

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 16th February 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What about my life is Jesus calling me to change so that I may be blessed? If I have plenty of money, food, and happiness, what can I do to be blessed?

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

Jeremiah contrasts those who place their trust in humanity and those who place their trust in God by using nature to make an analogy. Those who misplace their trust are like a bush that is dry, stagnant, and barren while those who trust God are like a tree that constantly grows, thrives, and bears fruit. The psalmist echoes this likening. Jesus picks up on it in today's Gospel. Those whose life is easy, who have plenty of everything, who cling to their wealth will end up as hungry, thirsty, and sad as the barren bush. But those who thirst for God despite their impoverished situation will be rewarded with joy, laughter, and the kingdom of heaven.

St Paul reminds us that our belief in the resurrection gives us the hope that we may live eternally in the kingdom of God. Jesus himself lived a life involving no possessions, much grief, and strong opposition, which eventually led to his execution. His reward is indeed great in heaven. That reward is now our reward, for he has won us our salvation.

Just last weekend we heard Jesus call his first disciples: Simon Peter, James, and John. Today we hear him talking to a much larger audience, though Luke says he was looking at his disciples when he spoke. Much as he explicitly called them to follow him on his mission, today we hear him implicitly call them to live by a different set of values. Then, as now, people naturally valued wealth and happiness and sufficiency. If Jesus had preached in support of these, many people would have been pleased. After all, wasn't success in life a sign that God smiled upon them? But no. Jesus tells them just the opposite. It is the poor who will inherit the kingdom of God. It is the hungry, the grief-stricken, and the maligned who will "rejoice and leap for joy". This radical, countercultural call to his disciples then is his radical, countercultural call to us disciples now.

WEEKDAY MASS - Please note that Monday's mass is at 12 noon and is a funeral for Robert Hardie Paterson. May he Rest in Peace

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 16th February <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am - Violet & John Kelly
Monday 17th February	12.00pm Funeral Mass— Robert Hardie Paterson	
Tuesday 18th February		10.00am Thomas & Esther O'Shea
Wednesday 19th February		
Thursday 20th February	10.00am John Fairclough	
Friday 21st February		10.00am Jim McCloskey
Saturday 22nd February	12.00pm Baptisms Lola & Mya Amole Teddi Daniel Shields	
Sunday 23rd February <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Harry Jackson	11.00am - People of the Parish



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:
Elsie Smartt



JACK TRAYNOR MASS

For those who have registered to attend the Mass in the Cathedral, the bus will leave St Robert Bellarmine church on Tuesday at 5.45pm.

CIVIC MASS 2025

Sunday 2 March (book tickets now)

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

The Mass will be on Sunday 2 March 2025 at 11.00am. Light refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after Mass. If you are able to attend please RSVP to c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

If you would like a Car Park Pass for the Cathedral Car Park please advise when accepting the invitation and one will be sent to you

REGULAR GIVING TO THE CHURCH

The best way to give regularly to the parish is with a Standing Order so that your contribution is paid by your bank to the parish account. This reduces the cash that has to be handled. Envelopes will always remain available but please consider the use of Standing Orders.

Please contact the parish office if you would like one. If you are a tax payer please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme as this is a way of increasing our income without having to ask people for more money. For every £1 you give 25p extra will be claimed back by the parish.

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.

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!

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!

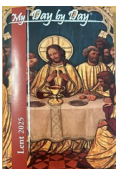


LGBT+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool

The next gathering will be held on Sunday 2nd March 2025. All Saints, High Street, Golborne, Warrington, WA3 3BG

Mass at 2.00pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

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.



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2025

Discrimination and prejudice against people who are different in some way is a historic weakness of British society and quite contrary to Gospel values.

This year, Racial Justice Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, 16 February 2025. The theme, **Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice**, invites Catholics across England and Wales to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and the wider society. Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, said:

“2025 is a very special year. It marks both a Year of Jubilee and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday. “This year, we invite the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice- past, present and future – by asking: ‘How far have we come, where are we now and what remains to be achieved?’ “Just as pilgrims must prepare for their journey and be properly equipped, we, too, need all that is necessary to propel us towards racial justice - the mind of Christ; examination of our progress and of the challenges that remain; a willingness to learn from one another together; and prayers for and on the journey.”

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.

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@animateyouth.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. 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.”*

SENIORS CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS

The class has restarted in the Parish Hall on Thursdays at 12.30pm.
Cost £3 per session. Come along and join in !



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





ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

The feast of our new parish saint took place on Saturday 8 February. Fr Mark was in London on Friday to discuss with the Directors of the Santa Marta Group how we can work with them to highlight their work under the patronage of St Josephine.

The Santa Marta Group is an international Group which Pope Francis asked Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Catholic Church in England & Wales to form. The Group is a catalyst to bring systemic change to end human trafficking and modern-day slavery by bringing together leaders from civil society, law enforcement, business, faiths and communities.

St Josephine, herself a victim of human trafficking and slavery, is the patron saint of the Group. She was chosen to be our new patron because of Liverpool's historic connection to slavery and the fact that we are very close to the Port of Liverpool. Our new parish name has been endorsed by Cardinal Vincent and we hope to welcome him in the near future.

Fr Mark would like to form a new parish Group that will work specifically with the Santa Marta Group, Caritas, Civic authorities etc. to highlight the work of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. We will officially launch the group and its work on Sunday 8th February 2026. If you are willing to join, please give your name to the parish offices.

St Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Aoifa Morrison

Harriet & Albie Ormesher

Baptised Saturday 15 February 2025



FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Robert Southwell (1561-1595)



Although a Norfolk man by birth, Robert Southwell spent part of his boyhood near Horsham. At the age of fifteen, Robert was sent to school at Douai and then to Paris. Before he was seventeen, he had decided to apply to join the Jesuits. He was ordained priest in 1584 and for a time was Prefect of Studies at the Venerable English College in Rome. His great desire was to return to England, and in 1586 he was sent here with Father Henry Garnet.

Robert was an organiser as well as a poet, and was reckoned by the authorities as “the chief dealer for the papists in England”. He was responsible for getting candidates for the priesthood out of the country for their training abroad, and for finding accommodation for those returning to work here. Small wonder that he was the priest most ardently sought by the infamous priest-hunter, Richard Topcliffe.

By 1592, after Robert had spent six years in England, Topcliffe was hard on his heels. He knew that Robert had been at Roffey that year, but did not attempt to arrest him in that Catholic stronghold. But later that year Topcliffe put pressure on a Catholic girl, Anne Bellamy, to betray Robert. She asked him to come to see her at her home near Harrow. Topcliffe and his men arrived, and surrounded the house. When Robert realised that he had been betrayed, he came forward. Topcliffe had to be forcibly restrained from killing him there and then. Robert Southwell was a great prize. Topcliffe took him to his own house, and there had him tortured ten times over a space of four days, “worse than the rack”.

In February 1595 he was tried for treason, on the ground that he was a priest remaining in the country against the law of 1585, and condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. The following day, 21 February 1595, the sentence was carried out. He was canonised as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales in 1970.



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