



## Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



### ENGLISH MARTYRS



### PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon  
Mark B Madden  
KCHS FRSA

### ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



This Sunday's Gospel brings us to the quiet shores of Galilee, where the risen Christ prepares breakfast for His disciples and gently draws Peter into a conversation that will change the course of the Church. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Jesus asks not once, but three times — mirroring Peter's three denials in the Garden of Gethsemane. Each time Peter declares his love, Jesus responds: Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep.

This passage is more than personal reconciliation. It is the foundation of apostolic leadership. Jesus does not ask Peter for a plan, credentials, or strength — He asks for love. And upon that love, He entrusts Peter with the care of His flock.

As we prepare for the conclave and the election of a new Pope, this moment comes alive with deeper meaning. The conclave is not just an election — it is a sacred echo of that morning by the Sea of Galilee. The Church, like Peter, is being asked again: Do you love me? And the one who will be called to serve as the successor of Peter must be first and foremost a man of love—a man who hears Christ's call and responds not with ambition, but with humility, fidelity, and a heart ready to shepherd.

This Gospel reminds us what Papal (petrine) ministry is truly about: not power, but pastoral care; not status, but sacrifice. The next pope will inherit not a throne, but a cross—called to love the Church as Christ does: tenderly, truthfully, and totally. Let us pray for the Cardinals preparing for this sacred task. May they, like Peter, be deeply attentive to the voice of Christ. May their hearts be open to the Holy Spirit, and may the one chosen to lead us hear Jesus' voice clearly: Follow me. And may the whole Church be renewed in its mission to follow Him, love Him, and feed His sheep

*Fr Mark*

## 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

## WELCOME TO YOUR NEW LOOK 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.

## WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT MASS OFFERINGS

*The faithful who make an offering so that Mass can be celebrated for their intention, contribute to the good of the Church, and by that offering they share in the Church's concern for the support of its ministers and its activities. Code of Canon Law, Canon 946*

A Mass offering is a donation given to the parish so that a priest can celebrate or concelebrate Mass with a particular intention. Every Mass is offered for the whole Church, living and dead, as expressed in the Eucharistic Prayer. The priest does not keep the Mass offering; it goes into the parish account.

A priest must offer an intention each time that he celebrates a Mass.

### **Missa pro Populo**

Every Sunday, a Parish Priest must ensure that one Mass is said for the intention of all the people in the parish. This is called the Missa pro Populo. When the Parish Priest is not celebrating Sunday Mass in the parish, this Mass is not said in the parish but is said by the Parish Priest wherever he may be.

### **Should the intention be announced at Mass?**

The priest has no obligation under Canon Law to mention the name or the particular intention, and the Church recommends that this should not be the practice. The priest is required to 'have it in his mind'. The Mass intention is not for the people but for the priest only. Any concelebrating priests will also have particular intentions. Although the priest does not mention the intention, he has it firmly in mind and prays for it during Mass. Priests who say the Mass intention are doing so unofficially and are not keeping to the official practice of the Church. Priests should not be pressured to do something that is not the Church's official practice. The Church recommends publishing that week's Mass intentions in weekly newsletters or notice boards.

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### **· 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](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk)



## ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, has been postponed for a few weeks but we are still urged to appeal to our MP to vote against it when it comes to the House of Commons.

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](http://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](http://www.carenotkilling.org.uk) for the online petition.



## FR MARK'S THEATRE GROUP

**Saturday 14th June Liverpool Philharmonic - 'A Night at the Musicals'  
STILL A FEW TICKETS LEFT**

'Orchestra and leading West End vocalists bring the musical hits 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 which includes stalls ticket and transport from door to door. Name to office please

**CAN THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE JOINING US NOW PAY THE BALANCE PLEASE..**

## May Procession

There will be a short procession at the end of the 11am Mass at St Robert's to crown the Statue of Our Lady in the grounds



## 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](mailto:c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk)

## MISSION RED BOX

Next weekend we will welcome Fr Frank Downs MHM to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit. This is NOT an appeal for money but an appeal to encourage people to take a Red Box as a way to support world Mission. Fr Stephen will speak for the appeal at St Robert's



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### St George Preca (1880-1962)

George was born in Malta. At the age of four he nearly drowned in the Grand Harbour, but was rescued by a passing boatman. George, recalling that the rescue had happened on the 16th July, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, attributed his rescue to the protection of the same Lady. Attracted to the service of the priesthood, George joined the seminary and was ordained a priest in 1906, inspired by a personal mission to convert the world.



Early on, Father George noticed the lack of genuine faith education amongst the young people of Malta. Their religion was built around festivals and formalities, with little connection to a truer following of Jesus. His vision for something more and his lived integrity attracted a circle of young men around him who gathered for prayer, discussion and ultimately to work as lay missionaries in parishes and villages around Malta. A society of laymen who would teach the catechism to the people while receiving instruction themselves was unheard of at the time, and it took twenty-five years and much tension with the Church authorities before the Society's existence was officially approved. It continued its work throughout World War II even in the places where members fled from the violence as refugees.

Fr George continued preaching and writing. He had a flair for making teachings and traditions clear and simple for working people.

He composed the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary in 1957. He died in 1962, and was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI on 3 June 2007, being described as "Malta's second father in faith" after St Paul.

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## 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](mailto:jimmy.ross7@gmail.com) or via phone: 07766 706 766.



## 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.

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## 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](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk)

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## 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](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk)



## 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.

Each parish has been allocated two tickets for parishioners to attend. If you would like to go, please give your name to the Parish Office by Thursday 1 May. If we receive more than two names, Fr Mark will draw two names out of a hat.

In addition to 2 named parishioners whilst we do expect a full Cathedral for this occasion there will be some unreserved sections of the Cathedral for members of the faithful who wish to attend. In order to register your and request a space, please let the Parish Office know so that we can inform the Cathedral.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion celebrations in our parish occur during the Easter Season. Beginning next weekend, four celebrations will be held as the children from our three Primary Schools receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Please pray for them and their families as they accept this special gift and deepen their connection to the life of the Church and our community. Thank you to our wonderful team of catechists and the schools for their help.



## 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.



## **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.

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## **'SONGS WE REMEMBER' SING-A-LONG**

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

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## **RESURRECTION STORIES AT IRENAEUS**

An exploration of the Resurrection Stories Wed 10.30am-12 Noon  
7th, 14th, 21st May.

For more info contact Irenaeus 32 Great George Rd, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 949 1199

Email: [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

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## **COME AND BE A CATHEDRAL GUIDE & WELCOMER!**

Please give us the gift of three hours a week of your precious voluntary time. Learn on the job for as long as it takes. Answer queries at the welcoming desk. Listen to the stories of our wonderful visitors. If you like, take large or very small groups on tours. Give the job your own creativity. Be part of a ministry of welcome. Add your own dimension to a large and flourishing team. Be a consistent part of your group throughout the year. Contribute toward presenting our Cathedral as a living Christian community, able to embrace everyone as valued individuals. Make new friends. Enjoy a fresh challenge. This random list could go on! Give us a call and we shall arrange for you to Come and See. Contact Dcn Paul Mannings: [p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk)

## HOLY YEAR AND THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

As Christians we are called not to judge others but to show compassion and understanding knowing that only God knows the full heart of a person. Our aim should be to build each other up in love, not to tear down or condemn. This week we will focus on.....

Not judging others  
Before we speak, before we see  
The flaws in others so openly  
How can we, with hearts so frail  
Judge another who might also fail.

Instead lets lift with gentle hands  
showing love that understands.  
For we are all... just passing through,  
and flaws in others can be our flaws too

So walk with mercy not with pride  
Letting kindness be our guide  
So that in each soul both strong and weak  
We'll find the beauty we all seek.

## 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.



## PRAYER FOR THE CONCLAVE

Heavenly Father,  
Lord of wisdom and light,  
we humbly come before You as Your Church prepares to choose a new shepherd.

Send forth Your Holy Spirit to guide the hearts and minds of the Cardinals gathered in conclave.

Grant them discernment beyond human understanding,  
courage to listen to Your will above all other voices,  
and unity in the love of Christ.

Bless the one whom You are calling to the Chair of Peter —  
fill him with holiness, strength, and a heart on fire for the Gospel.

May he be a shepherd after Your own heart:  
faithful in truth, gentle in mercy, and bold in hope.

In this time of prayer and waiting,  
renew Your Church, O Lord,  
so that, united under a new Pope,  
we may shine ever more brightly with the light of Christ in our world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Saint Peter, pray for us.

All holy men and women, pray for us.



## Masses & Services for the Coming Week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>Sanctuary Lamp</b>	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish  <b>Kath, Jack &amp; John Bracken</b>	<b>11.00am</b> Pope Francis.  <b>Mike Keelan</b>
<b>Monday 5th May</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Finian Lynam	
<b>Tuesday 6th May</b>		<b>10.00am</b> Carl Jones
<b>Wednesday 7th May</b>	NO MASS	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 8th May</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Maureen White	
<b>Friday 9th May</b>		<b>10.00am</b> Maureen & Henry Rimmer
<b>Saturday 10th May</b>	NO MASS	NO MASS
<b>Sunday 11th May</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Jane Wood	<b>11.00am</b> Moira Hanton

**English Martyrs Office**  
School Lane, Litherland, L21 7LX

0151 928 3471   englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk  
Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm

**St Robert Bellarmine Office**  
Bootle, L20 6DZ

0151 922 1352   strobert@rcaol.org.uk Orrell Road,  
Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm