

# The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 19th January 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I live my life as a disciple of Jesus? Do I share the good news through my words and actions?

## 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 timing of the flights is excellent, as it gives us more time in Rome on our arrival day and a full day before we depart for home.

**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 as soon a possible, complete it and bring it back



## SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Strange, isn't it, how we don't know the names of the couple who were getting married at Cana? In fact, we hear nothing about them at all, not even when the chief steward compliments the groom on the quality of the wine.



St John's emphasis is on the presence of Jesus at the wedding. All throughout the Old Testament the prophets had spoken about God's relationship with his people as that of a bride and groom. God speaks about taking Israel as his bride in a wedding feast that would outshine all others and in a love that was everlasting and unparalleled.

So when St John gives his account of Jesus's first miracle (or 'signs' as he calls them) he is trying to tell us that the marriage between God and us has now begun. The changing of water into wine is a 'sign' that the kingdom of God is now among us.

Sometimes people have used Mary's request to Jesus as an indication of her power with her Son. But there is really something deeper going on in the story. Mary represents the Jewish people or humanity that is about to learn of the explosion of the kingdom upon the earth. She is about to learn that the real groom is Jesus, whose wedding with humanity is just beginning and will be consummated in his death and resurrection. In Jesus God has visited his people to take it as his spouse and lead it definitively into a life of everlasting love.

At Cana, Jesus of Nazareth reveals himself for the first time in John's gospel as the Son of God with all the creative power that was needed to fashion heaven and earth. And the changing of water into wine is a 'sign' of this revelation.

What about today? Whose wedding is Jesus at? Well, he's at yours and mine. By coming among us, as one of us, Jesus invites the Church to be his bride. It's our wedding that he wants to celebrate daily, our wedding with him, with the Father and the Spirit. It's to us that he proposes marriage; it's our water that he promises to turn into wine. And each time we eat and drink the bread of his body and the wine of his blood we renew our marriage vows with him.

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
<b>Sunday 19th January</b> <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Michael McDermott	<b>11.00am</b> Holly Pennington
<b>Monday 20th January</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Henry Simpson	
<b>Tuesday 21st January</b> <i>Memorial of St Agnes</i>		<b>10.00am</b> Leila Bromilow
<b>Wednesday 22nd January</b>		
<b>Thursday 23rd January</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Joseph Kirwin	
<b>Friday 24th January</b> <i>Memorial of St Frances de Sales</i>		<b>10.00am</b> Jim McCloskey
<b>Saturday 25th January</b> <i>Conversion of St Paul the Apostle</i>	<b>12.00pm</b> Baptism - Jude Daniel Jeffries	
<b>Sunday 26th January</b> <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Cecilia Byrne	<b>11.00am -</b> People of the Parish

### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Anne Wheatley



## **WORD ON FIRE: EVANGELISATION CULTURE CONFERENCE: THE BIBLE, 21 – 22 February 2025**

This conference is for those who are seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the beauty of the Catholic faith while growing in your evangelisation efforts. It will be at Excel London, right in the heart of London's historic Royal Docks. Join Bishop Barron for this unique conference. Please follow this link for more details and to book your place:  
[Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible](https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event?) - or go to -  
<https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event?>

## **HOLY LAND COORDINATION 2025**

Fr Mark is away this week to attend the 2025 Bishops' Holy Land Coordination meeting, which will be held in Jerusalem this year.

Pope John Paul II, at the end of last century, commissioned a group of Catholic Bishops from around the world to visit the Catholic community in the Holy Land in his name and in the name of the Catholic Church, to show pastoral support to Catholic community of the Holy Land. Since 2000 a group of Bishops have done this and have then reported back to Rome on what they have seen, heard and experienced. They visit communities hold meetings with Church & Religious Leaders, Politicians, Ambassadors and Heads of State.

Fr Mark has been an advisor to the Group since 2006, and in 2012, Rome appointed him as its General Secretary. He is responsible for informing the Bishops throughout the year and preparing and planning their annual meeting, which takes place every January.

They will be based in Jerusalem and will visit communities in Aboud, Ramallah, Taybeh and Bethlehem. They will meet Church Leaders and will have a meeting with a number of Ambassadors.

You can follow progress of the meeting:  
[www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) Please keep them in your prayers.



## CONFIRMATION 2025 (ANIMATE)

If your child is in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation, please register at [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk). Registration is open from **Monday 13 January** to **Monday 17 March 2025**.

Join the Animate team and special guests live for the **Sacrament of Confirmation Online Preparation Sessions** on **1 May** and **15 May** from **16.30-18.00** on the Animate Youth YouTube channel. No log in required. This session will offer a reminder of some of the work done in schools on Gifts of the Spirit, Saints, Rite of Confirmation. You will also hear how Confirmation has affected different people in the Archdiocese. **This is to run alongside your Local Parish/Deanery preparation.**

Animate will also be offering a special session on **Monday 31 March (16.30-18.00)** for those who attend non-Catholic schools or schools outside the Archdiocese on YouTube. Please register as normal at [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk); you will be contacted after **Monday 17 March** with login details. Please save the date!



## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

Archbishop Malcolm will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King (L3 5TQ) on **Sunday 9 February 2025** at **11.00am**. For more information, contact Moses at: [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk).



## ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JANUARY DRAW

1st	£20	No. 91	M Cheetham
2nd	£15	No. 45	A Nuttall
3rd	£10	No. 9	M Lovelady
4th	£10	No. 62	S Cooke



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. A gentle reminder - can those people who have not yet paid their annual subscription for the new year please contact Myra. Thank you.

## **Peace Sunday Mass and Lecture: A Mother's Forgiveness with Gee Walker January 19th 11.00am**

### **Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King**

Join Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP and Pax Christi Merseyside for Solemn Mass at 11am to mark Peace Sunday. Afterwards, You are also invited to the Liverpool Archdiocese Justice and Peace commission's annual memorial lecture in the Gibberd Room at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Join Gee Walker who will talk about the murder of her son Anthony, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice. Tea and coffee will be available in the Gibberd Room after Mass and before the Lecture, which begins at 1.15pm. For more details and registration go to [archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events](http://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** Our parish needs more people to become Eucharistic Ministers and the next Training Day will take place on Saturday 15 March at Irenaeus in Waterloo. If you would like to volunteer, please give your name to the Parish Office as soon as possible.



## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ENGAGED COUPLES TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE**

The Archdiocese is now recruiting and training volunteer facilitators to join the marriage preparation team. The facilitator training will be held at St Helen's Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ and consists of 5 sessions:

**Monday 27 January 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**

**Monday 3 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**

**Monday 10 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**

**Monday 17 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**

**Saturday 1 March 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)**

This new team will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice in 2025. If this is something you are interested in, please contact [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk).  
*"I encourage Christian communities to recognise the great benefit that they themselves receive from supporting engaged couples as they grow in love." (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia 207).*

## JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

### What is a Jubilee?

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity. The Jubilee Year began with the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and concludes on 6 January at the Feast of Epiphany 2026.



### Pilgrims of Hope

Although the Jubilee is a worldwide celebration, Pope Francis has asked each diocese throughout the world to get involved and mark the Jubilee in its own unique way.

With the theme for the Jubilee 2025 being “Pilgrims of Hope”, it’s a great opportunity to discover afresh what it means “to be a pilgrim”, not just by taking part in walks across our Archdiocese or the country to some of our amazing places or shrines, but also in seeing our whole lives as a pilgrimage from God to God, and our two Cathedrals and parishes as pilgrimage places. The Jubilee Year here in Liverpool will offer each one of us the chance to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to reset our relationship with God and with each other.

### The year ahead

There are many exciting plans being made in advance of the Jubilee. Please continue to look out for further updates on our Jubilee page as we continue our preparations: [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/jubilee](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/jubilee)

We look forward to accompanying you throughout this Jubilee year and in the words of St Paul: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*



**WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY**

**Olivia Sophia Glynn**

Baptised Saturday 18 January 2025





## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

### For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

*Lord in your mercy...*



## JUBILEE PRAYER

During this Jubilee Year, we encourage you to pray the Jubilee Prayer each day:

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.*

*May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.*

*Amen*



## **SEFTON INLAND DEANERY**

From Sat 11th Jan the following schedule is in place for weekend masses across the Deanery

### **Saturday**

4.30pm: St Gregory,  
5.00pm: Our Lady of Walsingham  
6.00pm: Holy Rosary  
6.30pm: St George

### **Sunday**

9.30am: Our Lady, Lydiate  
9.30am: English Martyrs  
10.00am: St Benet  
10.30am: Holy Rosary  
11.00am: St Gregory  
11.00am: St Robert Bellarmine.  
11.30am: St George.

### **BOOK LAUNCH: “The Romero Rosary” by Archbishop John Wilson, Friday 24 January, 14.30, at Pauline Books & Media Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool)**

“I wonder if you picked up and opened this little book because you love the holy rosary or because you love St Oscar Romero. Perhaps, like me, you love both. I hope what you read inspires you to pray the rosary and to learn more about St Oscar Romero. I keep everyone who reads this book in my prayers.”

This book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary and the new Romero mysteries, illumined for reflection and prayer by St Oscar's own words.

The Mysteries of the Rosary: Joy, Light, Sorrow, and Glory.

The Romero Mysteries of the Rosary: Charity, Compassion and Mercy, Justice and Peace.

## THE MIRACLE OF JACK TRAYNOR

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 Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm. All are very welcome to attend.



Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool

## Your small change can make a big impact

Mary's Meals feeds 2.4 million children every school day. Our supporters and volunteers grow the global movement – each carrying out a little act of love to help us reach the next child waiting for our meals. They are people from all walks of life, people of hope, people like you.

There are [lots of small ways](#) you can help Mary's Meals transform the lives of children. Whether you can give money, time, or help to spread our message – your little act of love can give children living in some of the world's poorest countries hope for a better future. Which small change will you make? Go to [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)

**It costs just 10p a day to feed a hungry child with Mary's Meals in school, so just £4 will provide 40 meals. This means that even the smallest donation will have a big impact.**



## SANCTUARY LAMP

We are running short on dedications for the sanctuary lamp. If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a week please just write your intention on an envelope and pass to the office with £5 offering



## CATHOLIC PIC -

January edition of Pic now available in Piety stall. Main article is on the Jack Traynor miracle





**English Martyrs Office:**  
School Lane, Litherland. L21 7LX

0151 928 3471    [englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk)  
Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9.30am–2.30pm

**St Robert Bellarmine Office:**  
Orrell Road, Bootle. L20 6DZ

0151 922 1352    [strobert@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:strobert@rcaol.org.uk)  
Office hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am–1.30pm

[liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacynotice](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacynotice)  
Archdiocese of Liverpool: CIO no:1199714