

Parish of St Josephine Bakhita
English Martyrs, Litherland

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 15th December 2024



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What will help remind me to try to see the Lord in those in need?

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

John the Baptist emerged from the desert, as we heard last week, calling for all people to repent and be baptised, for the kingdom of God was at hand. Indeed, the kingdom of God, as enfleshed in Jesus Christ, was drawing near. The crowds have practical questions about what they should do beyond repenting and getting baptised by John. So John gives them concrete advice. Do you have an extra cloak or extra food? Share it with those who have none. Are you working for the Roman government in order to get by? Don't steal or lie in the course of your work. In these practical ways, anyone can prepare for the coming of the Lord, the coming of the kingdom, then or now.



Interestingly, when asked by tax collectors and soldiers thought to be collaborators with the occupying forces, John did not tell them to resign their positions and stop collecting taxes or fighting on behalf of Rome. No, he merely told them to change the way they carried out their duties. Be honest, just, and decent. In this way, we will be gathered into the kingdom, like good wheat among the chaff.

Much later, of course, Jesus will tell his disciples that when they do something for the least of their sisters and brothers, they do it for him. But the words of John the Baptist and Paul the Apostle combine to say virtually the same thing. When out of kindness we share what we have with those who are in need, the Lord is near. The Lord is as near as our neighbour in need, for he is present in those who are in need. When we see someone in obvious need of food, clothing, or shelter, do we see a failure, a freeloader, a government responsibility? Or do we see our Lord?

**SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS at
LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC
SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER**

The coach will leave Church
at 6.30pm on Saturday 21st
for 'Spirit of Christmas'

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Usually celebrated from
4.00pm - 4.30pm on
Saturday. Fr Mark
is often available in
the 20 minutes
before each Mass.
Please pop into the
sacristy to ask.



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
Sunday 15th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Olivia Sophia Glynn
Monday 16th December	10.00am Joe Lovelady & Septimus Murphy
Tuesday 17th December	10.00am McLean family
Wednesday 18th December	NO MASS
Thursday 19th December	10.00am Margaret Cooper
Friday 20th December	10.00am Tony Coady
Saturday 21st December	NO MASS
Sunday 22nd December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Raymond Rose

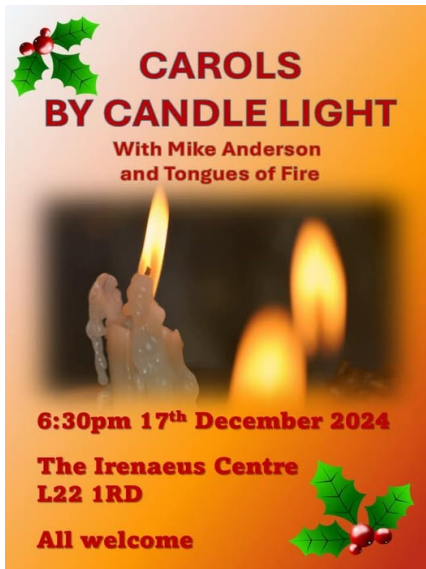


ADVENT TALK 'A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS THROUGH ART AND SCRIPTURE',

St Anne, Ormskirk Parish Centre, Tuesday 17 December 2024, 7.00pm

Fleur Dorrell is speaking at St Anne, Ormskirk Parish Centre on **17 December** from **7.00pm** in a meditative style talk, which illustrates how artists show us the truth of Christ's birth. Through some beautiful paintings, Fleur will explore how Scripture and art shed light and colour on our Advent journey. Fleur is an author, Biblical Apostolate Manager for the Bishops' Conference for England and Wales and hosts the 'God who speaks' website encouraging greater engagement with the Scriptures: www.godwhospeaks.uk All are welcome

WHEN YOU PRAY -
A clear path to a deeper relationship with God.
The last session before Christmas will take place on Monday at 7.00pm. The course resumes in the



CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT
With Mike Anderson and Tongues of Fire

6:30pm 17th December 2024
The Irenaeus Centre L22 1RD
All welcome

The poster features a warm, orange-toned background with a close-up of lit candles. A sprig of holly leaves and red berries is positioned in the top left and bottom right corners.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS Archbishop



Malcolm will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass

at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King (L3 5TQ) on **Sunday 9 February 2025 at 11.00am**. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

CATHOLIC PIC

December edition is available in Piety stall with main article on 2025 Jubilee Year and obituary for Fr Harrington 'RIP Fr Dunstan'

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.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

- A Ceremony of Carols Sun 15th Dec 3.00pm
- Festival Carol Service and La Nativite du Seigneur, Sun 22 Dec, 5.00pm

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

FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER
WAVERTREE SPORTS PARK

CHRISTMAS FUN RUN



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

Sign up now and get sponsored!
Scan here 

SCAN ME

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

CAF1623

The CAFOD Christmas fun run is celebrating 40 years on **Friday 27 December!** It's a day not to be missed! We'll be joined by CAFOD celeb supporters Frank Cottrell Boyce and former England Lioness, Sue Smith. Festive treats: raffle, live music, mince pies, mulled wine or a hot cuppa. Run, walk or wheel 3k or 5k, or just come along to be part of the atmosphere and cheer on our runners! Dogs on leads are welcome and the route is pram friendly. **10am registration for an 11am run. Wavertree Sports Centre, Wellington Road, L15 4LE.** Visit cafod.org.uk/christmasfunrun

Sacrament of Confirmation: Registration Open - 13 January 2025 - 17 March 2025

The registration website will open on the 13 January and end on the 17 March. Young people in year 8 and above can register at liverpoolcalled.co.uk



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" DECEMBER DRAW

1st	£20	No. 112	N Bowes
2nd	£15	No. 87	M Boyle
3rd	£10	No. 7	J Moran
4th	£10	No. 175	V Lyons



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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ENGAGED COUPLES TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE

The Archdiocese is now recruiting and training volunteer facilitators to join the marriage preparation team. The facilitator training will be held at St Helen's Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ and consists of 5 sessions:

Monday 27 January 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Monday 3 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Monday 10 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Monday 17 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Saturday 1 March 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

This new team will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice in 2025. If this is something you are interested in, please contact m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

"I encourage Christian communities to recognise the great benefit that they themselves receive from supporting engaged couples as they grow in love." (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia 207).



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Olivia Sophia Glynn

Baptised Sunday 15 December 2024



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

We had to 'pack' everyone into the hall on Tuesday for another successful night at the bingo.



'Thank you' to everyone who has supported our

fundraising over the last few weeks - whether it was at the



Christmas Concert/Fayre or the Bingo or simply buying raffle tickets. We have raised an amazing **£1440!!!!**

These things would not happen without the help of a small team who work tirelessly to make things a success. Massive thanks to all who helped - you know who you are! We would love to have some new helpers so please have a word with Fr Mark or pop into the parish office if you would like to join our 'merry band'

THANK YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN FOR AN AMAZING EFFORT!

Introducing Jubilee – online session – 18th January 2025

All are welcome to join us for

[A general introduction to the Jubilee Year](#) with special guests including **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, **Christine Allen**, CAFOD Director, and **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear what Jubilee years are about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Also featuring a special song by Catholic Group Ooberfuse and more. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday

CAFOD
Just one world

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!

Both are now available in the parish shop.

OUR NEW PARISH PATRON SAINT

Fr Mark announced that Archbishop Malcolm has approved the name of the new parish patron saint, St Josephine Bakhita. 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.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Peter Canisius (1521-1597)

He was born in Nijmegen (now in the Netherlands) in 1521. He studied at Cologne and joined the Society of Jesus: he was ordained priest in 1546. He was sent to Germany, where for many years he worked hard to defend and strengthen the Catholic faith both by writing and by preaching. He wrote many books, of which The Catechism is particularly noteworthy. He died at Fribourg in Switzerland in 1597.



JACK TRAYNOR MIRACLE

At the end of Mass last week Fr Mark tempted us with 'some exciting news' It was later announced that Archbishop Malcolm McMahon has declared the case of John (Jack) Traynor a miracle.

Jack was a pilgrim on the archdiocese's first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923 and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage.

The case has been believed to be miraculous from people across the archdiocese and beyond, but, despite an attempt in 1993, there has never been an official ecclesiastical declaration until now.

It is the 71st official miracle to have happened in Lourdes and the first person from England to be recognised from a Lourdes miracle.

Full statement from Archbishop Malcolm is on the Archdiocese [website](#). This is a picture of Jack (front centre) after his miraculous cure





Archdiocese of
Liverpool

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

at

English Martyrs

We will be celebrating
Christmas Mass at
the following times:

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass 6.00pm

First Mass of Christmas 9.00pm

Wednesday 25 December -

Christmas Day Mass 10.30am

