



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

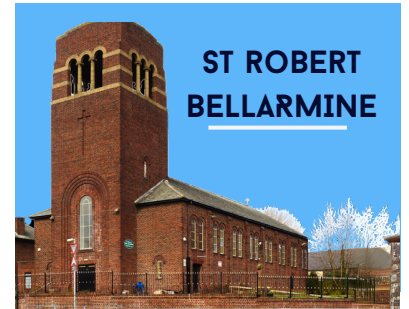


ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA



**ST ROBERT
BELLARMINE**

Easter changes everything – but it begins quietly.

In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb “while it was still dark.” There is no sense yet of joy or celebration. Only love that keeps showing up, even in grief. And then, slowly, something shifts. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. Peter and John run to see. And we are told something simple and profound: “He saw, and he believed.”

Easter does not begin with everything explained. It begins with a glimpse – a moment when hope starts to break through, even before we fully understand it. That is often how God works in our lives. Not always in dramatic ways, but quietly, gently, in the midst of ordinary moments. A sense of peace where there was anxiety. A small step forward after a difficult time. A light that begins to shine in what once felt like darkness.

The Resurrection tells us that nothing is beyond God’s reach. No failure, no grief, no situation that feels closed or final. The stone is never the end of the story. God is always at work, bringing life where we thought there could be none.

Easter invites us not just to believe that Christ is risen, but to live as people of the Resurrection – people of hope.

This week, perhaps the invitation is simple: to notice where new life might already be beginning, however small. And to trust that the risen Lord is closer than we think, quietly calling us forward.

A blessed and joyful Easter to you and your families.

Fr Mark

Where is Jesus inviting me to stay with him this Holy Week — in prayer, in suffering, or in love?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

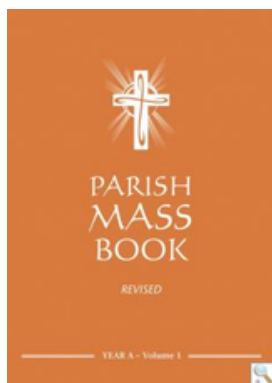
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL



For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Lord in your mercy...



EASTER SUNDAY

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 251 of the Parish Mass Book

SANCTUARY LAMP



If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a week please just write the dedication on a piece of paper and pass to the Parish Office or place in the collection bags with £5 offering.

Thank You.

MASSES

Monday is a Bank Holiday. Mass will be at 12noon at English Martyrs. There will be NO Mass on Thursdayl.

Where in my life right now might God be quietly bringing new life — even if I can't fully see or understand it yet?



EASTER MESSAGE Easter 2026

Happy Easter.

We sing, 'Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!' Praise the Lord!

Today is a day of great joy. Lent is over and we can enjoy the feast of Easter. Throughout the world, churches are garlanded with flowers, and Easter candles burn brightly. The newness and lightness of springtime resonate with the new hope offered by Jesus Risen from the Dead.

At Easter we celebrate God's love for us. Three days ago, on Good Friday, we remembered when Jesus died on the cross. He died to free us from sin and welcome us into a new life with him by baptism. Today we congratulate and rejoice with all those adults baptised last night at the Easter Vigil and those who received confirmation and Eucharist. They are the new green shoots in the Church.

Easter renews the gift of hope. It is the hope that death has been conquered and is not the end. We can hope in the promise of eternal life with the saints in heaven. They praise and worship God.

Easter deepens the gift of faith. With faith in Jesus, we can face suffering knowing that sickness, suffering and death are conquered by the Risen Christ. They are not the end. The light of Christ breaks into darkness.

Easter invites us to love others. On Maundy Thursday Jesus washed his disciples' feet and is a witness to service. We are invited to care and love others by attending to their needs and bringing solace and hope.

Today we rejoice; Christ is risen from the dead. Happy Easter.



Most. Rev. John Sherrington
Archbishop of Liverpool

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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 our safeguarding team direct or Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965
Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk



GIFT AID ENVELOPES - ENGLISH MARTYRS

Envelopes for the new year are now at the back of Church for collection
As we are that beginning of a new tax year if you don't already Gift Aid and you are a tax payer please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme as this is a way of increasing our income without having to ask people for more money. For every £1 you give 25p extra will be claimed back by the parish. It is a simple process of completing a form

You can also make your contributions by completing a standing order form which means that the payment is taken direct from your account and reduces the amount of cash to be handled.

Both forms are available from the Parish Office.

PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS/ 2 CATHEDRALS SERVICE

Sunday 24 May. 3.00 pm starting at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

This year, the stalls will focus on the Manifesto for Hope launched last November. CTMR Church Leaders have also extended an invitation to our Civic Leaders.

This year Pentecost falls on the May bank holiday weekend.



GUILD OF ST STEPHEN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen will do their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in October. It is open to everybody - prices start at £650 per person, and £750 for solo travellers. For more information, please contact Rose Curry 07932 729896

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ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER CENTRE

Discerning your gifts- embracing your call

Weekend Retreat 8-10 May 2026

An opportunity to reflect on our unique calling and gifting so that we can be fruitful in our mission.

Come and enjoy a peaceful and illuminating weekend with Michelle and Peter Moran in the tranquil settings of Freshfield close to the coast and in the wonderful 'Red Squirrel' territory ideal for reflection and peaceful walks

Costs for weekend – Full Board / Residential £190

The retreat starts on Friday 8th May at 4pm with Holy Mass followed by supper and 1st session

Saturday Discerning our gifts, Adoration, walks, Free time and Healing Mass at 7pm

To book or for further information please call Kathy on 01704 875850

OR Email – theprayercentre.stj@psmgs.org.uk

St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Formby, Liverpool L37 1PH

Visit our website at www.stjosephsprayercentre.com/



The April edition of the Catholic Pic is now available at both Churches.

Archbishop John's First Easter message is the main article.

Please take a copy

COFFEE MORNING

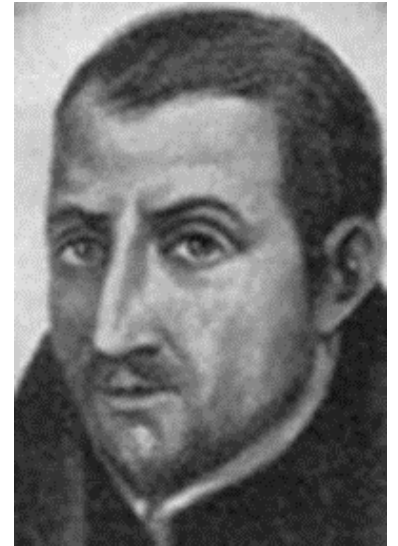
Join us after mass at St Robert's on Sunday mornings for a cup of tea, coffee and a biscuit in the George Inch Hall. All are welcome.



FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Henry Walpole (1558-1595)

Henry Walpole was born in Norfolk in 1558, the eldest son of Christopher and Margery Walpole. He was educated at Norwich Grammar School, at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and at Gray's Inn. He is said to have become a Catholic as a consequence of the martyrdom of Edmund Campion.



In 1582 he went abroad to study, first to Reims and then to the English College, Rome. Shortly afterwards he became a Jesuit. In spite of poor health he was ordained priest at Paris in 1588, served as chaplain to the Spanish army in the Netherlands, and then taught in the English seminaries of Seville and Valladolid. In 1593 he returned to England, landing at Bridlington on 6 December, but was arrested the very next day on suspicion of being a priest. He was interrogated at York, transferred to the Tower of London where he was frequently tortured. He was indicted on a charge of high treason because he was ordained abroad to minister in England; he was condemned to death. He was executed at York on 7 April 1595, by being hanged, drawn and quartered.

No feast days are celebrated this week, but St Henry's feast is usually kept on 7 April.

ST BENET'S CHAPEL

St Benet's Chapel is a cherished part of our community's history—a place that has stood for generations as a testament to our shared heritage. We are now hoping to form a small group of local people who are interested in helping to preserve this special site and open it to visitors on selected days throughout the year.

By volunteering, you'll be helping others appreciate the chapel's unique story and ensuring it continues to be enjoyed for years to come. Whether you have a passion for history, enjoy welcoming visitors, or simply want to play a part in safeguarding our local heritage, we'd love to hear from you. If you're interested in joining the group or would like more information, please contact: Fr Grant Maddock @ g.maddock@rcaol.org.uk

HELP US TO SHAPE A VISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH

We are currently reviewing youth ministry across our archdiocese, and we need your insight, enthusiasm, and ideas to help us live out the pastoral plan and become a Church where young people and young adults flourish.

Everyone is welcome and has a valued voice. Whether you are young or old, lay or ordained, a parent, carer or grandparent, have experience of working with young people or not. If you bring creativity, faith, enthusiasm, or simply a desire to help guide and shape the future of your local Church, then please join us and share your thoughts.

We especially want to hear from young people.

If you are in Year Seven or above, please come along- **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!** Come along to ONE of our open meeting on **TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 7 - 9.30pm St Monica's Fernhill Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 9GA**

For more information, contact Sarah McGeehan on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048.

SOLEMN EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

April 11th 2026 9:00AM - 9:00PM

All are welcome as St John the Evangelist holds their annual Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament will be out from 9-9, with Holy Mass celebrated at 6.30pm and Holy Hour with Benediction. at 8pm.

St John the Evangelist, Burscough, Chapel Lane, Lathom ,L40 7RA

CONGRATULATIONS

To Clare and Joe, who will be commissioned today by Fr Mark to be Ministers of the Eucharist.

We thank them for this important service to our community, and we ask the Lord to bless them and the people they are called to serve.



THANK YOU!

Fr Mark thanks all those who have worked so hard to make the Sacred Triduum and our Easter celebration a success and for making both our Churches look so beautiful



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. The full details can be found on the website <https://wwme.org.uk>. For enquiry and booking please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/me-weekend-27th-28th-june-2026-liverpool-st-margaret-clitherow-centre-tickets-1109462846239?aff=oddtcreator>

CONTINUING ALONG THE PATH OF SYNODALITY

Pope Leo has invited us to continue to embrace the journey of synodality recognising that 'our relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to that of love.' As we journey through Eastertime towards the great feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost we have an opportunity to reflect on the document that came from the final session of the Synod on Synodality called by Pope Francis that Pope Leo is now urging us to embrace at every level in the life of the Church.

Tuesday evenings 21, 28 April, 5, 12, 19 May, 7pm to 8.30pm

To join the zoom meeting:

Meeting ID: 899 8355 5285

Passcode: 981267

MARY'S MEALS - FOREIGN CURRENCY COLLECTION

We have received acknowledgment from Mary's Meals of the amount raised from the collection of leftover Foreign Coins at English Martyrs. They are pleased to advise that we have provided 457 meals for some of the world's poorest children.



We will continue to collect so don't forget to hold on to those unwanted coins when you go on holiday this year

Thanks for your support

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) -Discerning God's Call in your life 15th - 17th May, Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along?

There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to live alongside the religious community and to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

To register:

<https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>

EASTER RAFFLE

Thank you to all those who supported St Robert's Easter Raffle. A list of prize winners is at the back of church. A total of £120.00 was raised in aid of parish funds. Thank you



CELEBRATING ST GERARD, THE MOTHER'S SAINT -

Bishop Eton, Saturday 25th April 2026

April 6th 2026 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of St Gerard Majella C.Ss.R., patron saint of a good confession and of mothers. To mark the occasion, Bishop Eton will be hosting a special day of events, including Mass with the Archbishop, Blessing services, Exposition and a Taizé service.

The church will be open all day and a team of Redemptorists and parishioners will be available to ensure that all those who wish may reverence the relic of St Gerard and receive medals and prayer cards. The first copy of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour to leave Rome will be on display.

Light refreshments, crafts for children and young people, and information on St Gerard will be available in the parish hall.

We look forward to welcoming you and your families for this very special occasion.

The full schedule and information on St Gerard can be found by visiting www.bishopeton.org.uk/a-day-in-honour-of-st-gerard.html

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

Parishes and Catholic communities are asked to join with the Bishops of England and Wales to pray a Holy Hour for the dignity of all human life. The Holy Hour will be held at 16:30 on Sunday 19 April as peers in the House of Lords continue to debate whether to make Assisted Suicide law. For the full article please visit the CBCEW website: Holy Hour for the Dignity of Life - Catholic Bishops' Conference

GENERAL CATECHIST COURSE 2026

Beginning from 6 May until 27 June, a General Catechist Course will be provided by the archdiocese. The course will be taking place over 8 weeks at St John Fisher Church, Widnes. We will talk about the key elements of Catholic faith and how they can be explored through

Catechesis. If you are considering being catechist or are existing catechist (e.g. RCIA, first holy communion, confirmation etc) looking to refresh your knowledge, this course is for you. If you are interested, please sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/vXWAjbxJdc?origin=lprLink>. For more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Where in my life right now might God be quietly bringing new life — even if I can't fully see or understand it yet?

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN

We encourage all young people who wish to be confirmed next year to visit the Liverpool Called website with their parents/guardians.

The details you provide the online form will be shared with the Dean of the area of which you have applied, your local parish, and the Diocesan administration team. It may be shared with other parties associated with Diocesan sacramental preparation and relevant and appropriate Diocesan bodies and authorities.



Your local parish will be in touch after registration period ends on the 13 February (you will not be contacted beforehand) with details about meetings in your local area. You will likely be contacted after Easter. Please do not worry if you are not contacted immediately. If you have any queries, please contact your own parish priest.

The information you provide will be held for the sacramental year (which ends on the day new application forms go online for the succeeding sacramental preparation year) and your contact information may be used to contact you by email, text, letter or phone. For more information on how your data may be used and our retention policy please see <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy>

ST ROBERT'S OVER 50's CLUB

The Over 50's Club meet in St Robert's parish centre on Thursday afternoons between 1.00 and 3.00pm. and is open to all.

Why not pop along and join in the fun - tea and coffee are available and, for a small charge, there is a raffle and a couple of games of Bingo for you to enjoy.

Regular members are asked to make a payment of £1.50 per week

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 5th April Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am People of the Parish Jean Maloney	11.15am Thomas Martin Sheila Morley
Monday 6th April	12.00pm Christina Wenton	
Tuesday 7th April		10.00am Maureen Ryan
Wednesday 8th April	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 9th April	NO MASS	
Friday 10th April		10.00am Irene Mills
Saturday 11th April	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 12th April	9.30am Suzanne & Stephen McQuade	11.00am People of the Parish

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 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
 Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

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