

# The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 9th February 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When I have felt like I was in deep water, in over my head, when doing something I felt called by God to do? Did I overcome my fear or discomfort and how?

## 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

When they are called by the Lord, both Isaiah and Peter initially insist that they are unworthy. After Isaiah calls himself unclean, an angel touches his mouth with an embe from the altar, purging him of his sin. Jesus doesn't explicitly absolve Peter of his sins but he responds to Peter's protestations by saying, "Do not be afraid", reassuring him that his sinfulness is not a deal-breaker. He wants Peter to be a fisher of others, despite his being a sinful man. We are sinners as well, but that doesn't mean Jesus wants us to wait until we are perfect before responding to his call. That would be an awfully long wait! "Do not be afraid," Jesus tells us now. Just follow.

We are not told what Jesus taught the crowds when he was a short distance from the shore. But when he finished, he asked Peter to "put out into deep water" to catch fish. Assuredly, it made sense to go out to deeper water to find more fish, but it also foreshadowed what Peter would come to find out over the next few years. Peter would get into deep water—sometimes literally!—in following Jesus on his mission.

Our presence here today puts us in the place of the crowds on the shore of Lake Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee). We are in the presence of God, listening to God's word, attuned to what it can teach us. But Jesus calls us to more than wading in the shallow shoreline. He calls us to deep water as well, to the depths of our faith, to the depths of our being. It can be as scary as the deep end of a pool when you are learning to swim. But we have Jesus' words to assure us: "Do not be afraid". Even far from shore, let us respond as Isaiah did: "Here I am!"



**WEEKDAY MASS** - Fr Mark is in Garstang on Monday to celebrate the Funeral mass for a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, therefore, there will be NO Mass at English Martyrs

## Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
<b>Sunday 9th February</b> <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Betty Scott	<b>11.00am -</b> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 10th February</b> <i>Memorial St Scholastica</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 11th February</b> <i>Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes</i>		<b>10.00am</b> Paul Jones & Pam McHugh  <b>1.30pm</b> Funeral service Margaret Gregory
<b>Wednesday 12th February</b>		
<b>Thursday 13th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Alec Barr  <b>12.00pm</b> Funeral mass John Barrigan	
<b>Friday 14th February</b> <i>Feast Ss Cyril and Methodius</i>		<b>10.00am</b> Mary Murney
<b>Saturday 15th February</b>	<b>1.00pm</b> Baptisms Aoife Morrison Harriet & Albie Ormesher	
<b>Sunday 16th February</b> <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish	<b>11.00am -</b> Violet & John Kelly



## SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Jean Maloney



## ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" FEBRUARY DRAW

1st £20 No. 9 M Lovelady  
 2nd £15 No. 144 C Lewis  
 3rd £10 No. 145 S Harper  
 4th £10 No. 69 L Fairclough



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.

## SEFTON INLAND DEANERY

Weekend masses across our 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.

## PRAYER TO SAINT VALENTINE

DEAR SAINT AND GLORIOUS MARTYR;  
 TEACH US HOW TO LOVE UNSELFISHLY  
 AND TO FIND GREAT JOY IN GIVING.  
 ENABLE ALL TRUE LOVERS TO BRING  
 OUT THE BEST IN EACH OTHER IN GOD  
 AND IN GOD IN EACH OTHER.



LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND,  
 IT DOESN'T ENVY OR BOAST AND  
 IT'S NEVER PROUD,  
 LOVE IS NOT RUDE OR SELFISH,  
 IT DOESN'T GET ANGRY EASILY OR  
 KEEP TRACK OF WRONGS.  
 LOVE DOESN'T DELIGHT IN BAD THINGS  
 BUT IT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH.  
 LOVE ALWAYS PROTECTS, TRUSTS,  
 HOPES, AND PERSEVERES.  
 LOVE NEVER FAILS.

ST. PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

## 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](http://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](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk); you will be contacted after **Monday 17 March** with login details. Please save the date!

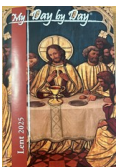


## LGBT+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool

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.



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### Our Lady of Lourdes

In 1858 the immaculate Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, near Lourdes in France, in the cavern called “de Massabielle.” Through this poor, fourteen-year-old girl, Mary calls on sinners to change their lives. She has inspired in the Church a great love of prayer and good works, especially in the service of the poor and the sick.



The feast this year is more poignant for us in the Archdiocese as we celebrate the official miracle of Jack Traynor. Jack was a pilgrim on the archdiocese's first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923 and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. The case has been believed to be miraculous from people across the archdiocese and beyond, but, despite an attempt in 1993, there has never been an official ecclesiastical declaration until now. It is the 71st official miracle to have happened in Lourdes and the first person from England to be recognised.

At the time of the archdiocesan centenary pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2023, the current President of the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations, Dr Alessandro de Franciscis, asked Dr Kieran Moriarty, an English member of the International Medical Committee of Lourdes, to conduct a review of the file of John Traynor held in the archives at Lourdes. Sufficient medical evidence enabled the archdiocese to reconsider the possibility that the cure of John Traynor might be declared miraculous.

Archbishop Malcolm said: *“Given the weight of medical evidence, the testimony to the faith of John Traynor and his devotion to Our Blessed Lady, it is with great joy that I declare that the cure of John Traynor, from multiple serious medical conditions, is to be recognised as a miracle wrought by the power of God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes.*

*“I hope that in February 2025, during the Jubilee Year, we will have a fitting celebration at the Metropolitan Cathedral to mark this significant moment in the history of our archdiocese, helping us all to respond to the Jubilee call to be ‘Pilgrims of Hope.’”*

# 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](http://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!



## CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL -

15 February 2025 10am - 4pm

Ronan Johnson is the keynote speaker for this day at Irenaeus.

Bring a packed lunch.

Suggested donation £10



## 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 yesterday, 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**



## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:admin@animatemyouth.co.uk)



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](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacynotice)  
Archdiocese of Liverpool: CIO no:1199714