

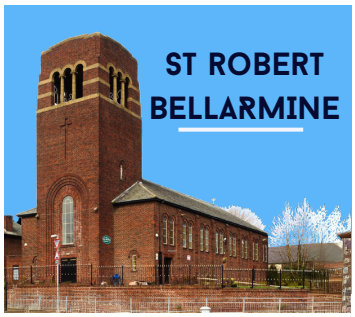
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



Christ is risen! Alleluia!



With joyful hearts, we gather this Easter Sunday to celebrate the greatest triumph in human history: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. After the somber days of Lent and the sorrow of Good Friday, we are now filled with the light and hope of the empty tomb. The stone has been rolled away—not just from Christ's grave, but from our hearts as well.

Easter is far more than the end of a season or the conclusion of a holy story. It is the beginning of new life—for Jesus, and for us. In rising from the dead, Jesus broke the power of sin and death forever. He invites each of us to share in this victory—not just in the life to come, but here and now.

In the Gospel, we see the disciples move from fear to faith, from hiding behind locked doors to proclaiming the Good News with boldness. May the same happen in us. May the joy of Easter inspire us to leave behind doubt, despair, and anything that holds us back from fully living our faith.

I pray that the Risen Lord fills your hearts and homes with peace. Let this Easter be a time of renewal—a fresh beginning in your relationship with God and with one another.

He is risen indeed! May we live each day as witnesses to this truth, with grateful hearts and joyful spirits.

Wishing you and your loved ones a truly blessed Easter.

In Christ's love,

Fr Mark

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!

We are pleased to now be able to share news for our
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

This is your newsletter and we welcome your feedback and 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 FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL



For the use of the new technologies
Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.
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.

ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE WALK 1

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

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The impact of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on Friday has been catastrophic. Millions of people need shelter, food, clean water, and medical care. Thousands have already lost their lives, and the death toll is expected to rise. Through the Catholic Church, we can provide the emergency help that affected families will need – food, water and shelter. Please donate at cafod.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, is likely to take place on 25th April.

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*

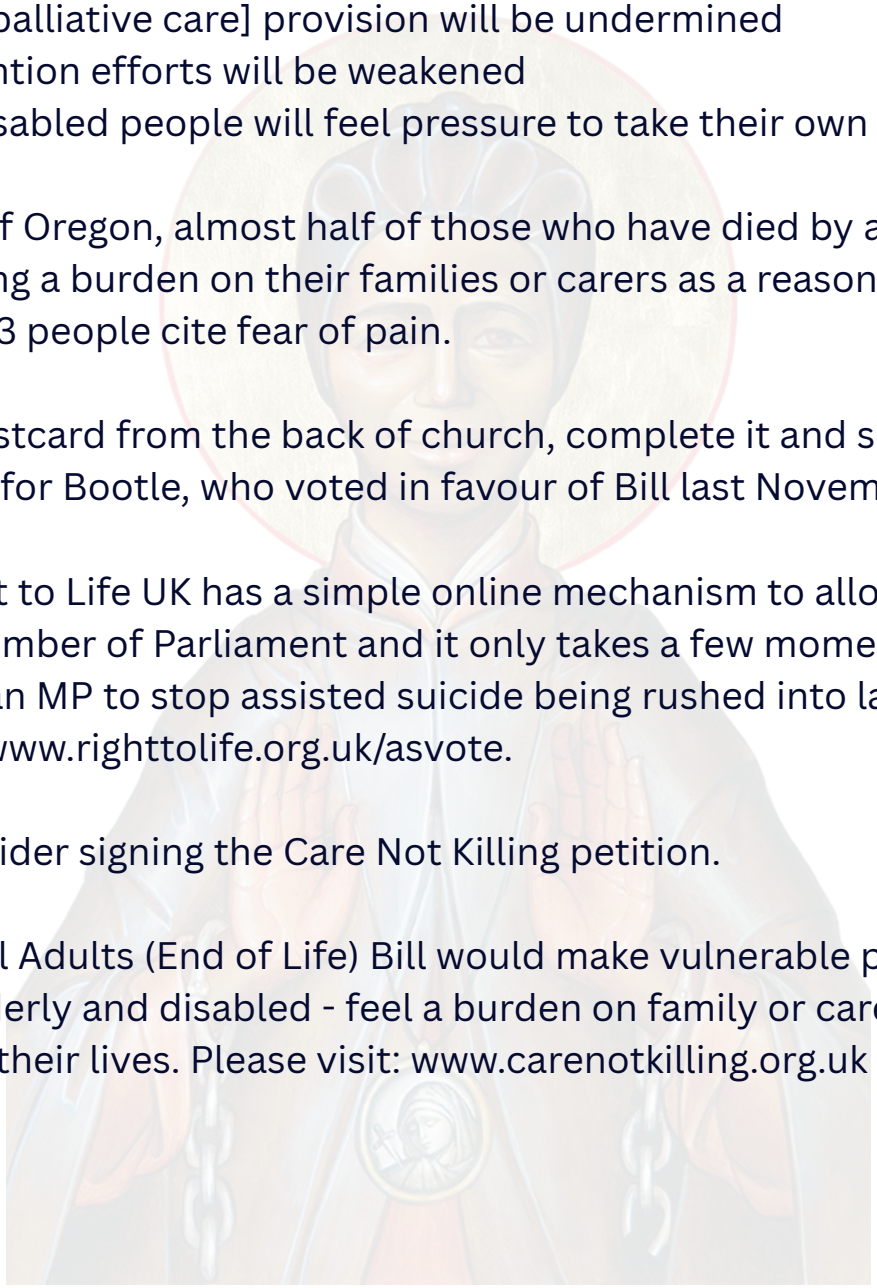
In the US state of Oregon, almost half of those who have died by assisted suicide cited fear of being a burden on their families or carers as a reason for choosing to die. Only 1-in-3 people cite fear of pain.

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.

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.



FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP
Saturday 14th June Liverpool Philharmonic - 'A Night at the Musicals'

'Orchestra and leading West End vocalists bring the musical hits to Hope Street. Packed with your favourite songs from Hamilton, Six, The Book of Mormon, Frozen, Aladdin, Mamma Mia!, Grease, The Lion King, The Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables, expect showbiz glamour and knockout tunes.' Cost for this one is £53 which includes stalls ticket and transport from door to door. Name and £10 deposit to office before end of April will secure your place.

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK CONFERENCE 2025, Saturday 26 April

Led by Rev Lister Tonge at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. 10:30-16:00
Conference Fees: £30 / CSN members £25 - £5 early bird discount until 14th March 2025. Bookings: catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com , www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php

PARISH BOUNDARY

Archbishop Malcolm has approved the proposal to alter the boundary between the parishes of St. Josephine Bakhita and St. Oscar Romero, making the canal the new parish boundary. St. Elizabeth's church and school now fall within the parish of St. Oscar Romero (Our Lady Star of the Sea).

THANK YOU

Fr Mark thanks all those who have helped to make the Sacred Triduum and our Easter celebration a special time.

WEEKDAY MASS

Fr Mark is taking a few days off this week. Therefore, there will be no weekday Mass until Friday at 10:00.

SCOTTISH RELICS

Following the British tour of the Scottish Relics (St. Andrew, St. Margaret and St. Columba) two years ago, during which time they were welcomed into the Metropolitan Cathedral, a second tour is being organised and will visit the following parishes:
Mon 14th / Tues 15th April - St. Patrick's, Southport.
Wed 16th / Thurs 17th April - SS Peter & Paul, Crosby.
Fri 18th / Sun 20th April - St. Columba's, Huyton.
Mon 21st / Tues 22nd April - St. Charles, Aigburth.
Wed 23rd / Thurs 24th April - St. John Fisher, Widnes.
Fri 25th / Sun 27th April - St. Anne's, Rock Ferry.
Please contact the Parishes above to enquire about opening times and Relics related services. Alternatively, please contact Alf Swain, Knights of St. Columba on 07763 836077.

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



MAY HE REST IN PEACE

James Digweed
Funeral Service Friday 25th April 12.00pm
St Robert Bellarmine



A PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

O merciful Father, You have called Your servant Pope Francis to shepherd Your Church with faith and love. In his time of need, we turn to You, the Divine Physician, and humbly ask that You extend Your healing hand upon him. Grant him strength in body, mind, and spirit, so that he may continue to lead Your people with steadfast devotion. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, we place him under Your loving care, trusting in Your divine will.



We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Blessed Robert Anderton (1560-1586) &
Blessed William Marsden (-1586)



Robert Anderton (c. 1560- 1586) was born in either Lancashire or, according to some, the Isle of Man. He graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1578. Shortly after he went abroad and converted to Roman Catholicism. He entered the English College at Rheims in 1580 and there met William Marsden, a Lancashireman. The two were ordained priest together.

After ordination they set sail for England, but were caught in a storm. They prayed that they would be allowed to die on land rather than at sea. Driven ashore on the Isle of Wight by the storm, they were immediately arrested by the authorities. In court at Winchester, they pleaded that they had not violated the law by landing in England, since their landing had been involuntary. They defended their faith and the Pope and acknowledged that they had come to exercise their ministry and reconcile people to God and the Church. This led to their being taken to London, where they were asked to take the Oath of Supremacy, acknowledging Elizabeth as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. They acknowledged the queen as their lawful queen in all secular affairs but refused to swear the Oath. As this was a treasonable offence under the Second Act of Supremacy, they were condemned to death, were returned to the Isle of Wight near the place where they had landed, and were hung, drawn and quartered on 25 April 1586. They were beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1929.

Who can I forgive with the Lord's mercy this week?



NEW ARCHBISHOP

The Holy Father has appointed John Sherrington, until now Titular Bishop of Hilta and Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, as the tenth Archbishop of Liverpool in succession to Archbishop Malcolm McMahon.

Bishop John Sherrington was born in Leicester on 5 Jan 1958. Before entering the seminary, he graduated with a BA in mathematics from Queens' College, Cambridge, where St John Fisher was once President. Upon graduation, he worked for a short period in management consultancy. Having been ordained a priest for the Diocese of Nottingham in 1987, and after a short period in a parish, he then completed an STL in Moral Theology at the Gregorian University, Rome.
He lectured in moral theology at All Hallows College, Dublin and St John's Seminary, Wonersh where he was also a member of the formation staff, before serving as a parish priest from 2004-2011.
Bishop Sherrington was ordained as an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster on 14 September 2011 by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Within the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, he is a member of the Department for Social Justice with responsibility for life issues since 2014, and a member of the Education Department since 2022

On hearing of his appointment, Archbishop-elect Sherrington said: *"I thank Pope Francis for his trust in me on my appointment as Archbishop of Liverpool which I accept with humility and joy... I look forward to serving as shepherd of the historic and faith-filled Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool which is rich in its heritage of the English Martyrs, Irish immigration, and now looks to the future."*



Our new Archbishop will be formally installed in the Metropolitan Cathedral on Tuesday 27 May.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - 27th APRIL

You are warmly invited to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St John the Evangelist Church, Fountains Road, Kirkdale, L4 1QL.

Confessions available all day (with five priests).

2.15pm Talk on the Divine Mercy message.
3pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
Adoration and Benediction.
4pm Holy Mass.
Veneration of the Holy Image.
Relic of the True Cross.

All are welcome to attend this special afternoon of prayer and devotion.

RESURRECTION STORIES AT IRENAEUS

An exploration of the Resurrection Stories Wed 10.30am-12 Noon 30th April and 7th, 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!

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 ontours. 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

HOLY YEAR AND THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

As Christians we are called not to judge others but to show compassion and understanding knowing that only God knows the full heart of a person. Our aim should be to build each other up in love, not to tear down or condemn. This week we will focus on.....

Not judging others
Before we speak, before we see
The flaws in others so openly
How can we, with hearts so frail
Judge another who might also fail.

Instead lets lift with gentle hands
showing love that understands.
For we are all... just passing through,
and flaws in others can be our flaws too

So walk with mercy not with pride
Letting kindness be our guide
So that in each soul both strong and weak
We'll find the beauty we all seek.

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.

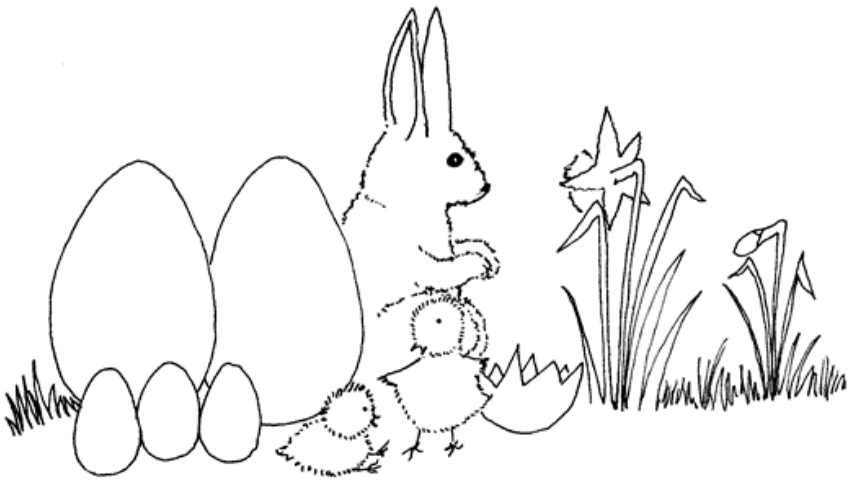
Fr Mark would like to form a new parish Group that will work specifically with the Santa Marta Group, Caritas, Civic authorities etc. to highlight the work of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. We will officially launch the group and its work on Sunday 8th February 2026. If you are willing to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

EASTER WORDSEARCH

Find these 10 words and draw a line around each one :

EASTER SPRING HOLIDAY CHOCOLATE EGGS BUNNY RABBIT CHICKS DAFFODILS BLUEBELLS

R	M	T	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	S
E	C	I	V	F	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
T	V	B	Y	H	W	M	V	Q	M	E	Q
S	B	B	C	G	W	P	H	S	Q	G	H
A	Y	A	L	H	X	G	L	K	G	G	L
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D	P	Y	T	C	E	C	I	D	C	R	C
M	M	N	T	B	L	R	O	L	M	H	C
T	V	N	E	L	P	V	L	L	I	G	J
V	T	U	P	S	D	D	L	C	A	B	C
F	L	B	R	F	K	N	K	B	C	T	K
B	Z	N	V	X	F	S	H	M	Z	K	E



Masses & Services for the Coming Week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 20th April **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** People of the Parish Special **intention (TR)**	**11.15am** Private intention (MM) **Paul Jones**
Monday 21st April	NO MASS	
Tuesday 22nd April		NO MASS
Wednesday 23rd April	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 24th April	NO MASS	
Friday 25th April		10.00am Jim Clifford 12.00pm Funeral service James Digweed
Saturday 26th April	12.00pm Baptisms Adam Byrne Lottie Fawcett	
Sunday 27th April	9.30am Alice Power	11.00am Peopleof 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

liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacynotice

Who can I forgive with the Lord's mercy this week?