

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

Feast of The Presentation of The Lord

Sunday 2nd February 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I see myself as Simeon or Anna, encountering Christ in my place of worship ?

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 final total cost of the trip is £1588.

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



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

In many countries today's feast is celebrated as Candlemas, named for the candles that are blessed today. They serve as symbols of Christ, the light of the world. When the infant Jesus was presented to the Lord in the temple, his identity and mission were revealed to the elderly Simeon and the prophet Anna, as a light reveals the contents of a room. If we listen carefully to Simeon's testimony, we hear that Christ's light revealed both good and bad, things both joyful and heartbreaking. Though Jesus would bring salvation and glory, many in Israel would fall and Mary herself would be pierced as by a sword. We recall Malachi's bracing words regarding purification and sacrifice. Jesus shines a light on our redemption, but also on the cross we must bear.



The letter to the Hebrews explains how this baby boy whom Simeon held could become the salvation of the world. He is God made flesh so that he could take our sins upon himself, suffer and die for them, and atone for them. When we receive him in the Eucharist, we receive his Body and Blood, which he sacrificed to gain our salvation.

Today we celebrate a final manifestation of Jesus during his infancy. He was revealed to the shepherds on the night he was born, then to the magi many days later after they made their lengthy journey from the east. Today we celebrate that he was made manifest to Simeon and Anna when he was presented in the temple according to the Law. Of course, we know Jesus revealed himself in many ways during his earthly life—to his disciples, to those whom he healed, on the cross, at table in Emmaus. The truth is that he continues to reveal himself in the world. We pray that we may recognize him in this holy place, much as the Holy Spirit guided the devout Simeon and Anna to do so in the temple. We yearn to recognise him as well in our neighbour, for we know now of his promise that what we do for the least of them we do for him.

WEEKDAY MASS

Fr Mark is in London this week to report to the Bishops' of England & Wales on the recent meeting of the Holy Land Coordination. Therefore, there will be no Mass on Friday.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 2nd February <i>Feast of the Presentation of The Lord</i>	9.30am People of the Parish 11.00am Baptism Ayla Pearl Thomson	11.00am Catherine King
Monday 3rd February	10.00am Bob Lambert & Nicola	
Tuesday 4th February		10.00am Eileen, Eugene & Thomas Callaghan
Wednesday 5th February		
Thursday 6th February	10.00am Michael O'Neill	
Friday 7th February		NO MASS
Saturday 8th February	12.00pm Baptism Jude Michael Johnson-Steel	
Sunday 9th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Betty Scott	11.00am - People of the Parish

SANCTUARY LAMP



The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:
Thanksgiving for prayers answered



WORD ON FIRE: EVANGELISATION CULTURE CONFERENCE: THE BIBLE, 21 – 22 February 2025

This conference is for those who are seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the beauty of the Catholic faith while growing in your evangelisation efforts. It will be at Excel London, right in the heart of London's historic Royal Docks. Join Bishop Barron for this unique conference. Please follow this link for more details and to book your place:

[Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible](https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event?) - or go to -
<https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event?>

NEWS FROM DEANERY SYNODAL COUNCIL

'The Deanery Synodal Council met on Monday 13th January. The main item on its agenda was the impact of all the recent changes. It is clear that some parishes have been more impacted than others – but this does not mean that we are not all involved in this. It was made clear that decisions have been made to enable us to respond to 3 less priests in the Deanery. The DSC renewed its commitment to the principles that led to the summer schedule – there would be a weekend Mass in each church. There would only be more than one Mass if numbers or capacity demanded and we would try to ensure that changes were made so that each parish could rely on the support of the others. In the light of this there is an openness to make changes if and when they feel to be needed.

The other item on the agenda is the forthcoming Parish Development Strategy that is being piloted across the 3 Sefton deaneries. This is something that the Diocese is rolling out across every Deanery in order to help the realisation of the pastoral plan.'

A Year of Hope: Introduction to the Jubilee Year from CAFOD

How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be "tangible signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year? Find out by watching [this inspirational event](#) (find it and other Jubilee resources at cafod.org.uk/jubilee). Featuring Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD Director Christine Allen and more. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

CONFIRMATION 2025 (ANIMATE)

If your child is in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation, please register at liverpoolcalled.co.uk. Registration is open from **Monday 13 January** to **Monday 17 March 2025**.

Join the Animate team and special guests live for the **Sacrament of Confirmation Online Preparation Sessions** on **1 May** and **15 May** from **16.30-18.00** on the Animate Youth YouTube channel. No log in required. This session will offer a reminder of some of the work done in schools on Gifts of the Spirit, Saints, Rite of Confirmation. You will also hear how Confirmation has affected different people in the Archdiocese. **This is to run alongside your Local Parish/Deanery preparation.**

Animate will also be offering a special session on **Monday 31 March (16.30-18.00)** for those who attend non-Catholic schools or schools outside the Archdiocese on YouTube. Please register as normal at liverpoolcalled.co.uk; you will be contacted after **Monday 17 March** with login details. Please save the date!

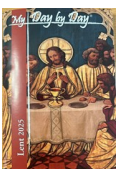


MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

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, contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Our parish needs more people to become Eucharistic Ministers and the next Training Day will take place on Saturday 15 March at Irenaeus in Waterloo. If you would like to volunteer, please give your name to the Parish Office



MY DAY BY DAY - LENT and EASTER

We have some new books in the shop with daily scripture readings and prayers for Lent and Easter. Price £1 - come in and have a look.





WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Ayla Pearl Thomson

Baptised Sunday 2 February 2025



FEAST OF THE WEEK

St John de Britto (1647-1693)

He was born in Lisbon on 1 March, 1647 and brought up at the royal court there. He became a Jesuit at the age of 15, and was given Madura in southern India as his missionary field.



In September, 1673, he reached Goa. He apparently entered the Kshatriyas, a noble caste. His dress was yellow cotton; he abstained from every kind of animal food and from wine. Setting out early in 1674, he traversed the Ghauts on foot and reached Colei in the Cauvery Delta, where he perfected himself in the language. He journeyed northward at least as far as Madras and Vellore, but Cauvery Delta, Tanjore, Madura, and Marava, between Madura and the sea, were his chief field. In 1684 he was imprisoned in Marava, and, though freed by the king, he was expelled from the country.

In 1688 he was sent to Europe as deputy to the triennial Congregation of Procurators. Resisting urgent attempts to keep him in Portugal, and refusing the Archbishopric of Cranganore, he returned in 1691 to the borders of Madura and Marava. Having converted Teriadeven, a Maravese prince, he required him to dismiss all his wives but one. Among them was a niece of the king, who took up her quarrel and began a general persecution. De Britto and others were taken and carried to the capital, Ramnad, the Brahmins clamouring for his death. Thence he was led to Oreiour, some thirty miles northward along the coast, where he was beheaded on 11 February, 1693. He was beatified by Pope Pius IX on 21 August 1853 and canonised by Pope Pius XII on 22 June 1947.

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. The Jubilee Year began 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.



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.”*

PARISH CHORAL OFFERING - OUR LADY OF COMPASSION FORMBY

7 FEBRUARY 6.30PM The choir of The Metropolitan Cathedral will sing a wide variety of music including much loved ‘Panis Angelicus’. Entry is free with a retiring collection

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life. .

Lord in your mercy...



JUBILEE PRAYER

During this Jubilee Year, we encourage you to pray the Jubilee Prayer each day:

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



SEFTON INLAND DEANERY

From Sat 11th Jan the following schedule is in place for weekend masses across the Deanery

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.

SPARE GIFTS?

We would be very grateful for the donation of any spare gifts that can be used in our future fundraising efforts. Thank You!



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr Mark is often available in the 20 minutes before each Mass to hear reconciliations. Please pop into the sacristy to ask.

THE MEN OF ST JOSEPH

A chapter of the National Organisation "The Men of St Joseph" will be launching in Liverpool and is looking for members. They aim to engage men across the archdiocese in prayer, study, and fellowship in the image of St Joseph - a model of fatherhood, courage, and purity.

They will be holding a meeting at St. Helen's Church, Crosby, L23 7TQ on Wednesday, 5th February, 7pm - you are welcome to join. To learn more about the group, visit: www.mosj.co.uk



THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL - 15 February 2025 10.00am - 4.00pm

Ronan Johnson is the keynote speaker for this day at Irenaeus. Bring a packed lunch.

Suggested donation £10



THE MIRACLE OF JACK TRAYNOR

Following the announcement in December of the miraculous cure of John (Jack) Traynor, the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be celebrating this historic moment with Mass followed by a drinks reception at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Tuesday 18th February at 7pm. All are very welcome to attend.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

Your small change can make a big impact

Mary's Meals feeds 2.4 million children every school day. Our supporters and volunteers grow the global movement – each carrying out a little act of love to help us reach the next child waiting for our meals. They are people from all walks of life, people of hope, people like you.

There are [lots of small ways](#) you can help Mary's Meals transform the lives of children. Whether you can give money, time, or help to spread our message – your little act of love can give children living in some of the world's poorest countries hope for a better future. Which small change will you make? Go to marysmeals.org.uk



It costs just 10p a day to feed a hungry child with Mary's Meals in school, so just £4 will provide 40 meals. This means that even the smallest donation will have a big impact.

CIVIC MASS 2025

Sunday 2 March 11.00am

The Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, Monsignor Anthony O'Brien, has pleasure in inviting you to attend the Annual Civic Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

Flame - 15 March (book tickets now) Flame is the largest Catholic Youth Event in the country, with 10,000 young people attending the event at Wembley Arena. More details of the event can be found at cymfed.org.uk/flame. A coach will leave from Lowe House and return on the same day. Tickets and travel £60. Application forms or more information are available at admin@animatemyouth.co.uk



English Martyrs Office:
School Lane, Litherland. L21 7LX

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9.30am–2.30pm

St Robert Bellarmine Office:
Orrell Road, Bootle. L20 6DZ

0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am–1.30pm

liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacynotice
Archdiocese of Liverpool: CIO no:1199714