

Parish of St Josephine Bakhita
English Martyrs, Litherland

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December 2024



CHRISTMASTIME

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What do I need to do in order to discern Jesus' presence in someone I've just met? in a friend? in someone I disagree with?

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

Bethlehem was a town easily overlooked: too small, writes Micah, to be counted among the twelve tribes of Israel. Overlooked, just as its most famous son up to this point - David - was when he was working in the fields while Samuel greeted Jesse's older sons. Mary was a "lowly servant" from an even more remote town - Nazareth - when God sent Gabriel to announce the momentous news. Yet God chose Mary to bear the Son of God and Bethlehem to be the place of his birth. We ourselves may feel lowly and insignificant, but we aren't to God. God chooses each and every one of us to become a dwelling place of God.

Years before Jesus used the words, "Blessed are you," repeatedly to preach the beatitudes, Elizabeth showered Mary with these words, for she recognised that God was with her cousin in a special way. In a sense, she is anticipating God's blessings upon the poor and lowly of the world. In the days before texting or social media or even telephones, how could Elizabeth have known Mary's momentous news? Luke may provide a hint. Note that he writes that as soon as Mary entered her house, Elizabeth was "filled with the Holy Spirit," leading her to shower Mary with blessings. As we have been filled with the Holy Spirit since we were baptised, we too have the power to recognise the Lord in others. But do we?

Consider the way Elizabeth and her unborn son reacted when they first encountered Jesus, though he was still in Mary's womb. Elizabeth cried out with praise, and John did somersaults in his mother's womb. Is that how we react when we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, in our assembly, or in each other? Probably not, but maybe we would if we took the time to realise how close he is.

PARISH OFFICE

The office is now closed and will reopen on Thursday 2 January. Fr Mark wishes to thank our parish staff, Bernie and Nigel, for their continued support and dedicated service.

NEWSLETTER

This is the last parish newsletter until Sunday 5th January.

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 22nd December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish
Monday 23rd December	12.00pm Thomas Shannon
Tuesday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00pm Perpetual Mass List 9.00pm People of the Parish
Wednesday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30am Private intention
Thursday 26th December <i>Feast of St Stephen</i>	12.00pm Joseph & Kathleen Willis
Friday 27th December <i>Feast of St John</i>	NO MASS
Saturday 28th December <i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i>	NO MASS
Sunday 29th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	10.30am People of the Parish

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Tom & Elsie Smartt



Masses & Services for week commencing 29 December 2024

DATE	MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 29th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10.30am People of the Parish</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 30th December</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12.00pm Stephen McQuade</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 31st December</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12.00pm John Dunn</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 1st January <i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12.00pm Maureen Wilkinson</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 2nd January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO MASS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 3rd January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12.00pm Tony Coady</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 4th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO MASS 12.00pm Baptism - Niamh & Aaron Leigh</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 5th January <i>Solemnity of The Epiphany of The Lord</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10.30am People of the Parish</p>



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of 29 December is for:
Healing & Peace



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



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.

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

CAF069

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

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB”

Myra has received a lovely letter from St Joseph’s thanking the Parish 200 Club for an amazing total donation this year of £1600. Thanks to all who contribute.



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).

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

JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

What is a Jubilee?

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.



When will the Jubilee begin?

The Jubilee Year begins with the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and concludes on 6 January at the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Year at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 29 Dec 2024 at 11am. This celebration will also take place at our Co-Cathedral, St Mary of the Isle on the Isle of Man with Mass celebrated by Bishop Tom Neylon.

Pilgrims of Hope

Although the Jubilee is a worldwide celebration, Pope Francis has asked each diocese throughout the world to get involved and mark the Jubilee in its own unique way.

With the theme for the Jubilee 2025 being "Pilgrims of Hope", it's a great opportunity to discover afresh what it means "to be a pilgrim", not just by taking part in walks across our Archdiocese or the country to some of our amazing places or shrines, but also in seeing our whole lives as a pilgrimage from God to God, and our two Cathedrals and parishes as pilgrimage places. The Jubilee Year here in Liverpool will offer each one of us the chance to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to reset our relationship with God and with each other.

The year ahead

There are many exciting plans being made in advance of the Jubilee. Please continue to look out for further updates on our Jubilee page as we continue our preparations: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/jubilee

We look forward to accompanying you throughout this Jubilee year and in the words of St Paul: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Lord in your mercy...



NEW MISSALS

Two new missals are 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.

SEFTON INLAND DEANERY

Proposed Mass Times in the light of the reduction of the number of priests by 3. The Deanery priests met on Monday 16th December to try to put into place a proposed Mass schedule that will enable us to cover the changes that take place in the first two weeks of January 2025. The changes that face us are the same that will be faced by every Deanery in the Archdiocese in the coming years. We are not alone in this. From Sat 11th Jan the following schedule will be in place.

Saturday

4.30pm: St Gregory,
5.00pm: Our Lady of Walsingham
6.00pm: Holy Rosary
6.30pm: St George

Sunday

9.30am: Our Lady, Lydiate
9.30am: English Martyrs
10.00am: St Benet
10.30am: Holy Rosary
11.00am: St Gregory
11.00am: St Robert Bellarmine.
11.30am: St George.

We have had to put this together prior to consultation because it has to be in place for the weekend of the changes. Consultation will begin with the DSC (Deanery Synodal Council) meeting on Jan 13th.

St Elizabeth's Church will celebrate a final Latin Rite Mass on Saturday 4th January at 5.00pm.

St Mary's Aughton final Sunday Mass will be at 9.00am on Sunday 12th January 2025.

Canon Chris Fallon, Mgr Philip Inch, Canon Mark Madden,
Fr Lister Tonge, Fr Bruce Walles. Fr Grant Maddock

MASS TIMES

Changes affecting our parish will take effect from Monday 6 January when new Mass times will be implemented. Weekday Masses will be celebrated in both English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine:

Monday & Thursday	10:00 am	English Martyrs
Tuesday & Friday	10:00 am	St Robert Bellarmine

Weekend Mass times will take effect from Sunday 12 January

DIOCESAN CONSULTATION - NEW ARCHBISHOP

“A Bishop’s task is to preside over a local Church as a visible principle of unity within it and a bond of communion with all the Churches.” (69)

“This is why the Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishops.” (70)

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2024

The Vatican Synod clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. The process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church! There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on:

Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary’s Leyland, PR25 1PD (7.00pm – 9.30pm) and

Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30am - 1.00pm)

Each gathering will be the same – so only come to one of them. There will be two parts to the meeting: Firstly, we will begin by looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development and secondly we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop.

This is open to all members of our community here in the Archdiocese. To reserve a place at one of the meetings please fill go to: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk. Go to the events page and scroll down to find the online registration form.

CHRISTMAS 2024

Times of Masses over the coming days are as follows:

Monday 23 December		12.00 pm
Tuesday 24 December	Christmas Vigil	6.00 pm
	1st Mass of Christmas	9.00 pm
Wednesday 25 December	Mass of Christmas Day	10:30 am
Thursday 26 December	Feast of St Stephen	12.00 pm
Friday 27 December	Feast of St John	NO Mass
Saturday 28 December	Holy Innocents	NO Mass
Sunday 29 December	The Holy Family	10.30 am
Monday 30 December		12.00 pm
Tuesday 31 December		12.00 pm
Wednesday 1 January	Holy Mother of God	12.00 pm
Thursday 2 January		NO Mass
Friday 3 January		12. 00 pm



Happy Christmas!
May the peace and light which only the Child
of Bethlehem can bring, fill your hearts this
Christmas and in the New Year.

Fr. Mark