sunday may sound demanding: Jesus asks us to put Him before every relationship, possession, and plan. At first hearing, it feels daunting—yet His words are not meant to discourage us, but to remind us of the depth of discipleship. To follow Jesus is not a casual pastime; it is alife-changing commitment.

Summer breaks often help us to see what truly matters. We are reminded that the deepest rest is found in Jesus, who carries our burdens and gives our lives direction. In a sense, summer offers us a glimpse of what it means to "travel light" with the Lord.

This week, a group of parishioners will set out on pilgrimage to Rome, San Giovanni, and Assisi during this Holy Year of Hope. Pilgrimage is a living parable of the Gospel. Our pilgrims will carry the whole parish with them, remembering everyone in prayer each day as they walk in the footsteps of St Peter, St Paul, St Benedict, St Padre Pio, and St Francis.

May this new season be a pilgrimage for us all—seeking Jesus first, carrying our crosses with hope, and discovering in Him the joy no holiday can ever equal.

Fr Mark

What is the cross I am bearing at this point in my life? With the grace of God, am I willing to carry it?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Lord in your mercy...

NEWSLETTER

Please note that this newsletter includes mass intentions for the next two weeks. The next newsletter will be on Sunday 21st September

Celebrating Missionaries of Hope

You, your family, friends, and the Red Box supporters in your parish, are cordially invited to the



Liverpool Archdiocesan Mission Mass
Sunday, 28th September 2025 at 3.00 p.m.

Our Lady & All Saints Church, Lancaster Lane,
Parbold, Wigan WN8 7HS

With Bishop Thomas Neylon

Please join us for tea/coffee & biscuits/cake after Mass

missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together

To assist us with planning, if possible,
please RSVP by 19th Sept:
e-mail redbox@missio.org.uk
or tel. Theresa on 07593 544625



MASS OF CELEBRATION – MARY'S MEALS – SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER



All are invited to a special Mass of celebration for the work of Mary's Meals, the global charity providing school meals to children in some of the world's poorest communities. Archbishop John Sherrington will preside at the Mass on Sunday 21 September at 3.00pm at St Teresa's Catholic Church, Church Road, Upholland, Wigan (WN8 0PY).

Light refreshments will be served in the church hall after Mass.

STATEMENT REGARDING MISINFORMATION ABOUT ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are aware of misinformation currently circulating on social media concerning St. Elizabeth's Church and St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School in Litherland.
We would like to clarify the following:

- St. Elizabeth's Church is being used by the Knanaya Catholic community, which is part of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, and is in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Members of the community have been working hard to clean up the church grounds, which had become overgrown with weeds. During this work, they discovered the grotto and statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The statue was broken beyond repair and was missing its head. In response, the Knanaya community has taken the initiative to restore the area by preparing the grounds for a new grotto, which will feature a replacement statue.

- St Elizabeth's Primary School continues to flourish and serve the local community.

Regrettably, this misinformation has led to acts of vandalism at the church. The archdiocese strongly condemns such behaviour. Vandalism is a criminal offence, and anyone found engaging in such acts will be reported to the police.

We urge everyone to verify information through official channels and to respect the integrity of our religious and educational institutions.
The Knanaya Catholic community continues to enrich our archdiocese. We are incredibly proud that our parish hosts the first Knanaya base in the country.
Thank you for your understanding and support.

ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM



On Friday, 3 October at 7pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral, a Mass in thanksgiving for Archbishop Malcolm's ministry as Metropolitan Archbishop of Liverpool will take place; all are welcome to attend to give thanks to God for Archbishop Malcolm.

A thank you gift will be given in the form of a "spiritual bouquet" in the form of offerings of prayer, Masses, rosaries, holy hours etc. The diocese will then collate this and present it to him. Please think how you can contribute to this special gift and we will collate the information on Sunday 21 September.

Parishes have also been asked to have a collection as an expression of thanks to him. Our parish will have a retiring collection for him on Sunday 21 September. The collection for Home Missions, scheduled for that day, will take place the following week.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT, Friday 12th September 10.00-15.00

Explore ways that we can support people in a time of grief, Consider the stages of grief and what might help people. at The Irenaeus Centre, Great Georges Rd. Waterloo L22 1RD. Book a place with Jenny Tel: 0151 949 1199 or jenny@irenaeus.co.uk. Donation £10. Bring a Packed Lunch

DAY FOR CATECHISTS – FORMATION & REFLECTION

Are you a catechist looking for spiritual refreshment? No matter what kind of ministry you are serving, there is a good opportunity for you to refresh your vocation of being a catechist.

On 27 September, the Day for Catechists will be organised from 10.00–16.00 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre L17 1AA. With the facilitation of Sr Carino and Sr Hyacinthe from the Dominican Sister of St Joseph, there will be spiritual input and practical discussion on the mission of catechesis. If you're interested or for more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

ST CARLO ACUTIS & ST PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI



This morning, Pope Leo will preside over his first canonisations since his election as Pope earlier this year. How fitting that he should declare two incredible people as saints for the Church; St Carlo Acutis and St Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Saint Carlo Acutis (1991 -2006) was born in London. His family then moved to Italy. He will be the first millennial saint and in his short life developed a deep devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the Eucharist. He often said 'The Eucharist is my highway to heaven'. He wanted to receive Jesus in Holy Communion every day and was always kind and generous to the the poor people he met. Many came to his funeral. Fascinated by the digital world, he built a website devoted to Eucharistic miracles. He is an example to inspire young people. He is probably the first saint to wear trainers and jeans. Carlo pointed out that we shouldn't be photocopies of others, the Lord didn't create us to be the same as everyone else, but to be our true selves with Jesus at the heart of ourselves.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1924) was a Italian Catholic activist for justice and member of the Third Order of Dominicans. He joined organisations like Catholic Action and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He was prayerful and always concerned with justice and the poor. A passionate mountaineer and athlete, he said 'Charity is not enough; we need social reform' and worked hard to bring about the social reforms in the world of work which Pope Leo XIII had written about in Rerum Novarum. He will inspire prayer and the work of justice which is much needed in our unjust world of war and violence."
Archbishop John says: "I am delighted that both Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati have been canonised and recognised in the communion of saints. I hope that across the archdiocese, people will give thanks to God and ask their intercession for our young people. These two new saints can inspire young people to be more active in the mission of the Church as well as develop a life of prayer and adoration."

Saint Carlo Acutis, Pray for us. Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us.

BENEDICTION & EVENING PRAYER

You are invited to Benediction & Evening Prayers to celebrate the canonisation of St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, celebrated by Bishop Tom Neylon, at 3pm on Sunday 7 September at St Stephen's Church, Sandy Lane, Orford, Warrington, WA2 9HS. There will also be an exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles designed by Bl. Carlo Acutis on display in the church. All are welcome.

What is the cross I am bearing at this point in my life? With the grace of God, am I willing to carry it?

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

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Guild of St Stephen's Pilgrimage to Lourdes is currently accepting bookings. The pilgrimage will take place Sunday 26th October – Saturday 1st November 2025 for further information, including booking costs, please contact Rose Curry on 07932 729896.

SUPPORT FOR THE DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

The Restored Lives course is run over six weeks, one evening per week. The talks cover the key issues to help you to move on and highlight the practical steps and tools to enable you to tackle the issues that arise from separation and divorce.

For more information contact Maureen 07967753471 or Jacqui Sellek 0793825815

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!

mary's meals
a simple solution to world hunger

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

This week, Fr Mark will lead thirty parishioners on a Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy. Their journey will begin in Rome, where they will walk the Jubilee Path to the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica and visit the other great Major Basilicas. They will also join the Holy Father for his General Audience on Wednesday, before praying at the tomb of Pope Francis in St Mary Major.

From Rome, the pilgrims will travel to Subiaco, the birthplace of St Benedict's monastic life, and then continue to San Giovanni Rotondo for two nights at the shrine of St Padre Pio. Next Saturday they will pause in Lanciano, the site of the famous Eucharistic Miracle where the bread and wine became real flesh and blood—a sign that deeply inspired St Carlo Acutis in his devotion to the Eucharist.

The final stage of the pilgrimage will be in Assisi, where the group will stay for two nights, visiting the Basilicas of St Francis and St Clare, and, if possible, praying before the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Our pilgrims will return home next Monday. Each day they have promised to carry our parish in prayer, asking the saints whose shrines they visit to intercede for us. Let us, in turn, pray for them—that their journey will be filled with grace, joy, and renewal, and that the fruits of their pilgrimage will enrich our whole parish family.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



We are looking forward to beginning preparation for the children of Year 4 who will celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2026. This is always a special and joyful time for our parish family as the children grow in faith and come closer to Jesus in the Eucharist.

For children attending English Martyrs and Our Lady Queen of Peace schools: please complete the registration form and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

For children who do not attend any of our three parish primary schools but would like to make their First Holy Communion, please collect a registration form from the English Martyrs Parish Office and return it promptly.

Preparation sessions will begin in October, so we kindly ask that all forms are completed and returned without delay. Thank you for supporting your child on this important step in their journey of faith.

BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI

The Parish of St Anne and Blessed Dominic, Sutton St Helens, invites clergy and parishioners to a special pilgrimage Mass at the Shrine of Blessed Dominic Barberi—designated as one of the Jubilee Churches of our Archdiocese.

Venerable Elizabeth Prout Pilgrimage Mass

Saturday, 13 September at 12 noon
Principal Celebrant: Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury

All are warmly invited to attend this significant occasion of prayer and pilgrimage.

RETIRING COLLECTION

Next Sunday we will take a second collection for the Catholic Education Service (CES), which supports our bishops in promoting and protecting Catholic education across England & Wales. CES works with government and dioceses to safeguard the Catholic ethos in our schools, form leaders and governors, support chaplaincy and RE, and ensure that families can choose a faith-based education.

We are especially blessed here in the parish with three wonderful primary schools, where children are nurtured in faith as well as learning. The CES helps to ensure that schools like ours can continue to flourish and remain true to their Catholic identity. Please be generous.

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN, Friday 12 September – Sunday 14 September

Curious about the vocation to religious life and would like to find out more? Join the FCJ Sisters for a vocation weekend. There will be input, time for prayer and reflection, experience of community life alongside the FCJ Sisters and plenty of opportunity to ask questions. The weekend is open to women 18-40 and will be held the FCJ Centre St Hugh's in Liverpool. For more information, please visit the FCJ website: https://shorturl.at/4PKfI or email FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com.

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.



What is the cross I am bearing at this point in my life? With the grace of God, am I willing to carry it?

COMING UP AT IRENAEUS - contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or 0151 949 1199

SCRIPTURE MORNINGS
10:30 - 12 noon 24th September, 1st & 8th October,

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
10:30 - 12noon Thursday 25th September '25

DAY OF RENEWAL
10am - 4pm 11th October '25

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WOMEN AT THE WELL A WOMEN'S WEEKEND
Friday 17th - Sunday 19th October '25

175th ANNIVERSARY

29 September 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy of England and Wales in 1850 by Pope Blessed Pius IX following the Reformation. It therefore also marks the 175th birthday of the (Arch)diocese of Liverpool. All parishes in the diocese have been asked to celebrate that day "in thanksgiving for the gift and mission of our Catholic faith."

JUBILEE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, Saturday 20 September

Come together for a celebration of change, equality, and unity at the Jubilee for Social Justice at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.
Holy Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Malcolm McMahon, impactful discussions, and inspiring speakers from within Catholic social action. An opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and communities, coming together to celebrate God's vision for a more just society. Save the date and be part of this empowering experience. More details to follow

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

PILGRIMAGE WALK ST MARY'S SHRINE, ORMSKIRK

We are having a Pilgrimage Walk on Saturday 20th September 2025,
11am start with Mass at 1.30pm, St Mary's Shrine Church, Prescot Road, Ormskirk, L39 6TA.
This Season of Creation, join us for a pilgrimage walk!
Starting at 11am 3.5 mile circular route 3 prayer stops on the route Mass at 1.30pm
For more information contact Chris Higgins: c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk

TEA PARTY Saturday 27 September, 1.30-3.30pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby, Merseyside L37 7EH
A chance to come together with other supporters to celebrate
Mary's Meals – and bring a friend to learn about our work.
Featuring a performance from the incredible Amadeus Chamber Choir.
Light refreshments will be provided.
Book your free ticket for both the above by contacting :
info@marysmeals.org or calling 0800 698 1212.

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.

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

What is the cross I am bearing at this point in my life? With the grace of God, am I willing to carry it?

Masses and Service for week commencing 14th September 2025

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 14th September **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Maureen White **Bob Lambert & Nicola**	**11.00am** Roy Maloney **Elizabeth Walker**
Monday 15th September	**10.00am** Juan Farias	
Tuesday 16th September		**10.00am** Peggy Boden
Wednesday 17th September	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 18th September	**10.00am** Bob Lambert & Nicola	
Friday 19th September		**10.00am** John Morisson-Wells **12.30pm** Funeral service Katherine Whelan
Saturday 20th September	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 21st September	**9.30am** Doreen Lambert	**11.00am** Ann Marie Hore

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23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time 7 September 2025

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 7th September **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Debbie Rice **Joseph Mulhaney**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Lisa Dilworth**
Monday 8th September	**10.00am** Tony Coady	
Tuesday 9th September		**10.00am** Cathy Morrisroe
Wednesday 10th September	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 11th September	**10.00am** Keith Pearson	
Friday 12th September		**10.00am** Jim Clifford
Saturday 13th September	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 14th September	**9.30am** Maureen White	**11.00am** Roy Maloney

English Martyrs Office
School Lane, Litherland,L21 7LX
0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm

St Robert Bellarmine Office
Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 6DZ
0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

What is the cross I am bearing at this point in my life? With the grace of God, am I willing to carry it?