

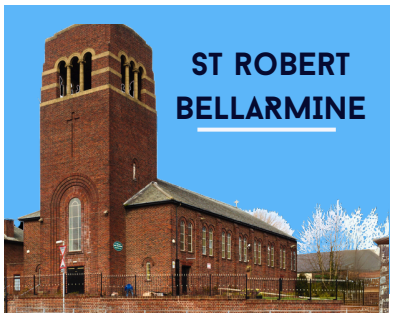
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



Today's readings are a mixture of exhortations to be gentle and humble in our own lives, and to give practical hospitality to the poor.

Jesus's teaching in the Gospel is in the setting of a meal. His parable touches into our feelings of pride or shame and instructs us to be humble. Invitations to his banquet show a definite preference for the poor and lowly.

God is pleased with those who are humble. A humble person knows that all good comes from God and that any talents we have are gifts from God. Humble people do not think that they are better or more important than others.

The values of the Kingdom of God are rather different to some of the values of our culture. Instead of asking, "What's in it for me?" we're being called upon to deny ourselves and our status and seek the lowest place. Instead of accruing friends and followers, we should make our option for "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." Jesus calls us not just to help those in need but to invite them to the feast. When we have a meal, it is not just about sharing food. We spend time with people; we listen to their stories and share their hopes and dreams and get to know them.

In this Jubilee year, as Pilgrims of Hope, as we seek to share the good things of this earth, can we also make space and time to listen to the voices of people experiencing poverty, facing war and displacement, and impacted by climate change, and truly affirm their innate dignity?

How can we grow in humility in the coming weeks? We can recognise and praise other people's strengths. Be pleased about other people's successes and avoid criticising others. Apologise if we know we are wrong and admit our faults to God and ask for forgiveness.

'The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love' - Pope Francis

This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

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...

THANK YOU FR STEPHEN!

We say a huge 'thank you' to Fr Stephen who has been with us all through the summer allowing Fr Mark to have his well deserved rest. We are incredibly lucky to have Fr Stephen helping us. He will be here when we are away on Pilgrimage but for now we thank him for everything he has done over the last few weeks



PLEASE NOTE THAT WEEKDAY MASS RETURNS TO 10.00AM FROM THURSDAY

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

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**



THE MARTYR-SAINTS OF THE NORTH-WEST, 12 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

Join us for this weekend studying some of the Reformation-era martyrs of the North-West region. Part-retreat, part-biographical, the weekend will be led by Mgr John Allen of Salford Diocese, who has recently published a history of the diocese with a foreword by Eamon Duffy.
For more information and to book: https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-martyr-saints-of-the-north-west/

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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.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION



Are you planning to marry 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 course will be starting on 29 September - 20 October. The venue is St Helen's Church, Crosby and sessions are at 6.30pm

There is a fee of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. Please book online here at Marriage Preparation Course Link. For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

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.

WELCOME BACK!!

This week we welcome back the children and staff of all our schools. Refreshed and ready for the new term!



MARY'S MEALS FILM SCREENING Tuesday 2 September, 1pm
Pauline Book Centre, 84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY

Join us for a special screening of Love Reaches Everywhere, featuring Hollywood actor, Gerard Butler, and to hear the latest updates on our work. All attendees will receive a free copy of our Founder's book, The Shed That Fed 2 Million Children.

TEA PARTY Saturday 27 September, 1.30-3.30pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby, Merseyside L37 7EH

mary's meals
a simple solution to world hunger

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.

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

BENEDICTION AND EVENING PRAYERS FOR BL. CARLO ACUTIS AND BL. PIER GIORGI FRASSATI AT ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, WARRINGTON – 7 SEPTEMBER



You are invited to Benediction & Evening Prayers to celebrate the canonisation of Bl. Carlo Acutis and Bl. 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.

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

VACANCY - CLEANER AT ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE

An opportunity is available for an experienced Cleaner to work at the offices and residence of Archbishop John Sherrington in Cressington Park L19. The successful candidate will be required to work closely with Archbishop John and his Executive Assistant.
This is a part-time permanent post, working 12 hours per week - 6 hours per day over 2 days on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Details at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

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.

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

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

This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

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 TO ITALY

Very soon, members of our parish community will undertake a very special journey in celebration of the Jubilee Year—a sacred pilgrimage to Italy, visiting some of the most important sites in our Catholic heritage. Fr Mark has now finalised the itinerary with our Travel Company.

We depart from Manchester on Monday, 8 September at 07:45, with Rome as our first destination. For three grace-filled nights, we will stay in the Eternal City, celebrating Mass at the heart of our faith—St Peter's Basilica—and, we hope, also at the Venerable English College, a place dear to the history of the Church in England. The highlight of our time in Rome will be processing together through the Holy Door of St Peter's, entering the Jubilee with open hearts and renewed hope. We will visit all four Major Basilicas—St Peter's, St John Lateran, St Mary Major, and St Paul Outside the Walls—drawing us ever deeper into the spirit of the Holy Year. We will also join pilgrims from around the world for Pope Leo's General Audience, a powerful witness to the universality of our faith.

Leaving Rome, we journey into the peaceful hills of Lazio to visit Subiaco, where St Benedict first embraced the monastic life in silence and solitude. From there, we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of St Pio (Padre Pio), where we will spend two nights learning from his example of suffering, holiness, and deep devotion to the Eucharist.

Our next stop is Assisi, where we will spend two nights walking in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare, embracing their message of simplicity, peace, and trust in God's providence. On the way, we will make a special visit to Lanciano, the site of a profound Eucharistic Miracle, reminding us of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Finally, we return to Rome on Monday, 15 September, filled with memories and blessings, arriving back in Manchester later that afternoon.
Please keep all our pilgrims in your prayers as we prepare for this journey of faith, encounter, and renewal during this Holy Year of Hope

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Fr Mark is keen to resume Children's Liturgy at St Robert Bellarmine, but we need volunteers to help with this. Please give your name to the Parish Office and Fr Mark will arrange a meeting. Hopefully, we can start this important ministry in September.



This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

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.

LIGHT OF TRUTH: CHILDREN'S LITURGY TRAINING, Saturday 6 September, 9.00 to 12.00.

CHILDREN'S Liturgy of the Word

Online morning workshop for everyone involved in Children's Liturgy, looking at the principles and practical tools we can use to help children participate in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/childrens-liturgy-training

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King now has it's own newsletter, bringing you all their events in one place - to sign up, please visit the link here: https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/sign-up/

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool

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.



This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

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

AGAPE MASS
7pm 4th September '25

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

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

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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

This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA - FURTHER UPDATE

With your support, CAFOD is still working with partners in Gaza to deliver medical services, cash assistance and vital food supplies.

In the last month alone, the generosity of Catholics in England and Wales has:

- Supported 1,400 households with cash assistance, enabling families to meet their most urgent needs with dignity and choice.
- With a new supply of chronic illness medications available, helped ensure these life-saving treatments reach patients who need them.
- Helped Caritas Jerusalem to continue provide healthcare services to displaced families, despite recent damage to one of their buildings in Deir al Balah. Our support contributes to this resilience, helping ensure patients can still access treatment in the midst of disruption.

The situation on the ground is still unimaginably difficult for our partners and communities – but with your recent donations they are providing rice and bread to 2,000 people. This is just one of the life-saving interventions you've made possible. Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses.

With the attacks intensifying on the overcrowded Gaza city, where so many have taken refuge, we must not turn away from our neighbours in need. We must continue to raise our voices to our government to urge them to do all they can.

Earlier this month Cardinal Vincent Nichols called for peace:
"Already too much innocent blood has been shed; too many lives destroyed; too much hunger and starvation. This war must be ended not increased."

Pope Leo this week also called us to pray and fast for peace on the commemoration of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was celebrated on Friday, 22 August.

Please continue to pray for peace, and an end to the suffering in Gaza

ENGLISH MARTYRS FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

Next meeting will take place on Monday at 7pm in Parish Hall when we will continue our discussions on the theme of 'Hope'

This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.



Join Jospice for their sponsored walk Register at: www.stjhospice.org.uk

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

This week may we follow Jesus, who is 'gentle and humble of heart', in all that we say and do.

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time 31 August 2025

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 31st August **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Bernard Whiteside **Anthony Malumbe**	**11.00am** John French **Successful Operation**
Monday 1st September	**10.30am** Ellen Lawrence & Family	
Tuesday 2nd September		**10.30am** Carl Jones
Wednesday 3rd September	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 4th September	**10.00am** Charlie Ward	
Friday 5th September		**10.00am** Jimmy Russell
Saturday 6th September	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 7th September	**9.30am** Debbie Rice	**11.00am** People of the Parish

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

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