



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



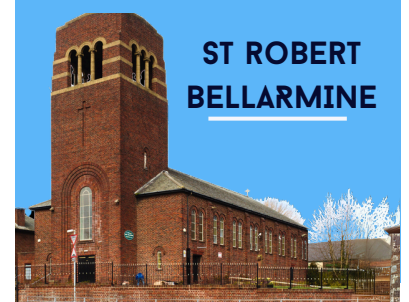
ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



This Sunday marks a quiet but important moment in the Church's year. Having celebrated the great feasts of Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, we now return to what is known as 'Ordinary Time'. The green vestments reappear, and we begin what is often called the Church's "green season."

The word 'ordinary' can sound rather unexciting, but it does not mean unimportant. It comes from the word 'ordinal', meaning "counted" or "numbered." Ordinary Time is the period when we follow the life and teaching of Jesus week by week, allowing his words and example to shape our daily lives.

The colour green is significant. It is the colour of growth, life and hope. During these summer months, when gardens flourish and crops mature in the fields, the Church reminds us that faith also needs time to grow. Not every moment of Christian life is dramatic. Most of our discipleship is lived in ordinary days: in prayer, family life, work, friendships, acts of kindness and faithful service.

As we move through the summer and eventually towards autumn, Ordinary Time invites us to ask a simple question: 'How is my faith growing?' Am I becoming more patient, more generous, more forgiving, more attentive to God's presence?

The great feasts inspire us, but Ordinary Time forms us. It is in the steady rhythm of everyday life that God quietly works within us, helping us become the people he calls us to be. May this green season be a time of spiritual growth and renewed hope for us all.

Fr Mark

What can I do this week to grow closer to God?

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 June 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Esther Gibbons

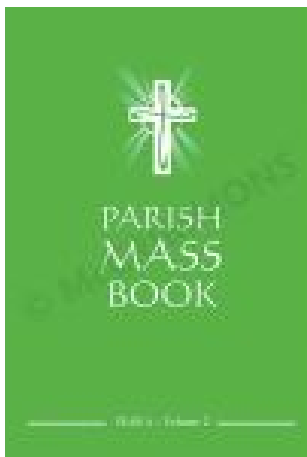
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE



For the values of sports

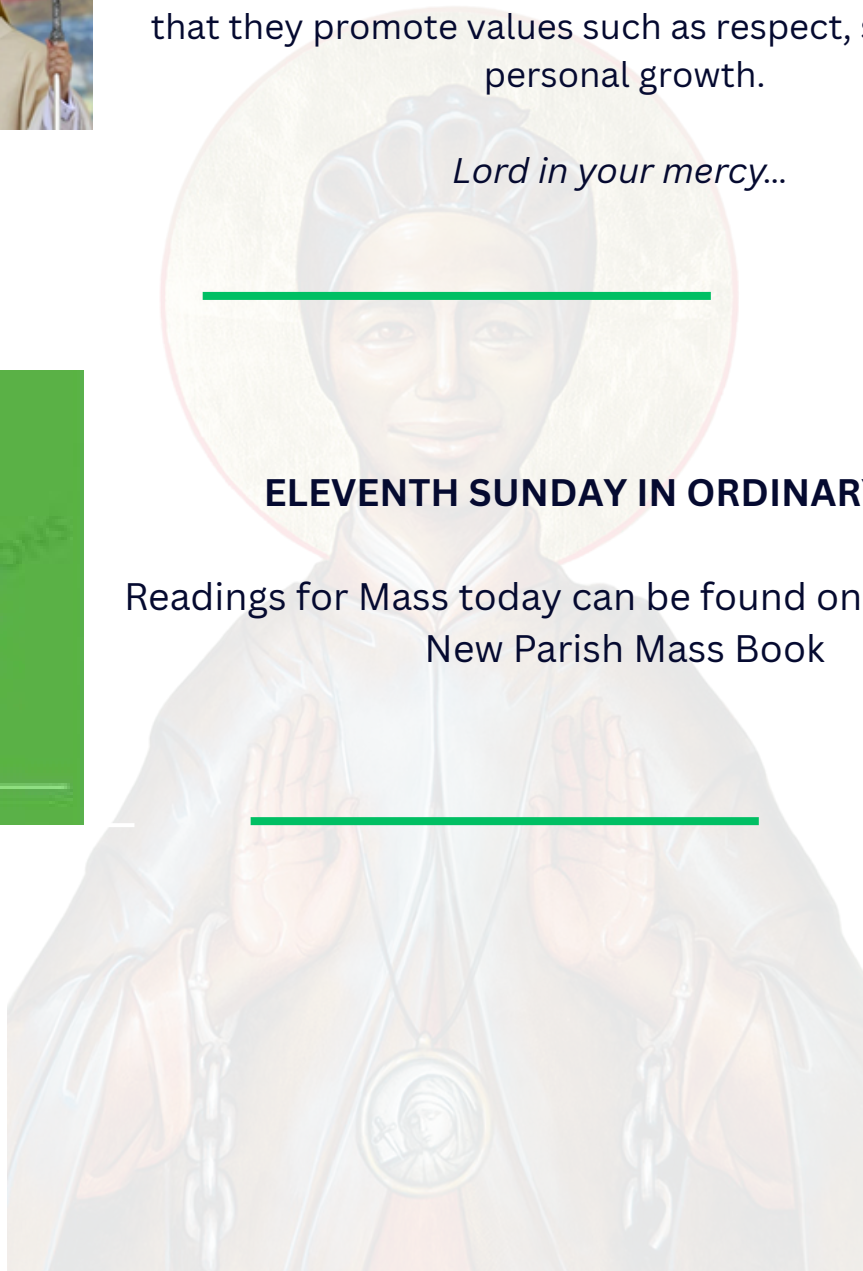
Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Lord in your mercy...



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 91 of the New Parish Mass Book



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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

PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF OUR TIME

Scripture sharing with strawberries and cream. Tuesdays 7pm, 23, 30 June, 7, 14 July 2026 at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. zoom link available centreirenaeus@gmail.com

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY AT IRENAEUS

Mass and BBQ at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD, 3pm 28 June 2026. For more information contact centreirenaeus@gmail.com

ENGLISH MARTYRS PENSIONERS CLUB

The pensioners invite you to join them for a meal and entertainment on Tuesday 14th July in the Parish Hall. Cost is £25 which is 3 course roast dinner plus tea/coffee and mints. If you are interested just bob into the parish hall on any Tuesday afternoon to sign up.

The group are also looking for new members. It is a lovely few hours each Tuesday afternoon with bingo, refreshments and some wonderful company. If you are interested just call into the hall any Tuesday to have a chat with the group

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UK

Are you a doctor, nurse, healthcare student, or allied health professional? The Catholic Medical Association UK invites Catholics working in healthcare to join a growing community of fellowship, prayer and formation.

The Association supports healthcare professionals in living out their faith and vocation, while providing opportunities to connect with others working in the medical and healthcare professions.

Find out more about membership and upcoming events at catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk

What can I do this week to grow closer to God?

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SALAMEH AZAR

Fr Mark was delighted to receive some good news a few days ago. After a period of uncertainty, Salameh Azar, a seminarian from the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Bethlehem, has been granted a visa to visit us in July.

Salameh is 26 years old and comes from the town of Beit Jala, situated just outside Bethlehem. He is currently studying for the priesthood for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and is looking forward to spending some time with us here in the parish.



Fr Mark and Salameh will arrive home on 7 July, and Salameh will remain with us until the final week of July. During his visit, he hopes to experience the life of the Church outside the Holy Land, improve his English, and enjoy a period of rest and relaxation before continuing his formation for the priesthood.

God willing, Salameh will be ordained to the Diaconate shortly before Christmas as he enters the final stages of preparation for his priestly ordination, hopefully in the Summer of 2027. We are privileged to accompany him for a small part of that journey and to support him with our friendship and prayers.

His visit is also a reminder of some of the realities faced by Palestinians in the Holy Land. Although Salameh lives less than an hour from Tel Aviv Airport, he is not permitted to travel through it. Instead, he and Fr Mark will have to travel into Jordan and fly from Amman, adding an extra day or two to their journey. It is one of the many practical difficulties that affect everyday life for Palestinians.

Over the ten years that Fr Mark has served in Litherland, the parish has welcomed many seminarians and priests from the Holy Land. Many parishioners will remember meeting them, sharing stories with them, and supporting them with prayers and friendship. Salameh will be the last seminarian to visit the parish before Fr Mark moves to St Paul's, West Derby, in September, making this visit particularly special.

The Christian community in the Holy Land faces many challenges, and opportunities such as this are both valuable and encouraging for seminarians preparing for ministry. We hope that Salameh will feel at home among us and will take away happy memories of his time in Liverpool.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Salameh when he arrives. Keep him in your prayers as he continues his journey towards ordination, and please make him feel very much part of our parish family during his stay.

What can I do this week to grow closer to God?

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MASS OF WELCOME

On Sunday 12 July at 11.15 am in St Robert Bellarmine, we will celebrate a very special Mass to formally welcome Salameh Azar to Liverpool

We are delighted that our new Archbishop, John Sherrington, has kindly agreed to celebrate the Mass. This will be Archbishop John's first visit to our parish, making the occasion even more significant. Archbishop Malcolm has also been invited.

Adding to the celebration, a number of Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem will be present in their robes and insignia. The Order supports the Church in the Holy Land through prayer and practical assistance, and their presence makes it a colourful occasion.

This Mass will be an opportunity not only to welcome Salameh but also to express our solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land and to pray for peace in the land where Our Lord lived, died and rose again.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. We would be delighted to see a large congregation present for this special occasion. Please make every effort to join us and help give Salameh a warm Liverpool welcome.

FR MARK AWAY

Later this week, Fr Mark will be away from the parish for a number of important Church commitments both in England and the Holy Land.

He will begin by travelling to London to attend meetings of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the International Affairs Department. From there, he will travel to Arundel Cathedral for the annual Investiture weekend of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, where he serves as the National Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies and Spiritual Director. This year's Investiture will be a particularly special occasion for our parish, as one of our parishioners, Shaun Lavery, will be invested as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. We offer Shaun our congratulations and assure him of our prayers as he begins this new chapter of service to the Church.

After a brief return home for a couple of days, Fr Mark will then fly to Jordan to attend two ordinations before travelling on to Bethlehem for a further ordination. These visits form part of his ongoing work and support for the Church in the Holy Land.

Fr Mark and Salameh will return to Liverpool on 7 July. A huge thank you to Fr Stephen for looking after us.

What can I do this week to grow closer to God?

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ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JUNE DRAW

1st £20 No. 165 E McQuade
2nd £15 No. 138 A Jones
3rd £10 No. 187 B Morrin
4th £10 No. 149 J Byrne



There are still spare numbers available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month.
Please contact Myra: 928 1136

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE IN LIVERPOOL

The Marriage Encounter Experience offers the opportunity to refresh, enrich, deepen and bring love, joy and sparkle back into marital relationships. The experience is priest led with laity couple presenters, and offers precious quality time to support lifelong marriage, personal growth and spiritual growth in a Catholic faith context. The experience is also open to couples in long term relationships, who are often drawn into marriage as a consequence through the sessions on the power of the sacrament and convent love.

In partnership with the Archdiocese, a Marriage Encounter experience will be taking place at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre on Saturday 27th and 28th June 2026. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 0151 522 1000

CATHEDRAL FRIENDS EVENT – Saturday 4 July

You are warmly invited to an exclusive guided tour of the Lutyens Crypt – a hidden architectural gem rich in atmosphere and heritage. Discover the vast, awe-inspiring underground space, hear its fascinating story, and experience a side of the Cathedral few ever see.

Following the tour, indulge in a delightful afternoon tea featuring delicate sandwiches and hand-crafted, artisan cakes.

Tickets are only £35. Email friends@metcathedral.org.uk for yours early to avoid disappointment.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 June 2026

SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 10th JULY - LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE!!!

We are super pleased to again have our 'annual' trip to the world famous International Musical Eisteddfod in the beautiful Welsh town of Llangollen on Friday 10th July. Fr Mark's favourite day of the year!

We will leave the parish and travel by coach to Llangollen and we can stroll around the maes (Welsh for field) with its stalls, food and drinking places. Your ticket will guarantee you a seat in the Pavilion to watch the competitions. You can walk around the town and enjoy the many shops and beautiful scenery. Friday is a spectacular day in the Pavilion with Mixed, Chamber and Adult Folk Song Choirs. Entertainment not to be missed

We always enjoy a meal at the end of the day to share our stories and have sourced a new place for this year – The Sun Trevor bar and restaurant. They have kindly allowed that we can choose from their full menu – rather than a set menu as we have had in previous years. The menu is available from the parish office. Pre order is required but not pre-payment so you can just pay on the day. You can have 1,2 or 3 courses – your choice.

We therefore only need payment for transport and your ticket. This is £41.

This will, sadly, be our last parish trip with Fr Mark so please come and join us. We always have a lovely day

Please give your name to either office as soon as possible with a £10 deposit, which will secure your place.

Some recent Trip advisor reviews for The Sun Trevor:

'The welcome was lovely and the service second to none. The food was very tasty, excellent value and in ample portions. We couldn't fault it and will be back, definitely.'

'The food was outstanding. What really stood out were the staff. They are friendly, attentive, and true ambassadors for Llangollen.'

'The food was very tasty, excellent value and in ample portions. We couldn't fault it and will be back, definitely.'



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 June 2026

SUMMER FAITH CHALLENGE

Most of us know that physical fitness requires regular exercise. The same is true of our spiritual lives. Faith grows stronger when it is nourished by prayer, Scripture and acts of charity. A few minutes each day can make a real difference.

Over this Ordinary Time of the Church year, why not choose one simple spiritual habit and practise it each day?

Read a few verses of the Gospel.

Spend five minutes in prayer before bed.

Visit church for a few moments of quiet prayer.

Pray a decade of the Rosary.

Thank God each day for one blessing you have received.

Reach out to someone who may be lonely or in need.

Small acts of faith, practised faithfully, can make a big difference. Which one will you choose this summer?

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Blessed Peter Snow & Ralph Grimston

On 15 June, the Church in England & Wales remembers two Yorkshire martyrs, Blessed Peter Snow and Blessed Ralph Grimston.



Peter Snow was a priest born near Ripon who ministered secretly to Catholics during a time of persecution. Ralph Grimston was a layman and family man who assisted him. Both were arrested and imprisoned for remaining faithful to the Catholic faith.

On 15 June 1598, they were executed at York. Peter Snow was condemned for being a Catholic priest, while Ralph Grimston was condemned for helping him. Their deaths remind us that throughout history ordinary men and women have been prepared to sacrifice everything for Christ.

Today we enjoy the freedom to worship openly, yet the witness of these martyrs still challenges us. They teach us courage, fidelity and perseverance in faith, especially when living as Christians is difficult or unpopular.

As we remember Blessed Peter Snow and Blessed Ralph Grimston, let us pray for the grace to be faithful disciples in our own day and to support Christians throughout the world who continue to suffer for their faith.

What can I do this week to grow closer to God?

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION

There are a number of ways in which you can respond to the two current proposals from the Strategic Planning Group:

- Complete the online response form using the QR code or web address provided in the consultation leaflet, available at the back of church.
- Write your comments on a sheet of paper and place them in the consultation box at the back of church.
- Leave a Post-it note with your comments on the consultation poster.

This period of consultation will end in mid September.

DAY FOR CATECHISTS 4 JULY 2026

Are you a catechist looking for spiritual refreshment? No matter what kind of catechesis ministry you are involving (e.g., baptism, first holy communion, confirmation, children liturgy, RCIA or marriage preparation), there is a good opportunity for you to refresh your vocation of being a catechist. On Saturday 4 July, the Annual Day for Catechists will be taking place at St Joseph's Prayer Centre at Formby. Led by Fr Luke Dominic Onwe, there will be spiritual input and practical discussion on the day.

Please book here <https://forms.office.com/e/zibHn7RDY7?origin=lprLink> For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Lay Board Members wanted for Archdiocesan Parish Centre Management Company (APCMC)

For the first time, APCMC is seeking to appoint two new lay board members to bring professional expertise and fresh perspectives to the management of our parish centres.

APCMC will host two events at our parish centres to give potential candidates an insight into our work. Please email Jade Williams on j.williams@rcaol.org.uk by Friday 19 June with details of your experience and why you should be considered for the role.

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DAY FOR LIFE - Sunday 21 June

Archbishop John Sherrington is inviting all parishes and parishioners across the archdiocese to join together in praying a Novena in preparation for the forthcoming Day for Life on Sunday 21 June.

The Novena will run from Saturday 23 May to the Feast of the Visitation (Sunday 31 May). This is the third year in which the Dioceses of England and Wales will join with those of Scotland and Ireland to pray this Novena.

The Novena is available on the Bishops' Conference website:
<https://cbcew.org.uk/novena-for-life>, as well as at <https://prayforlife.ie>

A joint message from the lead Bishops for Life of the three conferences can be found on Archdiocese website A booklet resource for Day for Life can be found here:
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dfl26-booklet/> and the prayers for this year's Day for Life - focussing on baby loss - are also online: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dfl26-prayers/>

LOURDES FUNDRAISING FOOTBALL MATCH - SUNDAY 14 JUNE, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Come along and help raise money for the Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association. Cash donations will be accepted on the day, or donations can be made through the JustGiving page below.

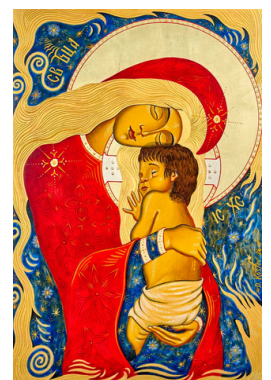
Marine Travel Arena, L23 3AS

For more details, or to donate, visit: www.justgiving.com/page/lourdesfootball

A MOTHER'S WARMTH: ICON EXHIBITION AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL 30 JUNE - 30 AUGUST

The Metropolitan Cathedral will be hosting Mother's Warmth, an exhibition by Bulgarian artist and iconographer ian Kostov. Through contemporary artwork inspired by the image of the Virgin Mary as Mother, the exhibition considers how compassion and care for one another can bring hope and healing in a divided world.

Admission free.



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 June 2026

STEP INTO THE ELEGANCE OF THE ART SCHOOL RESTAURANT WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

The Cathedral is delighted to invite you to indulge in an unforgettable fine dining experience. Savour a beautifully curated seasonal tasting menu that celebrates the very best of British ingredients, thoughtfully crafted into dishes that are as refined as they will be memorable.

With a welcoming drink on arrival, impeccable service, and an atmosphere that blends sophistication with creativity this exclusive evening promises the perfect setting to relax, connect, and enjoy exceptional food in one of the City's most elevated dining destinations.

The date you need to keep in your diary is Wednesday 1 July 2026 from 6.30pm 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. Tickets are £50 per person. To book your ticket and to arrange payment please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

Sefton Coach 7 are hosting a Quiz Night to support young people going to Lourdes on Friday 26th June at 7.45pm (doors open 7.15pm) at Saint Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TQ. Please come and join for a fun night (with prizes for the winners!). Bring your own refreshments, bring friends and family, and help our young people with their pilgrimage! Entry is £5 on the door (£3 for under 18s).

ST BENET'S CHAPEL

If you are interested in helping to conserve and celebrate the gift of St Benet's in Netherton, an initial meeting will take place on: Monday 13th July at 4.00pm in the Chapel.

We will be joined by representatives of the Archdiocese, who will explain the conditions attached to the return of the chapel by the Historic Chapels Trust. These conditions form part of the Deed of Covenant which must be honoured.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to look around the chapel and begin discussing an initial vision for its future, including both restoration work and the long-term sustainability of St Benet's as an historic Catholic building serving the local community.

All are welcome. St Benet's Chapel, Chapel Lane, Netherton

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Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 14th June Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am People of the Parish John Dunne	11.00am Patricia Kelly Ellen and Alec Mooney
Monday 15th June	10.00am Frank Silcock	
Tuesday 16th June		10.00am Tom O'Brien
Wednesday 17th June	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 18th June	10.00am Jack & Eileen Wright	
Friday 19th June		10.00am Joe Morley
Saturday 20th June	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 21st June	9.30am Margaret O'Dea	11.00am Elizabeth Lawton

English Martyrs Office
 School Lane, Litherland, L21 7LX
St Robert Bellarmine Office
 Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 6DZ

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
 Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm
 0151 922 1352 strobart@rcaol.org.uk
 Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

What can I do this week to grow closer to God?