

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 26th January 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Am I conscious of Jesus' presence in our midst? How do I show others that I am part of God's loving family?

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

A woman was interviewed after surviving a plane crash. She had spent months in hospital and had not been expected to recover, but she did. The interviewer asked her how it had changed her life, expecting some profound answer. But the woman replied that the main change was that she now used her best cutlery and glasses every day instead of saving them for special occasions. I could be dead but I'm alive. So I might as well enjoy the best while I'm still around. After all, what am I saving it for?'



In fact, it was a profound answer really. She had changed as a result of her accident and come to realise that here and now was the best time to celebrate, not some future distant date. Why not enjoy every moment instead of locking everything away to gather dust?

So go and eat the fat and drink the sweet wine, say Ezra and Nehemiah in our scriptures today when the people return from their long exile. For God is here in our midst, working wonders and not forgetting about us.

But why do we then have the story of Jesus preaching in the synagogue? Maybe the clue comes in his last sentence: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'. Luke is aiming to let his readers know, at the outset of Jesus's ministry, that the promises they were hoping for are now being fulfilled. Humanity is about to be offered the chance to be liberated, to see its way clearly and to be released from oppression. Now is the time to rejoice; today is the day of salvation.



Are we the sort of people who keep our religious cutlery and glasses for some future date? Do our eyes let us see God alive and well and working in our lives and the lives of others? Do our ears ring with the sound of God's power at work in the world? Is our faith a source of joy here and now or simply a hope for the future? Do we realise that, because of Jesus, God's kingdom is already in our midst and are we able to celebrate the fact? Blink and you'll miss it. For today is the day of salvation.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 26th January <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Cecilia Byrne	11.00am People of the Parish
Monday 27th January	10.00am Jack Wright	
Tuesday 28th January <i>Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas</i>		10.00am Jim Clifford
Wednesday 29th January		
Thursday 30th January	10.00am Betty Scott	
Friday 31st January <i>Memorial of St John Bosco</i>		10.00am Private intention (AC)
Saturday 1st February		
Sunday 2nd February <i>Feast of the Presentation of The Lord</i>	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am - Catherine King

SANCTUARY LAMP



The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:
Marie & Frannie Riley



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.



ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JANUARY DRAW

1st	£20	No. 91	M Cheetham
2nd	£15	No. 45	A Nuttall
3rd	£10	No. 9	M Lovelady
4th	£10	No. 62	S Cooke

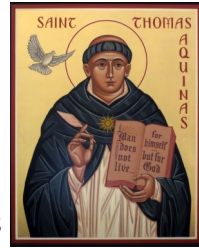


Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. A gentle reminder - can those people who have not yet paid their annual subscription for the new year please contact Myra. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

ST THOMAS AQUINAS (January 28th)

St Thomas Aquinas was a 13th century Dominican friar. Famous as one of the Church's leading philosophers and theologians, he spent much of his time studying, writing and teaching. But he was also a great man of contemplation, as this brief prayer of his shows:



Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Our parish needs more people to become Eucharistic Ministers and the next Training Day will take place on Saturday 15 March



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).

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.”*



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Jude Daniel Jeffries

Baptised Saturday 25 January 2025



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...



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.

WELCOME HOME!

We welcome Fr Mark back this weekend from his visit to the Holy Land for the Bishops Coordination meeting. A very busy time for him but hopefully a successful visit.



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.



SANCTUARY LAMP

We are running short on dedications for the sanctuary lamp. If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a week please just write your intention on an envelope and pass to the office with £5 offering



CATHOLIC PIC -

January edition of Pic now available in Piety stall. Main article is on the Jack Traynor miracle





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