

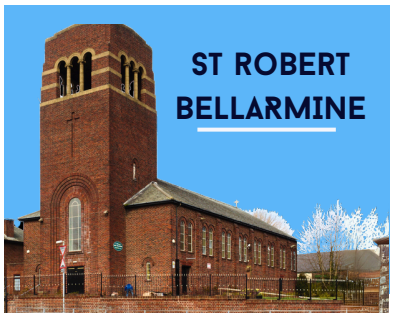
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



Love one another as I have loved you"

This commandment of Jesus, offered during the Last Supper, sets the tone for the entire Christian mission — a love that is lived out through service, compassion, and courageous hope.

This week, as the Easter season continues and the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of Hope, I had the privilege of visiting Jerusalem — the sacred heart of our faith. Walking in the footsteps of Christ and visiting the local Church communities was a powerful reminder of how deeply rooted our mission is in this land of promise and suffering.

I met with local clergy, visited community projects, and witnessed firsthand the incredible work being done to support those in need. Particularly moving was the opportunity to inspect aid initiatives directed toward Gaza — a vital reminder that love is not only a word we proclaim, but a reality we build through action.

This moment also coincides with the beginning of Pope Leo XIV's papacy. His inaugural message called us to be signs of unity, healing, and hope — values that resonated deeply during my time in the Holy Land. Like his namesake, Pope St. Leo the Great, our new Holy Father challenges us to lead with truth and mercy.

In this Jubilee Year, may our love be visible — in prayer, in service, and in our commitment to those who suffer. Hope is alive, and we are called to be its faithful witnesses.

Fr Mark

Am I willing to put others before myself? How can I show this love for my sisters and brothers?

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.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and society might be humanized

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 starting this 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

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" MAY DRAW

1st Prize £20	No. 181	M Whittaker
2nd Prize £15	No. 58	A Lundon
3rd Prize £10	No. 36	D Taylor
4th Prize £10	No. 206	S Harper

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

IRENAEUS: DEMENTIA AWARNESS: 19 May

An exploration of the Resurrection stories, followed by Mass, at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. 14:00 – 15:00 This session, led by Sr. Moira on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society, will focus on raising awareness of dementia. We will discuss ways to recognize and support individuals living with dementia

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.

Am I willing to put others before myself? How can I show this love for my sisters and brothers?

Statement on the announcement of Pope Leo XIV from the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, Apostolic Administrator of Liverpool said:

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is with a profound sense of joy and thanksgiving to God that we welcome the news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, the 267th successor of St Peter.

The Cardinal Electors, inspired by the Holy Spirit, have chosen a gifted and prayerful pastor to walk in the shoes of the fisherman to be a focus of unity for the Church today.

After the call and legacy of the late Pope Francis calling the Church to be missionary disciples and proclaim the joy of the Gospel, we as the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Liverpool pledge our closeness in prayer and our support to Our Holy Father the Pope.

I invite all the faithful of the archdiocese, and men and women of good will to pray with me at this time.

O God pastor and ruler of all the faithful, look with mercy upon Pope Leo XIV who you have appointed to shepherd the Universal Church. Renew deep within him the spirit of Holiness to be the shepherd, the guide of the Church for the needs of the world today in 2025.

Through Christ our Lord Amen.

Holy Mary, mother of the Church, pray for us!

Saints Peter and Paul, apostles of Rome. Pray for us!

Archbishop elect- Sherrington added:

I unite my prayer with Archbishop Malcolm and the people and clergy of the Archdiocese of Liverpool for Pope Leo XIV as the successor of St Peter and the shepherd of the Universal Church.



We rejoice in his election!



Pope Leo XIV's Biography from Catholic Bishop's Conference

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, Archbishop-Bishop emeritus of Chiclayo, was born on 14 September 1955 in Chicago (Illinois, United States). IN 1977 he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in the province of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Saint Louis. On 29 August 1981 he gave his solemn vows. He studied at the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, receiving a diploma in theology.

At the age of 27 he was sent by the Order to Rome to study canon law at the Pontifical Saint Thomas Aquinas University (Angelicum). He received priestly ordination on 19 June 1982. He received his licentiate in 1984, and was then sent to work in the mission of Chulucanas, in Piura, Peru (1985-1986).

In 1987 he was awarded a doctorate with the thesis: "The role of the local prior in the Order of Saint Augustine". In the same year he was elected director of vocations and director of the missions of the Augustinian province of "Mother of Good Counsel" of Olympia Fields, Illinois, United States of America. In 1988 he was sent to the mission of Trujillo as director of the joint formation project for Augustinian aspirants in the Vicariates of Chulucanas, Iquitos and Apurímac. There he served as community prior (1988-1992), director of formation (1988-1998) and teacher of the professed (1992-1998). In the archdiocese of Trujillo he was judicial vicar (1989-1998), and professor of canon, patristic and moral law in the "San Carlos e San Marcelo" Major Seminary.

In 1999 he was elected provincial prior of the "Mother of Good Counsel" province, Chicago. After two and a half years, the ordinary general Chapter elected him prior general, a ministry again entrusted to him in the 2007 ordinary general Chapter. In October 2013 he returned to his province (Chicago) to serve as teacher of the professed and provincial vicar, roles he held 3 November 2014, when Pope Francis appointed him apostolic administrator of the diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, elevating him to the dignity of bishop and assigning him the titular diocese of Sufar. On 7 November he took canonical possession of the diocese in the presence of the apostolic nuncio James Patrick Green; he was ordained a bishop on 12 December, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the cathedral of his diocese. He served as bishop of Chiclayo from 26 November 2015. In March 2018 he became second vice president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference. Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy in 2019, and member of the Congregation for Bishops in 2020.

On 15 April 2020, the Pope appointed him apostolic administrator of the diocese of Callao

On 30 January 2023 Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Prevost as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and presidet of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

Created and proclaimed Cardinal by Pope Francis in the Consistory of 30 September 2023, of the Deaconry of Santa Monica.

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Member of:

The Dicasteries for: Evangelization, Section for first evangelization and the new particular Churches; the Doctrine of the Faith; the Eastern Churches; the Clergy; the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life; Culture and Education; Legislative Texts; The Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State.

INSTALLATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP



The Mass of Installation of The Most Reverend John Francis Sherrington as the tenth Archbishop of Liverpool will occur on Tuesday 27 May 2025, at 12 noon at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

There are still some spaces available for people to attend the Mass, but everyone attending will need a ticket. If you would like a ticket, please email Claire Hanlon on c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk ASAP.

Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 31st August 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Museum of Country Life. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



First Holy Communion celebrations in our parish occur during the Easter Season. Please continue to pray for our children and their families as they accept this special gift and deepen their connection to the life of the Church and our community. Thank you to our wonderful team of catechists and the schools for their help.

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.

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

ANNE TAYLOR

We were saddened to hear of the death of Anne Taylor last weekend. Anne was a regular at St Robert Bellarmine's and was a member of the weekly gardening volunteer team who keep the grounds looking beautiful, and she played a big part in our weekly coffee morning - often supplying beautiful cakes. She was also a leader of the Bootle Wellbeing Walking group.

The intention of the 10.00am mass on Tuesday morning will be for Anne.

May She Rest In Peace

HOLY MASS AND BRUNCH FOR ENGAGED COUPLES – Saturday 31 May

To celebrate the gift of marriage, all engaged couples across the Archdiocese are cordially invited to the Holy Mass on Saturday 31 May at St Margaret Clitherow Centre (Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA). The Mass with special blessing for engaged couples will be celebrated at 11am, followed by brunch. If you are interested to join please sign up with the below online enrolment form. For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

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!

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.

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY MAY PROCESSION

Missionaries of Charity's May Procession will begin at 2pm on Saturday 31 May at St Peter's Square. The procession starts at St Peters Square (off Seel Street) and continues via Seel Street, Berry Street, Bold Street, Church Street,Whitechapel to Queens Square finishing at the Shrine. A special invitation is extended to those who are making their 1st Holy Communion in 2025. To join in or for more information, please contact Mr Jim Ross either via email: jimmy.ross7@gmail.com or via phone: 07766 706 766.

SANTA MARTA GROUP

The Santa Marta Group is a International Group hoping to be a catalyst to bring systemic change to end human trafficking and modern-day slavery by bringing together leaders from civil society, law enforcement, business, faiths and communities.

Fr Mark would like to form a new parish Group that will work specifically with the Santa Marta Group, Caritas, Civic authorities etc. to highlight the work of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. We will officially launch the group and its work on Sunday 8th February 2026. If you are willing to join, please give your name to the parish offices.

Am I willing to put others before myself? How can I show this love for my sisters and brothers?

PARISH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

To help us in the implementation of the Pastoral Plan, each Deanery is being asked to work together to produce a strategy for the future. You will hear about this at Mass this weekend and you will receive a leaflet giving you more details. The first part of this strategy is to gather detailed information about each of the parishes in our Deanery. We will all need to be involved in this. The Parish Development Strategy is being rolled out across the whole Diocese in the next 2 years – but we are one of the 3 pilot Deaneries, along with the other two Sefton Deaneries.
Each parish has a member of a Deanery Steering Group: ours is Angela Range. This work will also be done in collaboration with the Deanery Synodal Councils.
Please make sure you take a leaflet home which tells you more.
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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

Masses & Services for the Coming Week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 18th May **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Peggy Molloy **Daniel Lovett**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Jan Huntley**
Monday 19th May	**11.30am** Funeral Mass Norah Wright	
Tuesday 20th May		**10.00am** Anne Taylor
Wednesday 21st May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 22nd May	**10.00am** Elizabeth Jones	
Friday 23rd May	**12.00pm** Funeral Mass Mary Jennings	**9.30 am** Funeral Mass Peter Cherry
Saturday 24th May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 25th May	**9.30am** Suzanne McQuade	**11.00am** Madeline Cranny

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.ukOrrell Road,
Bootle, L20 6DZ Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

Am I willing to put others before myself? How can I show this love for my sisters and brothers?