



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



“Peace I Leave You” – Welcoming Our New Archbishop

This Sunday’s Gospel invites us to reflect on the lasting peace that Jesus promises: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.” These words offer both reassurance and challenge. Jesus does not promise a life without difficulty, but a peace rooted in His abiding presence.

How fitting that we hear this Gospel during a week of great significance for our Archdiocese, as we welcome our new Archbishop, John Sherrington, installed this week as the shepherd of Liverpool. Just as Jesus speaks of the Father making His home with those who love Him, so too are we called to open our hearts to Archbishop John, and to pray that he may find a spiritual home among us.

A new Archbishop brings with him both continuity and newness. He walks in the footsteps of those who came before, yet listens attentively to the present needs of the people. Like the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promises in this Gospel, Archbishop John is entrusted with the mission to teach, guide, and unite. Let us support him with our prayers and love, that he may be a wise and faithful shepherd, open to the Spirit and grounded in Christ’s peace.

As a parish community, may we be welcoming, encouraging, and ready to work together in building the Church in our time. In this Easter season, let us be people of hope, anchored not in the fleeting peace of the world, but in the enduring peace of Christ. And in welcoming our new Archbishop, may we also *renew our own “yes” to Christ, who dwells with us and leads us always toward life.*

Fr Mark

What resentments, jealousies, or ambitions do I have in my heart that interfere with the presence of peace? How can I overcome these?

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 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, complete it and bring it back

PARISH NEWSLETTER!

This is your newsletter and we welcome any contributions that you may wish to have included in future weeks.

Any items for the newsletter need to be with either of the parish offices by Thursday morning.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and society might be humanized

Lord in your mercy...

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.

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Walking the Synodal Path Together

The Synod on Synodality concluded last October echoing Pope Francis' words that synodality 'is the path that God expects from the Church of the third millennium.' The Final Synod Document lays out an expectation of how we walk this path at every level within the life of the Church.

The Final Synod Document can be accessed here:

https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG---Documento-finale.pdf

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, has prepared a helpful guide to the document: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/03/Synod-Take-Outs-Final-Doc.pdf>

We have some experience of beginning to walk this synodal path in recent years in our archdiocese. We were able to respond very directly to one of the calls in the Final Document with the process of consultation that led to the appointment of our new archbishop, who we look forward to welcoming in just over a week. The outcome of that consultation was sent to the then Cardinal Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, who responded personally with thanks for the work that had been done. Pope Leo's first remarks on the balcony of St Peter's have already affirmed his own commitment to this continuing journey.

The School for Synodality is a project working across the dioceses of England and Wales, and further afield, to support the lived experience of synodality in the life of the Church. The Archdiocese has been working with the School in developing programmes and resources to support this work, see: <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/>

To help unpack the Final Synod Document the School has brought together several speakers who were all participants in the Synod on Synodality for a webinar series which started Wednesday (21st May). Over 6 weeks Dr Jos Moons SJ, Professor Anna Rowlands, Dr Estela Padilla, Professor Cathy Clifford, Fr David McCallum SJ, Sandra Chaoul and Archbishop Jason Gordon, Archbishop of Port of Spain, will take us through a section of the document with time for questions afterwards.

For more information and to register: <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/our-resources/final-document-book-club-2025>

We will be having a Parish meeting in the very near future to discuss how we move forward. In the meantime please access these documents and webinars which will hopefully give you some insight into how things will progress

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PARISH SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 11th JULY

We are super pleased to again have our 'annual' trip to the world famous International Musical Eisteddfod in the beautiful Welsh town of Llangollen on Friday 11th July. Fr Mark's favourite day of the year!



We will leave the parish and travel by coach to Llangollen and we can stroll around the maes (Welsh for field) with its hundreds of stalls, food and drinking places. Your ticket will guarantee you a reserved seat in the Pavilion to watch the competitions - one of the world's most unique festivals, celebrating music, dance, and international culture.

You can walk around the town and enjoy the many shops and beautiful scenery.

The day includes transport, entry to the Eisteddfod and a reserved seat in the Pavilion.

We finish off the day by enjoying a 3 course evening meal together in The Hand Hotel in Llangollen. The Hotel stands above a beautiful stretch of the river Dee close to the centre of the town with its stunning riverside garden.

Total cost for this lovely day out is £74

If you would like to join us please give your name to the office with a £10 deposit as soon as possible as numbers are restricted.



Society Of Saint Gregory - Annual Summer School 2025, Liverpool Hope University

30 July (from 2pm) – 2 August 2025 (lunchtime)

JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The theme of Jubilee and Hope will be reflected in our liturgies and music, providing us with an opportunity to reflect on what we have learned and to consider how we might take the message of hope back to our parish communities.

Keynote Speaker – David Wells, a pastoral leader and well-known speaker encouraging and inspiring people to share the joy of the gospel, through the lens of building parish life.

Director of Music – Martin Barry, a parish musician, composer and former Cathedral Director. He is President of Universa Laus, the international study group for liturgical music.

Workshops – Proclaiming the Word, Presiding, Chant, Singing the Psalms, Exploring the Liturgy Directory, the "Volunteer" Organist and much more.

We welcome Residential, Non-Residential and Day Delegates, and Bursary Funding is available. Further details and online booking at ssg.org.uk/summer-school or by emailing summerschool@ssg.org.uk

Closing date for Bookings – 1 June 2025

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Exam Season Prayer to St Joseph of Cupertino for success in examinations prayed before an examination.

O Great St Joseph of Cupertino
who while on earth did obtain from God
the grace to be asked at your
examination, only the questions you knew,
obtain for me a like favour in
the examinations for which I am now preparing.
In return, I promise to make you known
and cause you to be invoked.
Through Christ our Lord.

PILGRIM'S PASSPORT

As part of the Year of Jubilee, CBEW have selected Jubilee Churches where those making a pilgrimage can make a plenary indulgence. To encourage people to visit these Jubilee churches, a Pilgrim Passport has been created, containing a quick guide to each of the Jubilee Churches and a page to collect stamps from each church. A sample of the passport can be found at the back of church. If you would like your own copy, please contact the parish office, and they will print one for you.

YOUTH 2000 Summer Festival 2025

Taking place in the grounds of Ampleforth College from Friday 22nd - Monday 25th August, the Youth 2000 Summer Festival provides young adults (aged 16-35) from across the UK the opportunity to come together and explore faith, build relationships and find hope. This four-day festival includes great speakers, social time, break-out sessions, Daily Mass, 24/7 Adoration and much more! Register your place at: youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025.

TIME OUT TUESDAYS - 10 JUNE 2025 10:00AM - 4:00PM

In the midst of their busy lives, Jesus invited the disciples to "Come apart and rest for a while." Why not take time to respond to this invitation and join The Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle for a time of prayer and quiet. No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. For further information, contact Sr Winnie Morley on 0151 722 2271

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THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a holiday of obligation. There will be two Masses -

10:00 am at St Robert Bellarmine and 6.00pm at English Martyrs.

RECRUITMENT FOR BOY & GIRL CHORISTERS 2025

Do you know a child who would like to be a chorister at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King here in Liverpool?

The search is now on for our next generation of Boy and Girl choristers.

All choristers are educated at

1. Runnymede St Edward's Catholic Primary School (yr 3-6)
2. St Edward's College (yr 7-13)

meaning that a first-class Catholic chorister education for boys and girls in Liverpool is available at no cost.

If you know of a Catholic family who might be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please share this information with them. Full details of choristerships at the Metropolitan Cathedral, go to:

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/joining-the-choirs



MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES FOR ENGAGED COUPLES

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is offering marriage preparation courses for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church. Each course includes four evening sessions led by trained lay facilitators, providing time for couples to reflect on their relationship, develop communication skills, and explore the meaning of love within the context of Catholic faith.

Two course options are available:

Course A Venue: Christ the King Church, Queens Drive, Childwall, Liverpool L15 6YQ

Dates: Mondays – 16 June, 23 June, 30 June, 7 July Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Course B Venue: St Helen's Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 7TQ Dates:

Mondays – 29 September, 6 October, 13 October, 20 October Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Cost: £50 per couple (to cover materials and expenses) Booking:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1dcczNSQqX> Enquiries: Moses Mui, Training Coordinator – m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

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FEAST OF THE WEEK

Blessed Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury (1473-1541)

Margaret Pole (1473–1541), Countess of Salisbury, was one of the last members of the Plantagenet dynasty and a steadfast Catholic martyr during the English Reformation.

Born to George, Duke of Clarence (brother of King Edward IV), and Isabel Neville, Margaret was of royal blood. Her life was marked by political upheaval, loyalty to the Catholic faith, and tragic martyrdom.

After the fall of the Plantagenets and the rise of the Tudors, Margaret's position became precarious. Nevertheless, King Henry VII arranged her marriage to Sir Richard Pole, a loyal supporter. They had several children, including Reginald Pole, who would become a cardinal and fierce critic of Henry VIII's break with the Catholic Church.

Margaret was restored to noble rank by Henry VIII, who granted her the title of Countess of Salisbury in her own right. She managed her estates with intelligence and dignity, earning respect for her piety and charitable works. However, her loyalty to the Catholic Church and to Queen Catherine of Aragon placed her in direct conflict with the King after he established the Church of England.

Her son Reginald's outspoken opposition to Henry VIII's religious policies angered the King. Though Margaret had no part in her son's actions, she was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. After years of confinement without trial, she was executed at the age of 67 on May 27, 1541. The brutal and botched execution shocked many, as she was widely regarded as innocent.

Pope Leo XIII beatified Margaret Pole in 1886 as a martyr for the faith. Her life remains a testament to courage, noble integrity, and unwavering fidelity to the Church, even in the face of political persecution and death. She is commemorated as one of the great English Catholic martyrs.



A day of timeless family fun! At St Joseph's Hospice

Join us for a retro-themed Summer Garden Party on Sunday 22nd June, from 12-4pm.

Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon filled with fun, games, and nostalgia in our beautiful woodland gardens.

- Traditional Games
- Refreshment Stalls
- Live Entertainment
- Teddy Bear Parade – bring your teddy and join in the fun!

All proceeds go to St Joseph's Hospice.



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INSTALLATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP

The Mass of Installation of The Most Reverend John Francis Sherrington as the tenth Archbishop of Liverpool will occur on Tuesday 27 May 2025, at 12 noon at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

There are still some spaces available for people to attend the Mass, but everyone attending will need a ticket. If you would like a ticket, please email Claire Hanlon on c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk ASAP.



Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 31st August 2025. £799.00 pps.

Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Museum of Country Life. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

FAMILY PICNIC

All families are welcome to attend this Family Picnic as part of the confirmation preparation process on Saturday 28 June, 11am-3pm at St Anne Church, Prescot Rd, Ormskirk, L39 4TG. We especially wish to invite those families with children who are being baptised, making their holy communions or confirmations. Families are encouraged to bring their own food. There will be games for younger children, children's liturgy for older children and Animate Youth activities for teenagers.

COFFEE MORNING

Join us after mass at St Robert's on Sunday mornings for a cup of tea, coffee and a biscuit in the George Inch Hall. All are welcome.



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CANTATE CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Join Cantate – a brand-new choir in Liverpool! Whether you're a seasoned singer or a complete beginner, there are no auditions to join – just a love for music and a desire to have fun! Singing is a great way to improve confidence and mental wellbeing whilst learning skills and meeting new people. They will be singing a mixed repertoire of traditional and modern songs and working toward a fantastic concert, Music for a Summer's Evening, on Tuesday, 24 June. The introductory rate is just £30 for the first term (8 sessions); that's just £3.75 per session. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, 6 May 6.30pm at St. Anthony of Padua church hall, Mossley Hill. Visit [www. archdioceseofliverpool.org/Cantate](http://www.archdioceseofliverpool.org/Cantate) to sign up.

'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



NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK - Defending our faith in Today's World St Helen's, Alexandra Road, Crosby. 5 June 2025 at 7.30pm

The latest Newman Association Talk will see Professor John Sullivan, Professor of Christian Education at Liverpool Hope University, lead a talk on Defending Our Faith in Today's World - the nature and role of Apologetics. The talk will look at What is it? What is it for? And, what qualities are needed to make it effective? All are welcome to attend.

HOLY MASS AND BRUNCH FOR ENGAGED COUPLES – Saturday 31 May

To celebrate the gift of marriage, all engaged couples across the Archdiocese are cordially invited to the Holy Mass on Saturday 31 May at St Margaret Clitherow Centre (Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA). The Mass with special blessing for engaged couples will be celebrated at 11am, followed by brunch. If you are interested to join please sign up with the below online enrolment form. For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

ONE HEART CONCERT

The Metropolitan Cathedral

Thursday 19th June 2025, 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Join us for an uplifting evening of music and solidarity at the One Heart Concert, featuring powerful performances from the Asylum Link Choir and the Choir with No Name, supported by students from St Edward's College and other Edmund Rice schools.

The evening will be hosted by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, current Children's Laureate and best-selling author.

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'CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST/2 CATHEDRALS WALK, 8 JUNE 2025 3-5pm PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On Sunday, 8th of June at 3 pm, walk with us in a powerful celebration of Pentecost, as we journey together between Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Starting at Liverpool Cathedral this symbolic walk unites all communities in faith, reflection and joy. Come and be part of this special tradition! The celebrations will begin with a short act of worship at Liverpool Cathedral and include the story of Pentecost, hymns and stalls on the piazza of the Metropolitan Cathedral. The choirs of both cathedrals and a Salvation Army Band will be involved. All are welcome!

LATE SPRING RAFFLE

St Robert's are holding a 'late spring' raffle in aid of Parish funds. Tickets will be on sale at the back of church.



MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY MAY PROCESSION

Missionaries of Charity's May Procession will begin at 2pm on Saturday 31 May at St Peter's Square. The procession starts at St Peters Square (off Seel Street) and continues via Seel Street, Berry Street, Bold Street, Church Street, Whitechapel to Queens Square finishing at the Shrine. A special invitation is extended to those who are making their 1st Holy Communion in 2025. To join in or for more information, please contact Mr Jim Ross either via email: jimmy.ross7@gmail.com or via phone: 07766 706 766.

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.

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PARISH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

To help us in the implementation of the Pastoral Plan, each Deanery is being asked to work together to produce a strategy for the future. You will hear about this at Mass this weekend and you will receive a leaflet giving you more details. The first part of this strategy is to gather detailed information about each of the parishes in our Deanery. We will all need to be involved in this. The Parish Development Strategy is being rolled out across the whole Diocese in the next 2 years – but we are one of the 3 pilot Deaneries, along with the other two Sefton Deaneries.

Each parish has a member of a Deanery Steering Group: ours is Angela Range. This work will also be done in collaboration with the Deanery Synodal Councils. Please make sure you take a leaflet home which tells you more.

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

JOIN US AT THE ART SCHOOL FOR A SUMMER SOIREE...

We are delighted to be able to collaborate with Chef Paul Askew, one of the UK's most pioneering figures in hospitality, and his team once again, and we have arranged with them to provide a three course meal with a glass of prosecco on arrival and an amuse bouche for just £50.00 per person. Chef Askew has a firm reputation as a pioneer of excellent modern British cuisine and this is a dining experience not to be missed! The date you need to keep in your diary is Thursday 26 June 2025 from 7pm onwards. Dinner will be served in The Lantern Room. We hope that you will book some tickets and come and enjoy a convivial evening in surroundings that are timeless and yet modern enjoying the company of new friends and old ones, whilst raising money for the Cathedral. To book your ticket and to arrange payment please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

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Masses & Services for the Coming Week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 25th May Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am Suzanne McQuade Joseph Corrigan	11.00am Madeline Cranny Ann Marie Hore
Monday 26th May	10.00am Brian McGuirk	
Tuesday 27th May		10.00am Mary Jennings
Wednesday 28th May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 29th May Solemnity of the Ascension	12.30pm Funeral Mass Brenda Connolly 6.00pm Perpetual Mass List	10.00am John, Laurence and David Breen
Friday 30th May		10.00am Cecelia Ormesher
Saturday 31st May	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 1st June	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am Anthony Hulme

English Martyrs Office 0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk School Lane, Litherland, L21 7LX
 Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, 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

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