

The Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

The Churches of English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 6th April 2025



Parish Priest:

Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week, to whom can I extend the mercy that God has extended to me?

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

As the scribes and Pharisees point out, Jewish law demanded death to a woman caught in adultery. But Roman law forbade Jews from sentencing anyone to death, as we will hear next Sunday (in the Passion). So Jesus is truly in a dilemma, forced to break one law or the other. He succeeds in both thwarting their test and treating the sinner with mercy by refocusing the question of punishment on those who would carry it out: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her”. When Pope Francis declared that the death penalty was morally inadmissible in every circumstance, he spoke not only of the fundamental dignity of the human person, but also our belief that even the most heinous sinner can repent and change.

If we put ourselves into the position of one of the people in the crowd, we can appreciate how Jesus’ words not only deter us from condemning others, but also force us to look at our own failings. Our failings may not seem as great as those whom we condemn, but they still require God’s mercy and forgiveness to restore our relationship with God and with others. One hopes that no one from this crowd, now cognizant of their own sinfulness, are part of the crowd whom we will hear next Sunday calling for the death of Jesus.

In the first reading, Isaiah uses the image of water to describe God’s grace. Like water, God’s grace is necessary to sustain us. God causes it to flow where it is needed the most, like “water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland”. So it is with God’s mercy. Just as we plead for and receive mercy from the Lord at the beginning of every Mass (“Lord, have mercy”), we are called to extend that mercy we have received to those in need of our forgiveness and compassion. We honour God when we direct the flow of God’s mercy where it is needed the most.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Today at 4pm at English Martyrs. Next Friday at St. Robert Bellarmine after the 10.00 a.m. Mass.

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 6th April <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am - William Chegwin
Monday 7th April	10.00am Joan Johnson	
Tuesday 8th April	10.30am Funeral service Robert Peter McDermott	10.00am Doreen & Eddie Hughes
Wednesday 9th April	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 10th April	10.00am Margaret Cooper	
Friday 11th April		10.00am Christopher Duckett
Saturday 12th April	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 13th April <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord</i>	9.30am Suzanne & Stephen McQuade	11.15am - People of the Parish



SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamps for the coming week are for:

Brian Airey - English Martyrs

Ann Marie Hore - St Robert's



SANTA MARTA GROUP

The Santa Marta Group is a International Group hoping to be 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.

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.

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.



EASTER BINGO AND RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Bingo or bought raffle tickets. Another fun night was had by all and we raised an amazing £800! Thank you for your support



Guild of St Stephen Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Guild of St Stephen's Pilgrimage to Lourdes is currently accepting bookings. The pilgrimage will take place Sunday 26th October – Saturday 1st November 2025 and further information, including booking costs, is included on the attached flyer. For more information please contact Rose Curry on 07932 729896.

‘SONGS WE REMEMBER’ SING-A-LONG

2pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (Dementia friendly). Email: irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 949 1199. 32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool

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.



FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP



The coach for 'War Horse' will leave English Martyrs at 6.30pm on Thursday 10th

We still have places available for 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

VISITATION OF FATIMA STATUE AND RELICS – Monday 2 June 2025

The Centenary Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the relics of Ss Jacinta and Francisco are coming to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on **Monday 2 June**. On the day, there will be Holy Mass at **10:00**, followed by Holy Rosary, act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At **13:00**, there will be Fatima talk & film, followed by enrolment & investiture of the Brown Scapular and Holy Hour. The event will finish with benediction at **16:00**. For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

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.

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, is likely to take place on 25th April.

Despite a disappointing initial vote of 330–275 in favour, there is now a realistic chance the Bill can be defeated. The Independent newspaper reports that 142 MPs who initially backed the Bill could withdraw their support. NOW is the time for Catholics to make their voices heard.

If assisted suicide becomes law in England & Wales:

1. Hospice [and palliative care] provision will be undermined
2. Suicide prevention efforts will be weakened
3. Elderly and disabled people will feel pressure to take their own lives*

In the US state of Oregon, almost half of those who have died by assisted suicide cited fear of being a burden on their families or carers as a reason for choosing to die. Only 1-in-3 people cite fear of pain.

Please take a postcard from the back of church, complete it and send it to Mr Peter Dowd, MP for Bootle, who voted in favour of Bill last November.

The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: www.righttolife.org.uk/asvote.

Please also consider signing the Care Not Killing petition.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives. Please visit: www.carenotkilling.org.uk for the online petition.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Lord in your mercy...



ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE WALK 1

St Anne & Blessed Dominic, Sutton, St Helens (WA9 3ZD) – Saturday 17 May 2025.

The first of our three Jubilee Pilgrimage Walks will take place on Saturday 17 May. This will be a circular walk of 5 miles based around the Jubilee Church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic in St Helens. The walk will begin 10.00am from the church car park and will end with a short procession through the grounds at 11.50am. Those who do not feel able to complete the 5-mile walk may join us for the procession. Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon and there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and visit to the Shrine of Blessed Dominic Barberi. Refreshments will also be available after Mass in the Parish Centre. For more information contact Chris: c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk

RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

The Response of the Faithful to the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter and Video on Racial Justice -

Saturday 12 April, 9:30am - 12:30pm at St Margaret Clitheroe Centre, Croxteth Drive, L17 1AA

A half-day conference to explore and deepen our response to the Archbishop's recent Racial Justice pastoral letter and video. This event will provide an opportunity to reflect on the implications of the message and discuss ways to promote racial justice within our Archdiocese.

All are welcome. For bookings and enquiries, contact the Catholic Association for Racial Justice at bschmack@aol.com or call 07742 578 079.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Henry Walpole (1558-1595)



Henry Walpole was born at Docketing (Norfolk) in 1558, the eldest son of Christopher and Margery Walpole. He was educated at Norwich Grammar School, at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and at Gray's Inn. He is said to have become a Catholic as a consequence of the martyrdom of Edmund Campion. In 1582 he went abroad to study, first to Reims and then to the English College, Rome. Shortly afterwards he joined the Society of Jesus. In spite of poor health he was ordained priest at Paris in 1588, served as chaplain to the Spanish army in the Netherlands, and then taught in the English seminaries of Seville and Valladolid. In 1593 he returned to England, landing at Bridlington on 6 December, but was arrested the very next day on suspicion of being a priest. He was interrogated at York, transferred to the Tower of London where he was frequently tortured. He was indicted on a charge of high treason because he was ordained abroad to minister in England; he was condemned to death. He was executed at York on 7 April 1595, by being hanged, drawn and quartered.

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 Shrine 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.

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@irenaus.co.uk

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

SCOTTISH RELICS

Following the British tour of the Scottish Relics (St. Andrew, St. Margaret and St. Columba) two years ago, during which time they were welcomed into the Metropolitan Cathedral, a second tour is being organised and will visit the following parishes:

Mon 14th / Tues 15th April - St. Patrick's, Southport.

Wed 16th / Thurs 17th April - SS Peter & Paul, Crosby.

Fri 18th / Sun 20th April - St. Columba's, Huyton.

Mon 21st / Tues 22nd April - St. Charles, Aigburth.

Wed 23rd / Thurs 24th April - St. John Fisher, Widnes.

Fri 25th / Sun 27th April - St. Anne's, Rock Ferry.

Please contact the Parishes above to enquire about opening times and Relics related services. Alternatively, please contact Alf Swain, Knights of St. Columba on 07763 836077.

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The impact of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on Friday has been catastrophic. Millions of people need shelter, food, clean water, and medical care. Thousands have already lost their lives, and the death toll is expected to rise. Through the Catholic Church, we can provide the emergency help that affected families will need – food, water and shelter. Please donate at cafod.org.uk.

HOLY WEEK 2025

13 April **Palm Sunday**
9:30 am English Martyrs
11:15 am St Robert Bellarmine

Please note the slightly later time at St Robert Bellarmine

14 April **Holy Monday**
10:00 am English Martyrs



15 April **Holy Tuesday**
10:00 am St Robert Bellarmine

17 April **Holy Thursday**
7.00 pm English Martyrs Mass of the Lord's Supper
10.00 pm English Martyrs Night Prayer

18 April **Good Friday**
3.00 pm St Robert Bellarmine The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

19 April **Holy Saturday**
8.30 pm English Martyrs Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

20 April **Easter Sunday**
9.30 am English Martyrs Mass of Easter Day
11:00 am St Robert Bellarmine Mass of Easter Day

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