

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 23rd February 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which is the most difficult challenge for me: turning the other cheek when I have been hurt or wronged, refraining from judging others, or giving without repayment? How will I change my thinking and my behaviour?

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 as possible, complete it and bring it back



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Saul chases David into the desert because he is consumed with jealousy of the young giant slayer. David has every reason to fear for his life, seeing an army of thousands in pursuit, led by a king who kept a spear right next to him as he slept. But given the opportunity to kill Saul while he sleeps, David elects to spare his life. He tells his comrade Abishai that he will not kill Saul because Saul has been anointed by God. Jesus takes it one step further in the Gospel, teaching his disciples to love their enemies, whether or not they have been anointed. Our enemies may not be anointed by God, but no matter who they are, they were created in the image of God and are children of God. We have no right to hate or fight a fellow child of God.

St Paul puts it all together for the Corinthians. In speaking of the first Adam, who was made a living being on earth by God, and the last Adam—Christ—who comes from heaven and gives life, Paul writes, “Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one”. As we now resemble Adam in our humanity, one day we will resemble Christ in his glory.

Putting the lessons from today’s Gospel into practice is a major challenge. It is tempting to fight back, to be judgmental, to condemn those who do not agree with us. After all, isn’t that what we see online or on television, or practice ourselves on social media or among our family and friends? The key to meeting this challenge is to become as selfless as possible. We must overcome our self-centeredness and choose self-sacrifice, as Jesus himself did. He freely gave his healing power knowing he could not be repaid. He lived without possessions, trusting in God’s generosity. He forgave his enemies, even from the cross. It helps to see life as a collaboration, with all God’s children growing and developing in harmony, not as a competition, where we fear that we will not get or keep what is our fair share.

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.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 23rd February <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Harry Jackson	11.00am - People of the Parish
Monday 24th February	10.00pm Michael McLeary	
Tuesday 25th February		10.00am Chris Culligan
Wednesday 26th February		
Thursday 27th February	10.00am Michelle McMullen	
Friday 28th February		10.00am Sandra Kane
Saturday 1st March	12.00pm Baptisms Dylan McCoy Issac & Elijah Smallbone	
Sunday 2nd March <i>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Bridget McDermott	11.00am - Dave Taylor



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Thomas Willis



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.



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.

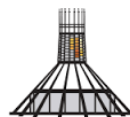
The Mass will be on Sunday 2 March 2025 at 11.00am. Light refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after Mass. If

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



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

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



CAFOD BIG LENT WALK - Walk 200Km during Lent - that is 5Km a day and raise money to help overcome poverty. You can sign up at cafod.org.uk/



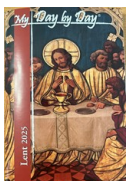
SURVIVE-MIVA

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.

Next weekend. Geraldine Roberts-Stone, will join us to 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



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

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St David (520-589)

The earliest life of St David dates from five centuries after his death, probably in 589. He became eminent as abbot and bishop at the site now known as St David's, but formerly Mynyw, from which the present diocese of Menevia is named. He is credited with a monastic rule based on the example of the Eastern Fathers, and also with a Penitentiary. He was invited to preside at the synod of Llandewibrefi. Monks trained at his monastery evangelized South Wales and made foundations in Cornwall, Brittany and Ireland. St David is said to have sent a Mass rite to Ireland. At his death his contemporary St Kentigern, founder of St Asaph's in North Wales, witnessed in vision his joyful entrance into the joy of his Lord. His holy relics have been found hidden in the fabric of St David's Cathedral, where they are carefully preserved. He was canonized by Pope Callistus II in 1123.



VIGIL FOR PEACE

Father Taras Khomych and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic community present in Liverpool invite you to pray with them at a vigil for peace on the third anniversary of the outbreak of war in their beloved homeland.

The vigil will take place at Liverpool Parish Church (Old Churchyard, Liverpool L2 8TZ) on Monday, 24 February, starting at 6:30 pm. It will include representatives from the city and faith leaders. All are welcome.

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



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

Teddi Daniel Shields

Lola & Mya Amole

Baptised Saturday 22 February 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