

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 2nd March 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What beam in my eye will I remove this Lent? What fruit will I produce during Lent? In other words, what two concrete things will I do to see more clearly and to contribute to Jesus' mission?

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

It's very easy to be judgmental, especially these days. Social media tends to encourage and reinforce that behaviour. Before we know it, we've disparaged someone for what they said or did. Let today's Gospel be a warning to us. Notice that it offers an alternative. Refocus. When it comes to failings, look in the mirror, not out to the world. Especially as we enter Lent, we should practice examining our consciences. If we do so honestly, we can identify how to improve ourselves and the way we see others. Note also the way Jesus counsels us to handle the faults in others. We're not told to condemn our brother or accuse our sister. No, we're called to kindly help them. Then both you and they will be better..

Today's Gospel has a lot to say about our eyes and our brother's (or sister's). But there is another pair of eyes to think about today: God's eyes. Over the last few weeks, we have heard Jesus teaching his disciples how to see the world through God's eyes. He told his disciples that God does not see poor people as misfortunate, but as the inheritors of the kingdom. Those who are hungry, grieving, or maligned will end up joyful. God foresees what we cannot. God calls us to love our enemies because God does not see enemies but fellow children of God. God sees us stumbling from the wooden beam in our eye and wants us to be healthy and whole. Let us pray for the grace to see our lives from God's eyes. How much differently will we see?

Saint Paul leaves the Corinthians a farewell message: "Be . . . fully devote to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain". This ties in so well with Jesus' call to his disciples, here and elsewhere, to bear good fruit. We are called to put our faith into action, to make the world better, to give a glimpse of the kingdom through our actions. We are known by the fruit we produce. What fruit have we produced or are we producing?

ASH WEDNESDAY 2025 Two Masses will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday - 10.00 a.m. at St Robert Bellarmine and 6pm at English Martyrs. Our Lady of Walsingham will also have a 9.15am Mass. Please also note there is NO MASS on Thursday 6th

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 2nd March <i>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Bridget McDermott	11.00am - Dave Taylor
Monday 3rd March	10.00am Paul Nickson	
Tuesday 4th March		10.00am Joe England
Wednesday 5th March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	6.00pm Perpetual Mass List	10.00am M Boyle
Thursday 6th March	NO MASS	
Friday 7th March		10.00am Joe Morley
Saturday 8th March	12.00pm Baptism Iremide & Ayomide Olagunju	
Sunday 9th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am - Ann French



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:
Betty & Peter White



A PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

O merciful Father, You have called Your servant Pope Francis to shepherd Your Church with faith and love. In his time of need, we turn to You, the Divine Physician, and humbly ask that You extend Your healing hand upon him. Grant him strength in body, mind, and spirit, so that he may continue to lead Your people with steadfast devotion. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, we place him under Your loving care, trusting in Your divine will.



We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL ROMERO MASS

This year's Mass for St Oscar Romero will be celebrated at St Edmund of Canterbury (62 Oxford Rd, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QF) on Thursday 20 March at 19.00. For more information, please contact the parish office on 01519282338 or email stoscarromero@rcaol.org.uk. Please note, office hours are:

Monday & Tuesday – 9.00 to 15.00

Wednesday – 11.00 to 14.30

Saturday – 11.00 to 13.30

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 also have some new lovely cards for Easter. Come in and have a browse

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!



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 as soon as possible.



ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meets fortnightly at Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY). As usual, we will start at 18.30 where pizza and refreshment will be provided. Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. This year we are exploring different types of prayer. The next meeting will be on 25 March and the theme will be 'Praying through Art'. For enquiries, please contact m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

SURVIVE-MIVA

This is a Catholic lay Association, based in Liverpool and founded in 1974, which provides grants to fund essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the Church's pastoral care in places of difficult access, across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

This weekend. Geraldine Roberts-Stone, will tell us more about this Association and a retiring collection will be taken to help its important work.

For more information: www.survive-miva.org



FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

It's beginning to feel a bit like Spring so let's come out of 'hibernation' We have two theatre trips arranged:



Thursday 10th April Liverpool Empire for 'War Horse'

'From the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. this powerfully moving and imaginative drama, filled with stirring music and songs, is a show of phenomenal inventiveness. At its heart are astonishing life-sized horses who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage'

Cost is **£63** including transport. This needs to be confirmed by **13 March** so names and £10 deposit to office asap please.



Saturday 14 June Liverpool Philharmonic - 'A Night at the Musicals'

'Orchestra and leading West End vocalists bring the musical hits right here to Hope Street. Packed with your favourite songs from Hamilton, Six, The Book of Mormon, Frozen, Aladdin, Mamma Mia!, Grease, The Lion King, The Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables, expect showbiz glamour and knockout tunes.' Cost for this one is **£53**. Name and deposit to office before end of April

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Katharine Drexel (1858-1955)



She was born in Philadelphia to a rich banking family. In 1891, at the age of 33, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, an order dedicated to mission work among Indians and black people. (A survey of the situation in the United States at this time described “250,000 Indians neglected, if not practically abandoned, and over nine million of negroes still struggling through the aftermath of slavery”).

She spent her entire life and her entire fortune to this work, opening schools, founding a university, and funding many chapels, convents and monasteries. She died on 3 March 1955, by which time there were more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the United States.

EASTER BINGO AND RAFFLE

Easter Bingo will take place on Tuesday 1 April. Doors open at 6.30pm for ‘eyes down’ at 7pm.



Tickets for bingo and raffle will be on sale after mass next weekend. Last year was a sell out so get your tickets asap!

JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

A silent retreat led by Sr. Moira Meeghan at the Irenaeus Centre. 7-9th March. Residential places are available. The cost is:
Non-residential with meals £70
Residential £95
To book , jenny@irenaeus.co.uk



The Irenaeus Project
the glory of God is a person fully alive

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences. .

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 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

Dylan Francis McCoy

Isaac Thomas & Elijah Smallbone

Baptised Saturday 1 March 2025



BOUNDARY CONSULTATION

It has been proposed, that to better enable good pastoral care, the boundaries of Saint Josephine Bakhita parish and Saint Oscar Romero Parish be slightly changed. The territory of the former parish of Saint Elizabeth Of Hungary below the canal (towards the river) will become part of an enlarged parish of Saint Oscar Romero. This means that the pastoral care of the school of Saint Elizabeth will become the responsibility of the parish priest of Saint Oscar Romero parish.

If you have any comments on this proposal, please put them in writing to your parish office by 12 noon on Tuesday 4 March or to the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Organisation, Mgr Philip Inch holyrosary@rcaol.org.uk

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals has recently launched an emergency appeal for children and families in Southern Africa who urgently need help.

The region is experiencing its worst drought in 100 years. Crops have failed, cattle are dying, and food is scarce and expensive. The situation is desperate; an estimated 21 million children are suffering from malnutrition.

Mary's Meals is providing a lifeline to families in four of the worst-affected countries, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

It costs just 10p a day to feed a child at school with Mary's Meals. With your support we can help many thousands more children and families through this devastating drought.

Please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk and find out more about our Emergency in Southern Africa appeal.





Saint Josephine Bakhita

"Be good, love the Lord,
pray for those who do not
know him. What a great
grace it is to know God!"

English Martyrs Office: 0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
School Lane, Litherland. L21 7LX Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9.30am–2.30pm

St Robert Bellarmine Office: 0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Orrell Road, Bootle. L20 6DZ Office hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am–1.30pm

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