

Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

Litherland

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 1st December 2024



ADVENT

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I name a person or group of people whom I now realise I have overlooked? How can I seek out Jesus in my neighbour?

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 cost of the flight is between £310 £340, depending on the time of booking. Ryanair will not accept a group booking, so the Pilgrimage Company must book each seat individually, which they have started to do.

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 to guarantee the current cost of the flight.



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The Gospel is a frightening one, and the final line is outright terrifying: 'Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man' (Luke 21:36). Matthew tells us what it is like to stand before the Son of Man. Have I given food to my hungry brothers and sisters, or provided for them in their need, or cared for them when they're sick, or visited them in prison? Just to get to that point, we must survive great suffering. Since we don't know when it will happen, we must be prepared to face judgment at all times. We have been warned!



Let Paul's words comfort us, lest we despair. The One who judges is also the one who comes to our assistance. When Paul prays that the Christians in Thessalonika be made blameless for the judgment, he prays to the Lord. The judge himself will strengthen us for the last judgment. It's like being given the answers to our final exam! We know what we must do; we must act accordingly, 'increase(ing) your love and make you love one another and the whole human race'.

How do we do this? Perhaps the secret to preparing for the Lord's coming - at Christmas, at the Last Judgment, or fully into our hearts - is to act as if the Lord is already here. After all, he is. Do we see the Lord in our brother and sister in need? The more willingly we see the Lord in our neighbour, the more easily we love those whom we would otherwise overlook, dismiss, or outright reject. How easily do we focus our love solely on our own loved ones, or, worse, just ourselves? May we see Jesus in all those in need and act accordingly.

DEANERY CONSULTATION MEETING There will be a consultation meeting at St Robert Bellarmine's on **Saturday 7 December at 10am** regarding the changes within the deanery following Fr Mark's recent appointment as Parish Priest to St Robert's and St Elizabeth's. Please come along if you can

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Sunday 1st December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 2nd December	10.00am Peter David Wilson
Tuesday 3rd December <i>Memorial of St Francis Xavier</i>	10.00am Anne Wheatley
Wednesday 4th December	NO MASS
Thursday 5th December <i>Memorial of St John Almond</i>	10.00am Brenda Davenport
Friday 6th December	10.00am Funeral Mass— Jane Wood
Saturday 7th December <i>Memorial of St Ambrose</i>	NO MASS
Sunday 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Molly Anna McCain

Dear parishioners,

Change is always a challenge and yet it is also an integral part of life. But change always brings with it a sense of loss, even as we look to a new future. Our Deanery is experiencing an unprecedented time of change at the moment. This will inevitably be the case across the parishes of the whole diocese in the very near future.

Fr Gervase Moo, who has served the parish of Our Lady of Walsingham and been part-time hospital chaplain in Aintree, has been asked by Archbishop Malcolm to become fulltime Hospital chaplain from the Feast of the Epiphany this coming year. Fr Gervase has kindly accepted this appointment with generosity of heart. Fr Gervase has been a member of our deanery clergy and has served Our Lady of Walsingham faithfully, with love and commitment. We wish him well in his new appointment and assure him that he will always have a place in our hearts and here in our deanery family.

With his departure to the hospital the Pastoral Care of Our Lady of Walsingham will now be undertaken by Fr Chris Fallon, from St George's, Maghull. We are indebted to Fr Chris for his generosity and readiness to serve both communities at this time. We offer him our support and prayer going forward.

Let continue to prayerfully support one another.

Deanery Clergy,

Very Rev Canon M B Madden

LGBTQ+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool - Sunday 8 December

The LGBTQ+ Catholics Mass will be at 2.00pm, followed by a social gathering. All are welcome. Sacred Heart Church, Swan Lane, Hindley Green, Wigan, WN 2 4HD



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

The Madden family



MUSIC AT THE MET 2024

During 2024 the Metropolitan Cathedral are celebrating the return of their restored grand organ with a series of concerts and events that will demonstrate the versatility of the instrument.



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| - Advent Sequence, | Sun 1st Dec, 17.00 |
| - Bach and Handel, | Sun 8th Dec 15.00 |
| - A Celebration of Christmas, | Sat 14th Dec, 19.00 |
| - A Ceremony of Carols | Sun 15th Dec 15.00 |

For more information, please call 0151 708 7283 or email music@metcathedral.org.uk

ADVENT RETREAT (AGE 15 TO YOUNG ADULTS) AT CASTLERIGG MANOR

Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg on December 11th at Midday. The open retreats at Castlerigg give teens and young adults a great way to make friends, deepen their faith, and have some fun and they usually prove very popular. The weekend costs £65 but anyone who might struggle with this is invited to get in touch. Further details – director@castleriggmanor.co.uk. Sign up at castleriggmanor.com >> what's coming up.

Could you be a Deacon? Diaconate Information Evenings - Thursday 5 December

The Archbishop will be hosting two Diaconate Information Evenings during the next few months: on Thursday 5th December at Bishop Eton in Liverpool and on Thursday 23rd January at St John's in Wigan. Each evening will begin at 7.30pm, with refreshments available from 7.00pm and will end by 9.00pm.

The evenings are open to anyone who would like to find out more about the diaconate, especially men who are wondering if they may be called to this ministry. Wives and supporting priests and deacons are also very welcome. For more information email Deacon Paul Rooney, p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk

Creative Christmas Workshop - Saturday 7 December

The Metropolitan Cathedral will be hosting a creative workshop on Saturday 7 December. Muir Simpson will lead the wreath-making and tablecentre-making workshop from 10am - 3pm in the Gibberd Room. Tickets are £45 - to book yours, please email enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk.

THANK YOU FR STEPHEN! Fr Stephen is with us until Thursday - we thank him again for all his help and wish him a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year

A Celebration of Christmas - Saturday 14 December, 7pm

The Cathedral will be hosting a festive celebration with the Cathedral Choir and special guests performing beloved Christmas carols and seasonal favourites. Tickets are £10 each, or £18 for a family, and can be purchased here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral>



NSPCC Carols By Candlelight - Tuesday 3 December 7-8.30pm

The NSPCC Carols By Candlelight will return once more to the beautiful surroundings of Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral, to celebrate the festive season on Tuesday 3rd December. The event is kindly sponsored by Home Bargains and has an array of fantastic performers from across Merseyside, including the talented PopVox, Cantemus At Calday, Wirral Schools' Concert Band and the Merchant Taylors' School Choir. Cost is £12 for adults, children go free. Book via liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/events

"We want to answer every call to our Childline service here in Liverpool and reach every child who needs us. We're constantly inspired by the courage and resilience of our children and young people in Merseyside and across the UK.

By joining us for Carols By Candlelight in Liverpool on 3rd December you can help us be here for more children this Christmas and beyond."

CHRISTMAS BINGO



Tuesday 10th December 7pm Christmas

Bingo and Raffle

It wouldn't be Christmas without our Bingo! Always popular and good fun. Tickets for Bingo and raffle now on sale

We look forward to your support. It is always lovely to spend some time together as a Parish. Especially at such a special time of year. So please come along!

WHEN YOU PRAY - A clear path to a deeper relationship with God.

The next evening will take place on Monday 9 December at 7.00pm.

CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life-changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home.



Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a catalogue in church.

COME AND SEE DAY: 'THE WONDER OF MUSIC', Saturday 7 December, 10.00am-16.00pm, the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road

Long-time friend of Irenaeus, Jo Boyce of CJM to lead the next 'Come & See' day on 'the wonder of music'. Everyone welcome. Suggested donation of £10. Attendees asked to bring a packed lunch. For further details contact: jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or tel. 0151 949 1199.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. .

Lord in your mercy...



NEW MISSALS

Two new missals will be on sale to coincide with the introduction of the new Lectionary.

The Parish Mass Book. £7

Completely updated and re-set according to the new Lectionary. 6 volumes for the complete set, each volume used every 6 months. This will be used free of charge in church. Sunday readings and the Order of Mass included.

Sunday Missal. £18.99

The official New ESV Lectionary Readings for every Sunday in Years A, B & C and Order of Mass

The Sunday Missal provides the Order of Mass, along with the full text of each Sunday's scripture readings for the 3-year liturgical cycle.

Short introductions to every Mass help you prepare for Mass.

Extended reflections to each season of the church year.

A choice of elegant bindings, complete with four marker ribbons to match the colours of the liturgical seasons.

-- Stations of the Cross (for Lent) and Stations of the Resurrection (for Easter)

-- An introduction to praying the Rosary

-- A Pentecost Novena (nine days of prayer to the Holy Spirit)

-- A simple Morning and Night Prayer to memorise

-- A guide to Confession and an examination of conscience

-- Traditional prayers to Our Lady

-- An introduction to the Sacraments

-- And much more!

The Parish Mass Book is now available in the parish shop. The Sunday Missal will be available in the coming days.

OUR NEW PARISH PATRON SAINT

Fr Mark announced last Sunday that Archbishop Malcolm has approved the name of the new parish patron saint, St Josephine Bakhita. The name of the new parish took effect at midnight Sunday. The change of name does not affect the name of the churches within the Parish

St. Josephine Bakhita (1869–1947) was born in Sudan and kidnapped into slavery as a child, enduring years of cruelty. Eventually sold to an Italian family, she was brought to Italy, where she encountered Christianity and found freedom when Italian courts ruled slavery illegal. Choosing a life of faith, she joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity and became a nun, known for her kindness, humility, and forgiveness. Despite her suffering, she embraced her past as part of God's plan and inspired many with her story of resilience. Canonised in 2000, she is a symbol of hope and the patron saint of Sudan.



The life of St. Josephine conveys a powerful message of hope, forgiveness, and the transformative power of faith. Despite enduring the horrors of slavery, dehumanisation, and immense suffering, she chose not to be defined by her pain but by her trust in God. Her journey from enslavement to sainthood demonstrates the dignity and worth of every human being, regardless of circumstances.

Josephine's ability to forgive her captors and embrace her painful past as part of God's plan for her life is a profound testament to the healing power of grace. Her story encourages resilience in the face of adversity and reminds us of the importance of compassion and freedom for all people.

As a saint, Josephine stands as a beacon of hope for those who feel trapped by oppression. She challenges us to fight injustice while trusting in God's providence. Her life is a call to recognise the intrinsic value of every person, forgive, and seek spiritual freedom through love and faith.



She holds significance for Liverpool and for our parish, which is close to the port, particularly as a symbol of hope and action in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. Liverpool, with its history as a port city tied to the transatlantic slave trade, has embraced her story as a way to confront its past and advocate for justice in the present.

**PAX CHRISTI
ADVENT SERVICE FOR PEACE,
Sunday 8 December, 16.00pm,
St Teresa's Church, Utting Avenue
East, Norris Green, Liverpool, L11
3BW**

'Light in Dark Times' an Ecumenical Advent Service for Peace and Justice in our city, our country and our world. All are welcome.

Our Archdiocesan Synodal Council met recently to discuss the life of the archdiocese. Each deanery, including our own was represented at the Council and a Summary Report has been produced. Please take a copy from the back of church to have a look at the main points discussed.

With kind regards and good wishes for the Season of Advent,

On behalf of the Archdiocesan Synodal Council Executive

FRIDAY MASS

Mass on Friday is at 10 am and is the funeral Mass for Jane Wood who was a wonderful parishioner here.

Please attend if you are able.
Rest in Peace Jane



Nugent Care Light up a Life Remembrance Service will take place on Friday 13th December 2024 at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool. The service will start at midday

CHATSWORTH TRIP

What a wonderful day out we had last week. A lovely wintry wonderland of stalls and food and breathtaking decorations in the House. Thank you to all who joined us.



**FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER
WAVERTREE SPORTS PARK**

**CHRISTMAS
FUN-RUN**

Charity no 162026 and a company limited by guarantee no. 0020206



LIVERPOOL

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Run, walk or wheel

With family and friends at:
**Wavertree Sports Park,
Wellington Road, L15 4LE.**

10am registration, 11am start line!

We need you to make this special 40th year a success. Join us for our best Fun Run yet!

cafod.org.uk/news/events/liverpool-fun-run

Adult £10 | Child £5 | Family £20

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