Alpha	THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA Churches of St Robert Bellarmine and English Martyrs Parish Priest: Canon Mark Madden Tel 0151 922 1352/0151 928 3471 Registered Charity No 1199714 9th February 2025 – 16th February 2025	Omega

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

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Sunday 9 February	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	Betty Scott
Sunday 9 February	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**People of the Parish**
Monday 10 February	(English Martyrs)	NO MASS TODAY	
Tuesday 11 February	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Paul Jones and Pam McHugh**
Thursday 13 February	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Alec Barr
Friday 14 February	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Mary Murney**

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

Sunday 16 February	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 16 February	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**Violet and John Kelly**

PARISH OFFICES

The Parish Office for St Robert's and St Elizabeth's can be contacted on 0151 922 1352 or by email strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9:30am-1:30pm.
The Parish Office for English Martyrs can be contacted on 0151 928 3471 or by email englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 9:30am-2:30pm.

Please pray for the following who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Lately Dead: Rose Cunningham

Anniversaries: Violet Kelly, John Kelly, Mary Murney, Margaret Dolan Fr. Patrick Murray

Please remember the sick and those who care for them:
Hazel Dempster, Rachel Capener, Alan Mercer, Colin Faulke, Robbie Pennington, Gary Ford, Kathleen Colleran, Rose Westhead, Tony Mitchell, Sheila Thompson, Alan Wain, Dougie Wain, Janet Broomfield, Anthony Ward, Frances Williamson, Harriet Lawler, Paul James, Carol Barnes, Ged Barnes, Ellen Carragher, Ed Schofield, Wendi Warner, John Mitchell, Joe Mitchell, Fr Des Seddon, Gill Platt, Ann Marie Hore, Michael Coyne, June Keir, Eugene McIntyre, Michelle Leadbetter, Marie Hughes

To be included on the sick list please, write down names and post them in the presbytery letter box, or email the Parish Office – strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Please make the person aware, as they may not want their name published.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When I have felt like I was in deep water, in over my head, when doing something I felt called by God to do? Did I overcome my fear or discomfort and how?

ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

The feast of our new parish saint took place yesterday, Saturday 8 February. Fr Mark was in London on Friday to discuss with the Directors of the Santa Marta Group how we can work with them to highlight their work under the patronage of St Josephine.

The Santa Marta Group is an international Group which Pope Francis asked Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Catholic Church in England & Wales to form. The Group is 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.

St Josephine, herself a victim of human trafficking and slavery, is the patron saint of the Group. She was chosen to be our new patron because of Liverpool's historic connection to slavery and the fact that we are very close to the Port of Liverpool. Our new parish name has been endorsed by Cardinal Vincent and we hope to welcome him in the near future.

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.

St Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

There will be a Funeral Service for **Margaret Gregory** on Tuesday 11th February at 1:30 pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May She Rest In Peace

WEEKDAY MASS

Fr Mark is in Garstang on Monday to celebrate the Funeral mass for a Dame of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, therefore, there will be NO Mass at English Martyrs

SAVE THE DATE

Following the announcement in December of the miraculous cure of John (Jack) Traynor, the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be celebrating this historic moment with Mass followed by a drinks reception at the Cathedral on Tuesday 18th February at 7.00pm.

If you would like to attend, please fill in the form linked below. As we are expecting it to be a popular event, we need to know numbers in advance for both health & safety and catering purposes.

To make it easier for more people from across our archdiocese to attend, we are looking into the prospect of sending free coaches from each deanery area. If you are interested in this, please let us know on this form so we can gauge interest from every area. Please include your contact details so we can get in touch with further details.

https://forms.office.com/e/U9Vg0WK4pW

Catholic Pic

The February issue of the Catholic Pic is now available.
Unfortunately, printed copies have not yet arrived.

You can view it online at;
https://issuu.com/catholic_pic/docs/catholic_pic_february_2025

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

When they are called by the Lord, both Isaiah and Peter initially insist that they are unworthy.

After Isaiah calls himself unclean, an angel touches his mouth with an ember from the altar, purging him of his sin.

Jesus doesn't explicitly absolve Peter of his sins but he responds to Peter's protestations by saying, "Do not be afraid", reassuring him that his sinfulness is not a deal-breaker. He wants Peter to be a fisher of others, despite his being a sinful man. We are sinners as well, but that doesn't mean Jesus wants us to wait until we are perfect before responding to his call. That would be an awfully long wait! "Do not be afraid," Jesus tells us now. Just follow.

We are not told what Jesus taught the crowds when he was a short distance from the shore. But when he finished, he asked Peter to "put out into deep water" to catch fish. Assuredly, it made sense to go out to deeper water to find more fish, but it also foreshadowed what Peter would come to find out over the next few years. Peter would get into deep water—sometimes literally!—in following Jesus on his mission.

Our presence here today puts us in the place of the crowds on the shore of Lake Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee). We are in the presence of God, listening to God's word, attuned to what it can teach us. But Jesus calls us to more than wading in the shallow shoreline. He calls us to deep water as well, to the depths of our faith, to the depths of our being. It can be as scary as the deep end of a pool when you are learning to swim. But we have Jesus' words to assure us: "Do not be afraid". Even far from shore, let us respond as Isaiah did: "Here I am!"

CONFIRMATION 2025

Any young person currently in year 8 or above is welcome to register to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Registration closes on 17 March.

www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

MY DAY BY DAY – LENT AND EASTER

We have some new books in our piety stall for daily readings and scripture for Lent and Easter – price is £1.00 each