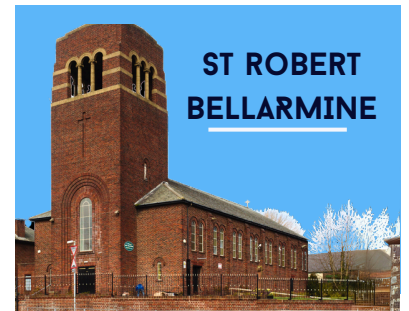




Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



ST ROBERT BELLARMINE

Pentecost can sometimes feel like a strange feast. We hear about wind, fire, and people suddenly speaking different languages. Yet beneath all those dramatic signs is something very simple and deeply human: frightened people become courageous people because the Holy Spirit fills them with the presence of God.

Before Pentecost, the disciples are hiding behind locked doors. They are confused, uncertain, and afraid of what might happen next. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, everything changes. They do not suddenly become perfect, but they do become brave enough to step outside and speak about Jesus with joy and conviction.

The same Holy Spirit is given to us.

Most of us will never preach to thousands or travel the world as missionaries. But Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit works quietly in ordinary lives every day. The Holy Spirit gives patience to tired parents, courage to those facing illness, forgiveness to wounded hearts, and hope to people who feel lost or anxious. Very often the Spirit works not through dramatic miracles, but through small acts of kindness, faithfulness, and love.

In a world that can sometimes feel noisy, divided, and uncertain, Pentecost reminds us that God has not abandoned His Church. The Spirit continues to guide, strengthen, and renew us. Every time we pray, every time we choose love over anger or hope over despair, the Holy Spirit is at work within us.

Perhaps this Pentecost we might simply pray: “Come, Holy Spirit.” It is one of the oldest and simplest prayers of the Church, and one that God never fails to hear.

Fr Mark

Where in my life do I most need to ask the Holy Spirit for courage, peace, or guidance?

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Esther Gibbons

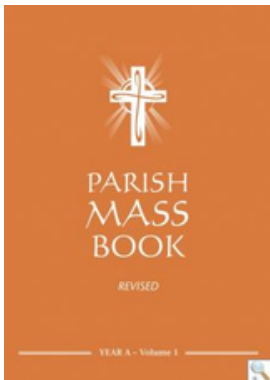
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY



That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Lord in your mercy...



SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 288 of the Parish Mass Book

BANK HOLIDAY

Mass on Monday will be celebrated at 12noon at English Martyrs

PARISH MEETING

A meeting has been arranged to gather your views on the two current proposals from the Deanery Development Strategy Group.

Monday 8 June at 7:00pm
St Robert Bellarmine Church

This meeting is one of several ways you can share your thoughts. You can also submit your comments using the box at the back of church, or by scanning the QR code on the leaflet, which will take you to a simple online form. Please note that all feedback should relate specifically to the two proposals.

NEW PARISH PRIEST

A couple of weeks ago, Fr Mark announced that he has accepted a new appointment as Parish Priest of St Paul and St Timothy, West Derby. Fr Anthony Afaako has been appointed as the new Parochial Administrator of our parish. The change will take place sometime in September, and further information will be shared next weekend. Please keep both priests, and our parish communities, in your prayers during this time of transition.

NEW UNDER 40s GROUP

In recent years there has been much interest in the number of young people returning to the Catholic faith. Reflecting this, we are contemplating a young adults group for Sefton and the surrounding areas. This would be for 18 - 40 year olds and would focus on local issues, with consideration of how we can best serve our parishes going forward. Our first meeting will be at St Helen's Parish Centre on Pentecost (24th May) after the 4pm Sunday Mass. niamhtabitha@gmail.com.

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

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB” MAY DRAW

1st £20 No. 109 J Wishart
2nd £15 No. 56 L Lovelady
3rd £10 No. 108 J Corbyn
4th £10 No. 38 S Hall



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

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION

The next phase of consultation across the three Sefton deaneries has begun and you can make a comment on the two proposals within the leaflet which was given out in church a few weeks ago; copies available at the back.

You can also submit your comments using the box at the back of church, or by scanning the QR code on the leaflet, which will take you to a simple online form. Please note that all feedback should relate specifically to the two proposals.

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Are you planning to get married in a Catholic church? Are you looking for some time out from the busy wedding planning, providing you and your partner with an opportunity to focus on your relationship and to learn more about each other?

The Liverpool Archdiocese is now offering a marriage preparation course for engaged couples. The course will involve four sessions, meeting in group with other couples. To be led by trained lay facilitators, the course will help the couples develop skills which could facilitate good communication within their relationship and an understanding of unconditional love set within a Catholic faith. The next course will be available in June 2026:

Date: 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, and 2 July (all Thursdays)

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Venue: St Monica's Parish Centre, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9JD

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

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.



Solemnity of Pentecost

24 May 2026

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Mary, Mother of the Church

The Blessed Virgin Mary has been given the title of Mother of the Church since she gave birth to Christ, the Head of the Church, and she became the Mother of the redeemed people before her Son had given up the spirit on the Cross. Pope St Paul VI solemnly confirmed the title in an address to the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council on 21 November 1964 and decreed that the whole Christian people should, by the use of this beautiful title, give still greater honour to the Mother of God. In 2018, Pope Francis instituted this special day as a feast for the whole Church to be celebrated the day after Pentecost Sunday.



‘The joyous veneration given to the Mother of God by the contemporary Church, in light of reflection on the mystery of Christ and on his nature, cannot ignore the figure of a woman, the Virgin Mary, who is both the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church.’ (Decree of the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship).

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.

FRANCISCAN ROSARY RESOURCE

To mark the Franciscan Jubilee this year, the Archdiocese Pastoral Development have produced a resource to help pray the Franciscan Rosary. There are some leaflets at the back of both Churches. Please take a copy to help celebrate this special year of St Francis

Where in my life do I most need to ask the Holy Spirit for courage, peace, or guidance?

SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 10th JULY

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.'



PRAY IN MAY – MARY’S MEALS

During the month of May, Mary’s Meals is inviting churches and schools to take part in their Pray in May campaign, encouraging prayer and reflection for children around the world who rely on a daily school meal.

Mary’s Meals provides nutritious school meals to children living in poverty, enabling access to education and long-term hope.



The charity website gives more information and resources for you to take: www.marysmeals.org.uk or you can contact Anna Houghton at: anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

MAY PROCESSION

You’re very welcome to join the Missionaries of Charity May procession on Saturday 30 May . Fr Peter Ross, assistant priest at St Wilfrid's parish in Widnes, will lead the procession, starting at St Peter's Square, before moving on to Bold Street, Church Street and Whitechapel, before finishing at the Blessed Sacrament Shrine on Queens Square. If you would like to volunteer at the procession, contact Jim Ross on jimmy.ross7@gmail.com.

ALL AGES PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI: 26-30 October 2026

The Parishes of St Mary’s Woolton and St John Vianney invite you to join us on Pilgrimage to Assisi Monday 26 - Friday 30 October 2026, led by Fr Peter McGrail and provided by Joe Walsh Tours.

This is a very special year to visit Assisi since Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 A JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, which marks 800 years since his death Pope Leo announces the Franciscan Jubilee Year for 2026. - Centro Laudato Si.

The cost is £1,165.00 per person to include: Direct return flights from Manchester to Rome, 10kg bags included (optional 20kg at extra cost), all transfers and tours by private coach, 4 nights in Hotel Frate Sole – Assisi on a half board basis (drinks excluded), full religious programme led by Fr Peter McGrail, fully guided with tours and visits as per itinerary. Travel Insurance required at the time of booking.

For more information, contact Joe Walsh Tours: www.joewalsh tours.co.uk

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE 2026 – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Archdiocese of Liverpool invites you to register your place for this year's Catholic Social Action Conference, due to place at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Friday 10 July 2026.

The social action conference is an annual event in the life of the Archdiocese, bringing together people working in the faith-based charity sector, volunteers, and anyone with a particular interest in social justice advocacy and Catholic Social Teaching. It's a chance to meet others working to-wards similar goals, learn and share experiences from the ground, and explore current issues shaping social action today.

In line with current emphases in developing Catholic Social Teaching, this year's conference theme is 'Humanitas: Flourishing in Action'. We'll be reflecting on the emerging risks and challenges as-sociated with prioritising human flourishing in Catholic Social Action.

We're delighted to have an excellent line-up of speakers and workshop hosts, including a keynote from Jenny Sinclair, Director of Together for the Common Good and host of the Leaving Egypt podcast.

More details will be announced soon. To register your place ahead of the curve, please complete the following form: <https://forms.of-ice.com/e/ePUXSkJrCj?origin=lprLink>

We look forward to welcoming you at the conference soon!

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 en-quiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2027

A Flower Festival to celebrate the Cathedral's 60th Diamond Jubilee 2027 - Florists Needed

The Cathedral is at the very early stage of planning this event to mark the Cathedral's Diamond Jubilee. The dates they are looking at are: Friday 14 May 2027 - Monday 17 May 2027. The theme of the Festival will be 'Hope' in all its different forms.

They are reaching out to established and experienced individuals and groups who have a proven history of creating floral arrangements for their own parishes and similar settings. Their expertise, creativity and sensitivity would make a valuable contribution to this significant occasion.

If you are interested, please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

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/>

JOIN THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Applications are open for children currently in Years 2–5 to audition for the Cathedral Choir at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. Choristers receive exceptional musical training, sing at regular services and special events, and become part of a welcoming and supportive choir community.

If you know a child who loves to sing, we would love to hear from you. Our recruitment flyer and video include more information about choir life and how to apply. Watch the video at: archdioceseofliverpool.org/choristervid

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

KEVIN McCLOUD'S LISTED BRITAIN - Started Wednesday 13th May at 9pm on More4

We're excited to announce that our mother church, the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, will be featured in the new series 'Kevin McCloud's Listed Britain' which started on Wednesday, 13th May at 9pm on More4.

Tune in to episode 4 on Wednesday 3rd June at 9pm to see Kevin McCloud explore the stories behind our wonderful cathedral and its stunning, unusual architecture.

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

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 24th May Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am Maureen Mullarkey Paul Nickson	11.00am People of the Parish The Jewell Family
Monday 25th May	12.00pm Christina Wenton	
Tuesday 26th May		10.00am Leila Bromilow
Wednesday 27th May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 28th May	10.00am Vera Ferry	
Friday 29th May		10.00am Cecilia Ormesher
Saturday 30th May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 31st May	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am Vincent Killen

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