

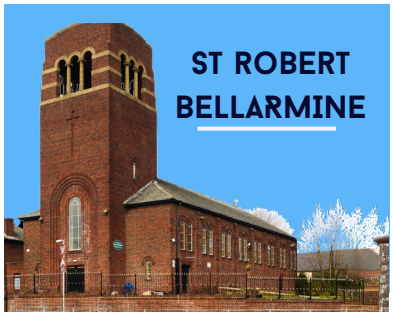
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako



As the Church brings the liturgical year to its close, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. After journeying through Matthew's Gospel, we stand before the final and most important question: Who truly reigns in our lives?

The feast presents us with a King unlike any other. Jesus does not rule through force, wealth, or prestige. His throne is the Cross, His crown is made of thorns, and His authority is revealed in self-giving love. He is the Shepherd-King foretold by Ezekiel, searching for the lost, gathering the scattered, strengthening the weak, and healing the wounded. Far from being distant, He walks alongside His people and knows each one by name.

In the Gospel, Jesus gives us a striking picture of the final judgement. The measure of a life well lived is not success, status, or accomplishment, but love made visible in action. Did we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, comfort the sick, and care for those in need? In serving others, we serve Christ Himself.

Saint Paul reminds us that Christ has conquered even death and that His kingdom will ultimately triumph. Yet that kingdom begins here and now whenever compassion overcomes indifference, generosity triumphs over selfishness, and mercy is chosen over judgment.

As one liturgical year ends and another approaches, this feast invites us to look honestly at our lives. Do our choices reflect the values of Christ the King? If we allow Him to reign in our hearts, His love will shape our families, our communities, and our world.

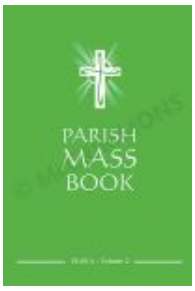
May Christ the King reign in us today and always. Wishing you and your families a blessed and grace-filled Sunday.

Fr Anthony

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
John Power
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons
Margaret Spencer
Leo Devonald



SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 158 of the Parish Mass Book



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Lord in your mercy

Please note that mass on Thursday will be at St Robert's at 10.00am

Friday Mass will be at English Martyrs at 10.00am and is the funeral mass for Lynn Fairclough

May she Rest in Peace



NOVEMBER MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

Envelopes are now available at the back of both churches for names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the month of November.

Please print the names, add a donation and bring it back to church.

Masses in remembrance will be said throughout the month

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



There is now Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass on Sunday mornings at St Robert's.

Please remember to refrain from talking or whispering inside church during this time.

CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION

Fr Anthony is now available at English Martyrs to hear confessions on Saturdays at 4pm

There is also Holy Hour exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the hour from 4pm. Please come along - it is a wonderful hour of peaceful reflection

LIGHT OF THE WORLD: A DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR ADVENT- 12 December 10:00AM - 4:00PM

The Irenaeus Project are holding a special day of prayer and reflection for Advent. You are asked to bring a packed lunch, and a suggested donation is £10. All are welcome. For more information, contact centreirenaeus@gmail.com or call 0151 949 1199.

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection today is for Animate Youth who do great work supporting our children and young adults with their faith and through confirmation. Please give generously if possible

IRISH GUARDS CHRISTMAS CHOIR

We have again invited the Irish Guards Choir to join us on Saturday 28 November from 1pm – 4pm for our Christmas 'Sing-a-long'. Those who have joined us before will know that it is a wonderful festive few hours of Carols and Christmas songs.



We will also have a small tombola so any donations would be gratefully accepted. We especially need fancy goods etc

Tickets are £3 available from both offices. A donation is given to the choir which they, in turn, donate to Charity
Come and join us for a lovely few festive hours!

CHRISTMAS BINGO AND RAFFLES

The Christmas Bingo will take place in English Martyrs Parish Hall on Wednesday 9 December. Tickets are now on sale at the back of both Churches.



Entry is by ticket only so please make sure that you get yours in advance. There is no admission on the door

Christmas Raffle tickets for both churches are now available at the back of each Church

We are quite short on prizes (for both churches) for the raffles so would be grateful for any donations please



CHRISTMAS AT THE PHIL!



Can those people who are joining us for 'The Spirit of Christmas' on 18th December now please pay their balance for the trip

Thank you!

SEFTON DEANERIES - PARISH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The results of the consultations have now been collated and submitted to the Archbishop for his consideration.

There is a one page summary at the back of both Churches. Please make sure you take a copy and are aware of the proposals

FOOD BANK

As Christmas approaches, this time of year can be particularly hard on some families. We have collection points at the back of both Churches for donations of groceries and other essentials. Please maybe consider making some donations at this special time to help those who are in need

Thank you

MINI VINNIES TEA AND CAKE!

English Martyrs School children have again invited parishioners to join their 'Mini Vinnies' group for some tea and cake on Wednesday 2 December at 10am

The previous meeting was a wonderful few hours chatting with the children and having some very yummy cake.

Please come along and join them again in English Martyrs School

EXCITING UPDATE ON THE CATHEDRAL'S NEW WELCOME CENTRE

All parishioners are invited to public consultation events at the Metropolitan Cathedral to have their say on plans for a new welcome centre.

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

They will take place in the Cathedral's Gibberd Room on:
· Wednesday 2 December, 4pm to 7pm
· Sunday 6 December, 12pm to 3pm.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view and comment on proposals for a new welcome centre, which would include a café, retail space, conference facilities and other amenities. The development aims to enhance the experience of the thousands of people who visit the cathedral each year.

More details can be found here: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/cathedral-welcomes-public-consultation-new-welcome-centre-plans

SUPPLIES FOR UKRAINE - SELECTION BOXES

Mike Sharkey, a parishioner and archdiocesan supplier, is preparing for his 10th humanitarian aid trip to Ukraine, departing from the St Margaret Clitherow Centre on 2 December.

Along with vital medical supplies, food, clothing, and tools, Mike is hoping to take selection boxes for children to make Christmas a little brighter for them.
If you would like to donate, a collection box will be available in St Margaret Clitherow Centre until 1st December. Thank you for your support.

EVENING PRAYER AND CANTATA - LIVERPOOL BACH COLLECTIVE (Cantata 36) – 29 November, 6:30pm

Liverpool Bach Collective will be performing this Cantata to mark the First Sunday of Advent. It is called "Soar joyfully towards the exalted stars". All are welcome. It is free to attend, with a retiring collection.
Christ the King, Wavertree, Queens Drive, L15 6YQ

Fr ANTHONY'S ADVENT RETREAT – Saturday 5th December 2pm – 5pm



Fr Anthony is organising an Advent Retreat in English Martyrs Church on Saturday 5th December. There will be reconciliation, reflection and adoration for the three hours from 2pm to 5pm.

Why not avoid the Christmas 'rushing and madness' for a few hours and come along and have a peaceful time focusing on the true meaning of Christmas

NUGENT CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Nugent's Christmas Toy Appeal is back! We are welcoming donations of new, unopened toys and gifts for primary ages (4-11) and secondary aged (11-16) children, suitable for both girls and boys. If you would like to donate, you can drop toys off at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA during November.

COME AND SEE: REFLECTING ON THE CHURCH IN OUR TIMES – Saturday 5 December, 10:30am – 4pm

The Irenaeus Centre is hosting a Come and See session on The Church in Our Times. Keynote speaker: Austen Ivereigh. For more info, please email: centre@irenaeus@gmail.com or call 0151 949 1199

ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS - Saturday 28 November 10AM – 4PM

Led by Fr Derek Lloyd, we will organise the Advent Retreat for Young Adults on Saturday 28th November at St Basil's Church, Widnes, WA8 4SZ.

The Retreat Day will start at 10am and aim to finish at 4pm. The event is free of charge, but please bring your packed lunch.

For further information please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

MORE GREEN FINGERS NEEDED



The small team of gardeners at St Robert's are looking for some more help in keeping the church grounds looking beautiful. If you're able to help, for one hour on a Friday morning, please either speak to Delia or contact the Parish office for more information.

CHRISTMAS CRIB AND TREE FESTIVAL - 30 NOVEMBER to 4 DECEMBER
10:00AM - 4:00PM

The Irenaeus Project will be showcasing a display of cribs and trees from around the world. If you would like to create and present a crib, tree or Christmas flower arrangement, contact centreirenaeus@gmail.com and bring them to the centre by 27 November.

ADVENT CARD MAKING RETREAT – Sunday 6 December, 12noon to 5:30pm

St Vincent de Paul Church, Liverpool, will play host to "Magnificards", an Advent Day Retreat focusing on the Magnificat.

"MagnifiCards" is led by John Paul de Quay who is an illustrator and director of the Ecological Conversion Group charity, Sr MaryAnne Francalanza of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, and Chris Knowles who is the Programme Manager for Great Britain of the Bon Secours Young Adults.

There will be a guided reflection on the Magnificat, then reflections will be developed into Christmas greeting cards during a Lino carving and printing workshop. All materials will be provided on the day but please feel free to bring your own equipment if you wish. This is a day for people who consider themselves artistically challenged as well as accomplished artists. There will be time for contemplation, discussion, learning, creativity and eating - all with excellent company.

Refreshments included. A simple lunch will be provided.

Purchase your ticket here: https://tinyurl.com/magnificards-liverpool

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DEACON?
Info Evening - 7pm Tuesday 24 November

The deacon embodies the spirit of service and compassion in the Church, a man who is dedicated and humble, uniquely ordained to help both the spiritual needs and the practical needs of a community. Candidates for the diaconate are typically mature men between the ages of 30 and 65. If they are married, they must be in a stable sacramental marriage. The journey to discern if you have a calling to the diaconate involves asking yourself whether you have a genuine desire to serve God and His Church in this capacity. We invite you to attend our enquirers' event at St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith Canon's Hall, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, to learn more about the role of deacons, their ministry in parish life, and to support your prayerful discernment.

Venue - St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 9NP

SAFEGUARDING

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services. Or you can contact our safeguarding team direct- Ring Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 or Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237, or email - safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

RIVER OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Lady's Help of Christians, Portico, Knitters & Stitchers group invite you to enjoy their 'River of Remembrance' which includes approximately 3000 knitted & crochet poppies. Whilst the display can be viewed anytime as it is in the garden, the parish hall will be open for tea & coffee on all Thursday afternoons during November. 1-4pm. All are welcome.
Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park, L34 2QT

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve	6.00pm	St Robert Bellarmine
	9.00pm	English Martyrs
Christmas Day	9.30am	English Martyrs
	11.00am	St Robert Bellarmine
New Year's Day	12 Noon	St Robert Bellarmine



Masses in the week between Christmas and New Year will be as normal

NUGENT'S LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICES

Join Nugent's Christmas remembrance services across the Archdiocese and dedicate a star to a loved one.

Wednesday 25 November, 6pm – St Mary's Church, Leyland.
Led by Fr Joe Bibby, followed by refreshments.
Thursday 3rd December, 12 noon – Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. Led by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Tom Williams, followed by refreshments.
For more details or to dedicate a star to a loved one, please scan the QR code or visit: wearenugent.org/events

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING, Saturday 28 November – The Irenaeus Centre (L22 1RD)

This course examines our baptismal calling, Vatican II's teaching on ministry, and the role of the Eucharistic minister. It also offers an opportunity to celebrate our place in the Church's synodal life. Parishes are encouraged to enable the faithful to receive Communion as both the Body and Blood of Christ.

The day runs from 9.15 am to 4pm. Speak to Fr Anthony if you are interested and we will get you enrolled



ST JOSEPH'S HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE

Make time for yourself, your loved ones and special memories this Christmas by taking part in Light Up a Life. We have two wonderful remembrance and celebration events here at the Hospice and
St. Peter's and Paul's Church, Crosby.

You will receive a personalised card for each person you remember, these are posted out to you.
The names of all loved ones you are remembering will be listed in our beautiful display Books of Dedication at the switch-on event and throughout the whole of Dec.
Please note: The cut-off date to have your loved ones' names in our Books of Dedication that will be displayed at our Light up a Life switch-on service on Thursday 3rd December is Friday 30th November 2026.

Light up a Life service at the hospice December 3rd from 5pm
St Joseph's Hospice, Thornton, this is an outdoor service

Light up a Life service at St. Peter and Paul's Church December 9th at 2pm
St Peter and Paul's Church Crosby, this is an indoor service

MARYS MEALS – Christmas Wreath Making Workshops – Saturday 28 November

Our Lady Help of Christians, St Helens, are hosting a festive wreath-making workshop in their church hall to help raise money for Mary's Meals, bringing hope and daily meals to children around the world.

There are two sessions available on the day: 10am-12pm or 2pm-4pm

The session, which includes tutor, all necessary material, and refreshments, costs £35 per person. Please bring your own scissors, secateurs, and/or apron if you wish. Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code or by calling 0800 698 1212.

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 22nd November **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Kethleen Willis **Kath, Jack, John, James Bracken**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Mary Henison**
Monday 23rd November	**10.00am** Pious List	
Tuesday 24th November		**10.00am** Cathy Morrisroe
Wednesday 25th November	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 26th November		**10.00am** Pious List
Friday 27th November	**10.00am** Funeral Mass Lynn Fairclough	
Saturday 28th November	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 29th November	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Margaret Chegwin

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