

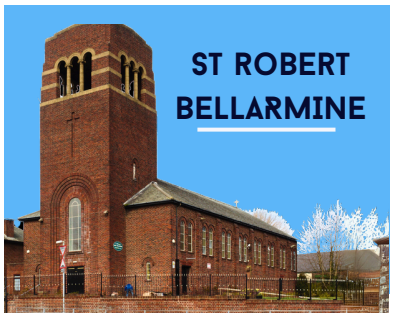
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



"Witnesses in a Wounded World"

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus prays for unity: "May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you." It's a tender, intimate moment—Jesus knows the cross is near, yet He turns His heart outward, praying for those who would follow Him. He prays for us.

This week, the world was shaken again by violence—this time, close to home. The car attack in Liverpool has left the city in shock and a nation once more reminded of how fragile life is, and how deep the wounds of hatred and division still run.

In such moments, Jesus' prayer for unity doesn't feel abstract—it becomes urgent. The call to be "one" is not a poetic sentiment, but a challenge to become real witnesses of love in a fractured world.

The early Church, as seen in the Acts of the Apostles, faced persecution, violence, and fear, yet they responded not with revenge but with boldness in love. As disciples today, we are called to do the same. Not to turn away in despair, nor to lash out in anger, but to stand firm in compassion, in prayer, and in unity.

Let us pray this week for the victims of the Liverpool attack, for their families, for those affected by the events, and for all who are tempted by hatred. May our witness, as individuals and as a Church, be a healing balm. Let us not become numb or cynical, but bear one another's burdens in love.

As we wait for Pentecost next week, may the Holy Spirit breathe peace into our troubled world, and may we become ever more one in heart, in purpose, and in Christ.

"May they be brought to complete unity... so that the world may know you sent me."

Fr Mark

In what visible or vocal ways do I give witness to my faith?

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE - 8-15 September 2025

Places are still available for the Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome, San Giovanni & Assisi, Monday 8 September - Monday 15 September 2025. Fr Mark and the Pilgrimage Company have now finalised the last remaining details of the flights:
Monday 8 September
10:15 am depart Manchester on Ryanair
13:55 pm arrive Rome



Monday 15 September
21:30 pm depart Rome on Ryanair
23:30 pm arrive Manchester

The final total cost of the trip is £1588. If anyone one is interested in booking, you need to take a booking form from the parish office, complete it and bring it back

PARISH NEWSLETTER!

This is your newsletter and we welcome any contributions that you may wish to have included in future weeks.
Any items for the newsletter need to be with either of the parish offices by Thursday morning.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE

That the world might grow in compassion
Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.
Lord in your mercy...

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 and further information, including booking costs, is included on the attached flyer. For more information please contact Rose Curry on 07932 729896.

Walking the Synodal Path Together

The Synod on Synodality concluded last October echoing Pope Francis' words that synodality 'is the path that God expects from the Church of the third millennium.' The Final Synod Document lays out an expectation of how we walk this path at every level within the life of the Church.
The Final Synod Document can be accessed here: https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG---Documento-finale.pdf

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, has prepared a helpful guide to the document: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/03/Synod-Take-Outs-Final-Doc.pdf

We have some experience of beginning to walk this synodal path in recent years in our archdiocese. We were able to respond very directly to one of the calls in the Final Document with the process of consultation that led to the appointment of our new archbishop, who we look forward to welcoming in just over a week. The outcome of that consultation was sent to the then Cardinal Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, who responded personally with thanks for the work that had been done. Pope Leo's first remarks on the balcony of St Peter's have already affirmed his own commitment to this continuing journey.

The School for Synodality is a project working across the dioceses of England and Wales, and further afield, to support the lived experience of synodality in the life of the Church. The Archdiocese has been working with the School in developing programmes and resources to support this work, see: https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/

To help unpack the Final Synod Document the School has brought together several speakers who were all participants in the Synod on Synodality for a webinar series which started Wednesday (21st May). Over 6 weeks Dr Jos Moons SJ, Professor Anna Rowlands, Dr Estela Padilla, Professor Cathy Clifford, Fr David McCallum SJ, Sandra Chaoul and Archbishop Jason Gordon, Archbishop of Port of Spain, will take us through a section of the document with time for questions afterwards.

For more information and to register: https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/our-resources/final-document-book-club-2025

We will be having a Parish meeting in the very near future to discuss how we move forward. In the meantime please access these documents and webinars which will hopefully give you some insight into how things will progress

PARISH SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 11th JULY

We are super pleased to again have our 'annual' trip to the world famous International Musical Eisteddfod in the beautiful Welsh town of Llangollen on Friday 11th July. Fr Mark's favourite day of the year!

We will leave the parish and travel by coach to Llangollen and we can stroll around the maes (Welsh for field) with its hundreds of stalls, food and drinking places. Your ticket will guarantee you a reserved seat in the Pavilion to watch the competitions - one of the world's most unique festivals, celebrating music, dance, and international culture.
You can walk around the town and enjoy the many shops and beautiful scenery.
The day includes transport, entry to the Eisteddfod and a reserved seat in the Pavilion.
We finish off the day by enjoying a 3 course evening meal together in The Hand Hotel in Llangollen. The Hotel stands above a beautiful stretch of the river Dee close to the centre of the town with its stunning riverside garden.
Total cost for this lovely day out is £74



If you would like to join us please give your name to the office with a £10 deposit as soon as possible as numbers are restricted.

Society Of Saint Gregory - Annual Summer School 2025, Liverpool Hope University
30 July (from 2pm) – 2 August 2025 (lunchtime)
JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE
The theme of Jubilee and Hope will be reflected in our liturgies and music, providing us with an opportunity to reflect on what we have learned and to consider how we might take the message of hope back to our parish communities.
Keynote Speaker – David Wells, a pastoral leader and well-known speaker encouraging and inspiring people to share the joy of the gospel, through the lens of building parish life.
Director of Music – Martin Barry, a parish musician, composer and former Cathedral Director. He is President of Universa Laus, the international study group for liturgical music.
Workshops – Proclaiming the Word, Presiding, Chant, Singing the Psalms, Exploring the Liturgy Directory, the "Volunteer" Organist and much more.
We welcome Residential, Non-Residential and Day Delegates, and Bursary Funding is available.
Further details and online booking at ssg.org.uk/summer-school or by emailing summerschool@ssg.org.uk
Closing date for Bookings – 1 June 2025

In what visible or vocal ways do I give witness to my faith?

Exam Season Prayer to St Joseph of Cupertino for success in examinations prayed before an examination.

O Great St Joseph of Cupertino
who while on earth did obtain from God
the grace to be asked at your
examination, only the questions you knew,
obtain for me a like favour in
the examinations for which I am now preparing.
In return, I promise to make you known
and cause you to be invoked.
Through Christ our Lord.

PILGRIM'S PASSPORT

As part of the Year of Jubilee, CBEW have selected Jubilee Churches where those making a pilgrimage can make a plenary indulgence. To encourage people to visit these Jubilee churches, a Pilgrim Passport has been created, containing a quick guide to each of the Jubilee Churches and a page to collect stamps from each church.
A sample of the passport can be found at the back of church. If you would like your own copy, please contact the parish office, and they will print one for you.

YOUTH 2000 Summer Festival 2025

Taking place in the grounds of Ampleforth College from Friday 22nd - Monday 25th August, the Youth 2000 Summer Festival provides young adults (aged 16-35) from across the UK the opportunity to come together and explore faith, build relationships and find hope. This four-day festival includes great speakers, social time, break-out sessions, Daily Mass, 24/7 Adoration and much more! Register your place at: youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025.

TIME OUT TUESDAYS - 10 JUNE 2025 10:00AM - 4:00PM

In the midst of their busy lives, Jesus invited the disciples to "Come apart and rest for a while." Why not take time to respond to this invitation and join The Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle for a time of prayer and quiet. No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. For further information, contact Sr Winnie Morley on 0151 722 2271

In what visible or vocal ways do I give witness to my faith?

RECRUITMENT FOR BOY & GIRL CHORISTERS 2025

Do you know a child who would like to be a chorister at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King here in Liverpool?



The search is now on for our next generation of Boy and Girl choristers.

All choristers are educated at

1. Runnymede St Edward's Catholic Primary School (yr 3-6)
2. St Edward's College (yr 7-13)

meaning that a first-class Catholic chorister education for boys and girls in Liverpool is available at no cost.

If you know of a Catholic family who might be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please share this information with them. Full details of choristerships at the Metropolitan Cathedral, go to:
www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES FOR ENGAGED COUPLES

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is offering marriage preparation courses for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church. Each course includes four evening sessions led by trained lay facilitators, providing time for couples to reflect on their relationship, develop communication skills, and explore the meaning of love within the context of Catholic faith.

Two course options are available:

Course A Venue: Christ the King Church, Queens Drive, Childwall, Liverpool L15 6YQ Dates: Mondays – 16 June, 23 June, 30 June, 7 July Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Course B Venue: St Helen's Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 7TQ Dates: Mondays – 29 September, 6 October, 13 October, 20 October Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Cost: £50 per couple (to cover materials and expenses) Booking: https://forms.office.com/e/1dcczNSQqX Enquiries: Moses Mui, Training Coordinator – m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

Journey into Silence: An introduction to Christian meditation

Saturday 14th June 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Come along to the Irenaeus Centre on Saturday 14th June to discover the beauty of Christian meditation. You will need to book by contacting jenny@irenaeus.co.uk because you will receive a pack of resources to help you to pray.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Boniface (675?-754)



For the first forty years of his life Boniface was known as Wynfrith. He was born in Devon and educated at the monastery at Exeter, and then joined the Benedictine abbey at Nursling, near Southampton. He was a teacher and preacher, but he desired to preach the gospel in a foreign land. In 718, Pope Gregory 11 commissioned him to do so, at the same time changing his name from Wynfrith to Boniface.
Boniface left England, never to return, and took the gospel to the heathen tribes of Germany, where he had great success.
He himself was created Bishop of Mainz, and he founded or restored dioceses in Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia. In his later years he worked with King Pepin the Short to reform the Frankish church, and then, over seventy years old, set out to evangelize Friesland (part of modern Holland) where he was set upon and murdered, on 5 June 754.
He is buried at Fulda, near Frankfurt, in the monastery he founded himself, and is honoured as the apostle of Germany. His feast day is celebrated on Thursday.

ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street,
Liverpool, L1 3AY). As usual, we will start at 6.30pm with food and refreshments provided, then followed by prayer at 7pm. This year we will explore different types of prayer. The next meeting will be on 10 June and the theme will be 'Praying with Music'. Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. For enquiries, contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

WeBELIEVE FESTIVAL

Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ. From 25-28 July, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. Early bird tickets available now at www.webelievefestival.com

WELCOME ARCHBISHOP JOHN



The Most Reverand John Sherrington has been installed as the tenth Archbishop of Liverpool during a Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.
It was announced in April, just a few weeks before his death, that Pope Francis had elected Archbishop Sherrington as the successor of Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP who is retiring after 11 years as Archbishop.
Thousands of Catholics of all ages from across the archdiocese gathered at the cathedral for the celebration which included Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, bishops and clergy from across England and Wales and civic leaders and representatives from other faiths.
Archbishop Sherrington said: "The Mass of Installation was a joyous occasion; it was wonderful to see so many people from across the diocese and beyond gather together in prayer as we continue to preach Christ to the people of our time.
"I give thanks to Archbishop Malcolm who has served the archdiocese with love and generosity, and I am honoured to succeed him.
"I look forward to serving as a shepherd to this historic and faith-filled archdiocese and to bring the hope and joy of Christ to all people."
You can see some lovely photos of the celebration at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/liverpoolcatholic/albums/72177720326466474

FAMILY PICNIC

All families are welcome to attend this Family Picnic as part of the confirmation preparation process on Saturday 28 June, 11am-3pm at St Anne Church, Prescot Rd, Ormskirk, L39 4TG. We especially wish to invite those families with children who are being baptised, making their holy communions or confirmations. Families are encouraged to bring their own food. There will be games for younger children, children's liturgy for older children and Animate Youth activities for teenagers.

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.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH OFFICE – will be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday next week

CANTATE CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Join Cantate – a brand-new choir in Liverpool! Whether you're a seasoned singer or a complete beginner, there are no auditions to join – just a love for music and a desire to have fun! Singing is a great way to improve confidence and mental wellbeing whilst learning skills and meeting new people. They will be singing a mixed repertoire of traditional and modern songs and working toward a fantastic concert, Music for a Summer's Evening, on Tuesday, 24 June. The introductory rate is just £30 for the first term (8 sessions); that's just £3.75 per session. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, 6 May 6.30pm at St. Anthony of Padua church hall, Mossley Hill. Visit www. archdioceseofliverpool.org/Cantate to sign up.

'SONGS WE REMEMBER' SING-A-LONG



2pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (Dementia friendly). Email: irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 949 1199. 32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK - Defending our faith in Today's World
St Helen's, Alexandra Road, Crosby. 5 June 2025 at 7.30pm
The latest Newman Association Talk will see Professor John Sullivan, Professor of Christian Education at Liverpool Hope University, lead a talk on Defending Our Faith in Today's World - the nature and role of Apologetics. The talk will look at What is it? What is it for? And, what qualities are needed to make it effective? All are welcome to attend.

LATE SPRING RAFFLE



St Robert's are holding a 'late spring' raffle in aid of Parish funds.
Tickets will be on sale at the back of church.

ONE HEART CONCERT
The Metropolitan Cathedral
Thursday 19th June 2025, 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Join us for an uplifting evening of music and solidarity at the One Heart Concert, featuring powerful performances from the Asylum Link Choir and the Choir with No Name, supported by students from St Edward's College and other Edmund Rice schools.
The evening will be hosted by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, current Children's Laureate and best-selling author.

'CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST/2 CATHEDRALS WALK, 8 JUNE 2025 3-5pm
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On Sunday, 8th of June at 3 pm, walk with us in a powerful celebration of Pentecost, as we journey together between Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Starting at Liverpool Cathedral this symbolic walk unites all communities in faith, reflection and joy. Come and be part of this special tradition! The celebrations will begin with a short act of worship at Liverpool Cathedral and include the story of Pentecost, hymns and stalls on the piazza of the Metropolitan Cathedral. The choirs of both cathedrals and a Salvation Army Band will be involved. All are welcome!

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2025

The theme of this year's World Communications Day is: '**Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts.'**

In his last message to the Church before he died, Pope Francis said: "In these our times, characterised by disinformation and polarisation, as a few centres of power control an. unprecedented mass of data and information, I would like to speak to you as one who is well aware of the importance – now more than ever – of your work as journalists and communicators. Your courageous efforts to put personal and collective responsibility towards others at the heart of communication are indeed necessary…

Too often today, communication generates not hope, but fear and despair, prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred. All too often it simplifies reality in order to provoke instinctive reactions; it uses words like a razor; it even uses false or artfully distorted information to send messages designed to agitate, provoke or hurt. On several occasions, I have spoken of our need to "disarm" communication and to purify it of aggressiveness. It never helps to reduce reality to slogans. All of us see how – from television talk shows to verbal attacks on social media – there is a risk that the paradigm of competition, opposition, the will to dominate and possess, and the manipulation of public opinion will prevail…

Be witnesses and promoters of a non-aggressive communication; help to spread a culture of care, build bridges and break down the visible and invisible barriers of the present time. Tell stories steeped in hope, be concerned about our common destiny and strive to write together the history of our future. All this you can do, and we can do, with God's grace, which the Jubilee helps us to receive in abundance. This is my prayer, and with it, I bless each of you and your work".

Please be generous with the retiring collection today for Catholic Communications.

In what visible or vocal ways do I give witness to my faith?

PARISH STRATEGY PLAN

We are looking for a couple of people to join the small group to complete the survey for the Parish Strategy Plan, being conducted in every parish in Sefton over the next few months. The work is not difficult, but a couple of people would be appreciated. Please have a word with Fr Mark.

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CONFIRMATION 2025



Please keep the young people in our Deanery who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this week by Bishop John Rawsthorne, in your prayers.

VISITATION OF FATIMA STATUE AND RELICS – Monday 2 June 2025

The Centenary Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the relics of Ss Jacinta and Francisco are coming to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Monday 2 June. On the day, there will be Holy Mass at 10:00, followed by Holy Rosary, act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At 13:00, there will be Fatima talk & film, followed by enrolment & investiture of the Brown Scapular and Holy Hour. The event will finish with benediction at 16:00. For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

JOIN US AT THE ART SCHOOL FOR A SUMMER SOIREE…

We are delighted to be able to collaborate with Chef Paul Askew, one of the UK's most pioneering figures in hospitality, and his team once again, and we have arranged with them to provide a three course meal with a glass of prosecco on arrival and an amuse bouche for just £50.00 per person. Chef Askew has a firm reputation as a pioneer of excellent modern British cuisine and this is a dining experience not to be missed! The date you need to keep in your diary is Thursday 26 June 2025 from 7pm onwards. Dinner will be served in The Lantern Room. We hope that you will book some tickets and come and enjoy a convivial evening in surroundings that are timeless and yet modern enjoying the company of new friends and old ones, whilst raising money for the Cathedral. To book your ticket and to arrange payment please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

Seventh Sunday of Easter 1 June 2025

Masses & Services for the Coming Week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 1st June **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** People of the Parish **Pauline Saunderson**	**11.00am** Anthony Hulme **Fatima**
Monday 2nd June	**10.00am** Sophie Dale	**1.15pm** Funeral Service Thomas 'Tim'Kenny
Tuesday 3rd June		**10.00am** Peter Cherry
Wednesday 4th June	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 5th June	**10.00am** Funeral Mass Kevin Casey	
Friday 6th June		**NO MASS**
Saturday 7th June	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 8th June	**9.30am** Bridget McDermott	**11.00am** People of the Parish

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

In what visible or vocal ways do I give witness to my faith?