

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday 9th March 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, what or who sustains me in hope through periods of trial?

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

In the first reading, Moses reminds the people that God rescued them from bondage and led them to a “land flowing with milk and honey”. Left unsaid was any reference to their long, difficult journey across the desert before arriving in the promised land. During that time, the people grumbled that they were better off in slavery than starving to death in the desert. They complained against God and Moses and even built a golden calf and worshiped it. Difficult times and trying circumstances tempt us to give up or give in. Jesus is starving, as the Chosen People had centuries earlier, but he gives us a model for resisting temptation, relying on God to carry him through hardship and suffering.

Note that Jesus is not alone in the desert for forty days. He goes there immediately after he is baptised, that is, after he receives the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit accompanies him the entire time, through hunger, hardship, and temptation. We have been baptised, so we too are filled with the Holy Spirit, ready to help us resist temptation, endure hardship, and avoid despair.

The devil’s three temptations match up pretty neatly with the three disciplines of Lent that Jesus spoke of in the Gospel that we just heard on Ash Wednesday. When we fast, we are likely to be hungry, to wish we could turn stones to bread, to satisfy our hunger with something fresh and tasty. When we give alms, we give money that we could use ourselves to acquire more than we need, to live like royalty. When we pray, we are reminded that we are the supplicant, the one in need of God’s grace and mercy, not the one who can command God to do what we want. May our Lenten practices help put our faith into action while building in us the ability to resist temptation.

WEEKDAY MASS Mass on Monday is at 1.15pm and is a Funeral Mass for Hugh Henderson. May he Rest in Peace.

There will be **NO Mass** on Tuesday.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 9th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am - Ann French
Monday 10th March	1.15pm Funeral Mass Hugh Henderson	
Tuesday 11th March		NO MASS
Wednesday 12th March	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 13th March	10.00am Tony Coady	
Friday 14th March		10.00am Thomas Callaghan
Saturday 15th March	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 16th March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am Debbie Rice	11.00am - People of the Parish

MEMORIAL MASS The first anniversary of the death of Fr Barry McAllister is on Saturday 22 March. Mass will be celebrated that day at St Robert Bellarmine at midday.



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:
Bob Lambert & Nicola



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 the Local Parish/Deanery preparation.**

EUCHARISTIC 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.



LENTEN ALMS

Lent is the ideal time to do a little bit more in remembering the needy. The call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on **"almsgiving,"** which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says is, *a witness to fraternal charity!* and *"a work of justice pleasing to God."*

A box for financial donations will be available at all Masses during Lent for you to make a contribution. This money is sent to the Diocese and the Archbishop decides on a cause for this to be sent as a Diocesan donation. You can also help in donating items for our local Food Bank which we regularly support and will be greatly appreciated. Items for food can be left at the back of church.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This popular Lenten devotion will be celebrated at English Martyrs on Sunday at 4 pm and next Friday at St. Robert Bellarmine after the 10.00 a.m. Mass.

CATHOLIC PIC

March edition is now available. The main feature this month is Fr Mark's recent meetings in the Holy Land.



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

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 this

weekend. Last year was a sell out



so get your tickets asap!



FEAST OF THE WEEK

Blessed John Anne (- 1589)

It is hard to know who he was.

He may have been John Amias,

born at Wakefield in Yorkshire,

where he married and had a family: on his wife's death he

divided his property among his children and left for the

Continent to become a priest. In this case the surname "Anne"

would be an alias. But equally he may have been William Anne,

youngest son of John and Katherine Anne, of Frickley near

Wakefield.

In any case, on 22 June 1580 a widower calling himself "John

Amias" entered the English College at Rheims to study for the

priesthood. He was ordained a priest in Rheims Cathedral on 25

March 1581 and on 5 June he set out for Paris and then England,

as a missionary, in the company of another priest, Edmund

Sykes. Little is known of his missionary life. Towards the end of

1588 he was arrested at the house of a Mr. Murton at Melling in

Lancashire and imprisoned in York Castle. He was hanged,

drawn and quartered outside York on 16 March 1589, together

with a fellow priest, Robert Dalby. Both were beatified by Pope

Pius XI on 15 December 1929.



BLESSED
JOHN AMIAS

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

Iremide & Ayomide Olagunju

Baptised Saturday 8 March 2025



**THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF JESUS:
EASTER RETREAT, Wednesday 16 –
Sunday 20 April**

Led by Fr Chris Thomas and the Irenaeus team, following the Easter Triduum services, beginning with a Passover meal on the Wednesday. Limited residential places available. To book and for more information contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 949 1199

**CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK CONFERENCE 2025,
Saturday 26 April**

Led by Rev Lister Tonge at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. 10:30-16:00 **Conference Fees:** £30 / CSN members £25 - £5 early bird discount until **14th March 2025**. Bookings: catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com , www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php



"Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please share your experience by completing the survey, which can be accessed at csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey, where you'll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on 25th March"

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/



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.





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