

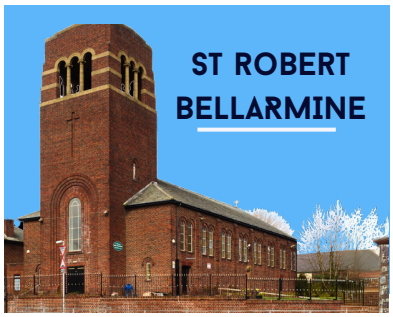
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church turns its gaze to Christ, the Good Shepherd who knows each of us by name, who walks before us, and who lays down His life for His flock. His voice is steady and sure, calling us to follow Him in faith and trust, even in uncertain times.

This year, we hear that voice echoed in a powerful new way as we welcome the election of Pope Leo XIV, our new Holy Father. His election comes as a moment of profound joy and hope for the Church. A member of the Augustinian order, Pope Leo XIV brings with him a rich spiritual heritage shaped by one of the Church's greatest shepherds, St. Augustine.

In his first address as pope, Leo XIV echoed Augustine's timeless words: "For you, I am a bishop. With you, I am a Christian." In this simple yet profound statement, he reminded the world that the call to leadership in the Church is, first and foremost, a call to service and solidarity. Though he leads the flock, he remains a fellow pilgrim - walking with us, not above us - always seeking the face of the Good Shepherd.

As he begins his ministry as the successor of Peter, let us lift Pope Leo XIV in prayer. May he be a shepherd after Christ's own heart - wise, courageous, compassionate - and may his voice help us to recognise more clearly the voice of Jesus in our lives. Lord Jesus, bless Pope Leo XIV. Strengthen him with your grace, guide him with your Spirit, and through his leadership, lead your Church ever closer to your heart.

Fr Mark

How can I be the kind of person to shepherd someone else?

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

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LOOK 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.

WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT MASS OFFERINGS

The faithful who make an offering so that Mass can be celebrated for their intention, contribute to the good of the Church, and by that offering they share in the Church's concern for the support of its ministers and its activities. Code of Canon Law, Canon 946

A Mass offering is a donation given to the parish so that a priest can celebrate or concelebrate Mass with a particular intention. Every Mass is offered for the whole Church, living and dead, as expressed in the Eucharistic Prayer. The priest does not keep the Mass offering; it goes into the parish account.

A priest must offer an intention each time that he celebrates a Mass.

Missa pro Populo

Every Sunday, a Parish Priest must ensure that one Mass is said for the intention of all the people in the parish. This is called the Missa pro Populo. When the Parish Priest is not celebrating Sunday Mass in the parish, this Mass is not said in the parish but is said by the Parish Priest wherever he may be.

Should the intention be announced at Mass?

The priest has no obligation under Canon Law to mention the name or the particular intention, and the Church recommends that this should not be the practice. The priest is required to 'have it in his mind'. The Mass intention is not for the people but for the priest only. Any concelebrating priests will also have particular intentions. Although the priest does not mention the intention, he has it firmly in mind and prays for it during Mass. Priests who say the Mass intention are doing so unofficially and are not keeping to the official practice of the Church. Priests should not be pressured to do something that is not the Church's official practice. The Church recommends publishing that week's Mass intentions in weekly newsletters or notice boards.

· **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

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, has been postponed for a few weeks but we are still urged to appeal to our MP to vote against it when it comes to the House of Commons. The next vote is on **16th May**

Despite a disappointing initial vote of 330–275 in favour, there is now a realistic chance the Bill can be defeated. The Independent newspaper reports that 142 MPs who initially backed the Bill could withdraw their support. NOW is the time for Catholics to make their voices heard.

If assisted suicide becomes law in England & Wales:
1. Hospice [and palliative care] provision will be undermined
2. Suicide prevention efforts will be weakened
3. Elderly and disabled people will feel pressure to take their own lives*

In the US state of Oregon, almost half of those who have died by assisted suicide cited fear of being a burden on their families or carers as a reason for choosing to die. Only 1-in-3 people cite fear of pain.

Please take a postcard from the back of church, complete it and send it to Mr Peter Dowd, MP for Bootle, who voted in favour of Bill last November.

The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: www.righttolife.org.uk/asvote.

Please also consider signing the Care Not Killing petition. There are only a few more days before the next vote

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives. Please visit: www.carenotkilling.org.uk for the online petition.

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

ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE WALK 1

COFFEE MORNING

St Anne & Blessed Dominic, Sutton, St Helens (WA9 3ZD) – Saturday 17 May 2025.
The first of our three Jubilee Pilgrimage Walks will take place on Saturday 17 May. This will be a circular walk of 5 miles based around the Jubilee Church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic in St Helens. The walk will begin 10.00am from the church car park and will end with a short procession through the grounds at 11.50am. Those who do not feel able to complete the 5-mile walk may join us for the procession. Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon and there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and visit to the Shrine of Blessed Dominic Barberi. Refreshments will also be available after Mass in the Parish Centre. For more information contact Chris: c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk

MISSION RED BOX



This weekend we welcome Fr Frank Downs MHM to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit. This is NOT an appeal for money but an appeal to encourage people to take a Red Box as a way to support world Mission. Missio reprsentatives in our Parish are Mary Maloney (EM) and please speak to the Parish Office at St Robert's

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.



Each parish has been allocated two tickets for parishioners to attend. If you would like to go, please give your name to the Parish Office by Thursday 1 May. If we receive more than two names, Fr Mark will draw two names out of a hat.

In addition to 2 named parishioners whilst we do expect a full Cathedral for this occasion there will be some unreserved sections of the Cathedral for members of the faithful who wish to attend. In order to register your and request a space , please let the Parish Office know so that we can inform the Cathedral.

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

RESURRECTION STORIES AT IRENAEUS

An exploration of the Resurrection Stories Wed 10.30am-12 Noon
14th, 21st May.
For more info contact Irenaeus 32 Great George Rd, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 949 1199
Email: jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

COME AND BE A CATHEDRAL GUIDE & WELCOMER!

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

Please give us the gift of three hours a week of your precious voluntary time. Learn on the job for as long as it takes. Answer queries at the welcoming desk. Listen to the stories of our wonderful visitors. If you like, take large or very small groups on tours. Give the job your own creativity. Be part of a ministry of welcome. Add your own dimension to a large and flourishing team. Be a consistent part of your group throughout the year. Contribute toward presenting our Cathedral as a living Christian community, able to embrace everyone as valued individuals. Make new friends. Enjoy a fresh challenge. This random list could go on! Give us a call and we shall arrange for you to Come and See. Contact Dcn Paul Mannings: p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk

'PILGRIMS OF HOPE' PENTECOST WALK – Sunday 8 June 2025

This year's walk will start at the Anglican Cathedral and move to the Metropolitan Cathedral along Hope Street. The theme this year is our Jubilee theme: 'Pilgrims of Hope'. There are lots of exciting things planned for the day – save the date. Parishes and groups are invited to come along with banners which can be carried in the procession.

EXAM TIME

Please keep all those sitting exams, and their teachers, in your prayers over the next couple of weeks .

We pray especially for those in Year 6 of our three primary schools as they have their KS2 SATS tests next week.

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.

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 11th May **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Jane Wood Kitty & Tom Murphy	**11.00am** Moira Hanton. Anne Hart
Monday 12th May	**10.00am** Cecilia Byrne	
Tuesday 13th May		**10.00am** Vivienne Malone **11.30am** Funeral service Ann Gregory
Wednesday 14th May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 15th May	**10.00am** Maureen Wilkinson **11.30am** Funeral service Christina Wenton	
Friday 16th May		**10.00am** Tom Ryan
Saturday 17th May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 18th May	**9.30am** Peggy Molloy	**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
Bootle, L20 6DZ
0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.ukOrrell Road,
Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

How can I be the kind of person to shepherd someone else?