

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

2nd Sunday of Lent

Sunday 16th March 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Looking at my Lenten journey as an exodus from sin and worldly values, what specifically is holding me captive and preventing a truly new life in the risen Lord?

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

In the person of Jesus, God becomes vulnerable, ultimately sacrificing his life on the cross for our sins. But God also became vulnerable many centuries before, in the presence of Abram. The ritual we hear described in the first reading, featuring two parties walking between the carcasses of animals that were sacrificed, split in half, and placed opposite each other, was often used in ancient cultures from this era to ratify a significant covenant. The tradition symbolised the seriousness of the covenant: if one party broke their promise, they would meet the same fate as these animals. Note that though Abram constructs the passage, he does not walk through it. Only God passes through it. Only God is bound by the covenant. Only by God's grace can Abram and his descendants keep the covenant.

God, appearing as fire, consummates the covenant with Abraham and his descendants. As the new covenant, Jesus sacrifices himself on the cross, making possible a communion between God and humankind. At Pentecost, God will again appear in the form of fire: as the Holy Spirit, descending upon the disciples. Out of love for us, God has continually renewed and expanded this foundational promise.

Luke uses the word exodus to describe what Jesus would accomplish in Jerusalem, recalling the Chosen People's flight from Egypt, for which the book of Exodus is named. As Moses and the Chosen People's exodus from captivity led them to the promised land, Jesus' exodus from his life here on earth led him to life in heaven with his Father. Now we are able to make this exodus as well, in one sense from sin and worldly values, and in another sense when our life here on earth ends. The promise of salvation and new life anchors our ultimate hope in life eternal with the source of all life.

CATHOLIC PIC

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



Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 16th March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am Debbie Rice	11.00am - People of the Parish
Monday 17th March <i>Feast of St Patrick</i>	10.00am Jan Huntley	1.15pm Funeral service Anthony Medicott
Tuesday 18th March		10.45am Funeral Mass David Ford
Wednesday 19th March <i>Solemnity of St Joseph</i>	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 20th March	10.00am John Sinnott	
Friday 21st March		10.00am Hughie & Patsy Kearney
Saturday 22nd March	NO MASS	12.00pm Fr Barry McAllister
Sunday 23rd March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am - Ann & Dave Mardell

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 LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamps for the coming week are for:

Anne Wheatley - English Martyrs

Jan Huntley - St Robert's



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

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.

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.



VISITATION OF THE CENTENARY PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY AND THE RELICS OF SAINTS JACINTA AND FRANCISCO – Monday 2 June 2025

The Statue and Relics will be visiting the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Monday 2 June 2025. On the day, there will be enthronement & crowning of the Statue, Holy Mass, act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, enrolment & investiture of the Brown Scapular, Fatima devotions, veneration of the Relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, Fatima talk & film, recitation & mediation of the Holy Rosary Mysteries, etc. For enquiry, please contact the World Apostolate of Fatima at 07788 473210.

Last Sunday, 9 March, 148 adults were involved in the Rite of Election this year, either as Catechumens (receiving Baptism at Easter) or as Candidates (receiving Confirmation on being brought into full communion with the Catholic Church). It was wonderful to see them, their families and friends meeting the Archbishop in the Cathedral in this joyful occasion. The whole of the Archdiocese was represented. During this Jubilee Year this was a sign of great Hope of the Holy Spirit moving in our Church!

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.

FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

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



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 please

CATHEDRAL WALK

Saturday 12 April, 10:15am

PLACE: Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot

DETAILS: The next cathedral walk is scheduled for Saturday 12th April meeting at Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot and walking to Blessed Dominic Shrine, Sutton.



The Shrine is one of the designated churches for our Archdiocese in our jubilee year. The shrine will be open in the afternoon and facilities will be open at the church club. The walk will take around 3 to 4 hours and whilst largely urban will take in Shirley park in St Helens. It will give walkers the chance to see the new theatre and jubilee shrine, meeting at 10.15am at Shakespeare North, not far from Prescot station. CONTACT: Mike, 0796 954 3983 for further details.

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 on sale after mass. Last year was a



sell out so get your tickets asap!

Cost for both is just £1

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" MARCH DRAW

1st £20 No. 43 R Taylor
2nd £15 No. 146 Emma Bailey
3rd £10 No. 47 B Warner
4th £10 No. 163 B Morrin

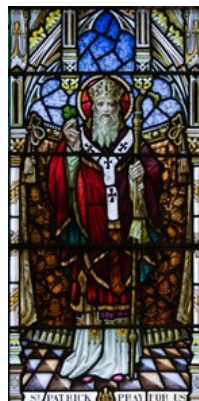


Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. A gentle reminder - can those people who have not yet paid their annual subscription for the new year please contact Myra. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Patrick (385-461)

He was born in Roman Britain around the end of the 4th century, and died in Ireland about the middle of the 5th century. As a missionary bishop, he endured many hardships and faced opposition even from his friends and fellow Christians. Nevertheless, he worked hard to conciliate, evangelise, and educate local chieftains and their families. He is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, for his humble trust in God, and for his fearless preaching of the gospel to the very people who had enslaved him in his youth.



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.



"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"

**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

[Jesus Youth "Way of the Cross" Procession through Liverpool City Centre - Saturday 12 April 2025](#)

Jesus Youth Liverpool will be hosting a "Way of the Cross" procession through Liverpool City Centre on Saturday at 1pm. The journey will begin at the Blessed Sacrament Shine and will reach the Metropolitan Cathedral, concluding with a blessing from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. All are welcome to join.

Jesus Youth is an international Catholic movement dedicated to deepening the faith of young people and families, encouraging them to live out the Gospel in their daily lives. Through prayer, sacraments, and acts of service, they strive to strengthen the spiritual fabric of our communities.

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/





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