

Parish of St Josephine Bakhita
English Martyrs, Litherland

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 8th December 2024



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For what do I need to repent? Whom do I need to forgive?

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

Scripture scholars tell us that the Gospel of Luke was written fifty years or so after Jesus's death and resurrection. So Luke was not there with parchment and ink when John the Baptist traveled throughout the Jordan calling for a baptism of repentance. But he knew what a pivotal moment that was. So he begins his account by mentioning people like Lysanias and places like Trachonitis, names found nowhere else in the Bible. Why? He is setting the scene in exhaustive detail because of the dramatic difference between 'before' and 'after.' Just as our country memorializes 1066 or parents recall the year in which they had their first child, there is a life-changing difference between what came before and what came after. Just so for this proclamation of John's. The transformation Baruch prophesied about Jerusalem was now taking place. Luke paints a picture of exactly how the world had been before everything changed.

That said, each reading ultimately directs our focus onto the future. Baruch looks forward to the time when Jerusalem will be restored in glory. In Luke, John the Baptist calls everyone to prepare for Jesus' coming, when salvation will come to all people. Paul looks ahead to the day of Christ Jesus, the time of the Second Coming (Philippians 1:6). As Christians, we are called to anticipate the completion of the good work that has begun in us.

How are valleys filled in, mountains made low, paths made straight, and rough ways smoothed? Repentance. It is sin that throws up obstacles on our paths to salvation. Like a falling out between friends prevents that friendship from growing, our past sins prevent our love of God and love of neighbour from developing. Repentance allows us to put aside the past and focus on the future.

CATHOLIC PIC

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



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 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Molly Anna McCain
Monday 9th December <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of BVM</i>	10.00am Liam Williams
Tuesday 10th December	10.00am McLean family
Wednesday 11th December	NO MASS
Thursday 12th December	10.00am Mike Stam
Friday 13th December <i>Memorial of St Lucy</i>	10.00am Brian Moorcroft
Saturday 14th December <i>Memorial of St John of the Cross</i>	NO MASS
Sunday 15th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Olivia Sophia Glynn

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

The Nickson family



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

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

MASS Archbishop
Malcolm McMahon 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.

JOSPACE LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE

Sunday 8th
December

4pm-6pm Come along to our
hospice gardens for our
annual Christmas service and
sponsor a light on the tree to
remember your loved one



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



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

- Bach and Handel, Sun 8th Dec 3.00pm
- A Celebration of Christmas, Sat 14th Dec, 7.00pm
- 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

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.

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>



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Molly Anna McCain

Baptised Sunday 8 December 2024



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 .

FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Immaculate Conception

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered “Yes” to the request, conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of the incarnate God.



Because it is so old, this is one of the Marian doctrines that Islam shares with the Catholic Church, though of course the theological details are very different. ‘in a famous Hadith attributed to the Prophet, it is affirmed that: “Every child is touched by the devil as soon as he is born and this contact makes him cry. Excepted are Mary and her Son”. From this Hadith and from verses 35-37 of Sura III, Moslem commentators have deduced and affirmed the principle of Mary’s original purity.’

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was almost universally believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

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. The Raffle will be drawn at the bingo

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.

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).

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 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.

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

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND CONCERT

What a lovely afternoon we had last Saturday with the amazing Irish Guards Choir! There was such a wonderful sense of community - all being together and entertained with some fabulous Christmas songs. Quite an emotional few hours! Thank you to everyone who supported and made it such a success. Details of our fundraising efforts will be in next week's newsletter after the bingo on Tuesday



**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

**Sign up now and
get sponsored!**
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