

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 29 June 2025



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



This week, as the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, we are reminded of two very different men united by one mission: to proclaim Christ to the world. Peter, the humble fisherman chosen to be the rock of the Church, and Paul, the zealous persecutor turned Apostle to the Gentiles, embody the transforming grace of God. Their lives—and deaths—testify to the courage born of faith.

In a world fractured by division, war, and fear, their witness speaks powerfully. Just this past week, the headlines have been filled with stories of political upheaval, suffering in conflict zones, and tensions among nations. How tempting it is to despair or to withdraw into silence. But Peter and Paul show us another way: not silence, but proclamation. Not despair, but hope.

Peter, even after his denial, found the mercy of Christ and led the fledgling Church through storms of persecution. Paul, blinded by pride, became a tireless evangelist once he encountered the light of the Risen Lord. Their journeys remind us that God's grace can work through our weakness, if we remain open to it.

As we watch the world struggle, let us take inspiration from these Apostles. The Church is not called to retreat from the world but to enter it with truth and love. Let us pray for the courage to speak and act, not from anger or fear, but from the deep conviction that Christ is Lord of history.

Peter and Paul laid down their lives in Rome, the heart of an empire. Today, may we lay down our comforts, our doubts, even our pride, to bring Christ to the heart of our own communities.

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us!

Fr Mark

How do the examples of Saint Peter and Saint Paul help me respond to my call and give me hope despite my past actions?



Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 29 June 2025

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
7:45 am depart Manchester on Ryanair

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY



For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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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THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

Fr Mark was away last weekend, attending ceremonies of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is one of the oldest Catholic orders of knighthood, with origins dating back to the Crusades. Today, it is a papal order of knighthood under the protection of the Holy See, with the Pope as the Sovereign of the Order. Its mission is deeply rooted in supporting the Christian presence in the Holy Land, particularly through the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Members of the Order—lay men, women and clergy- commit to living out their faith through prayer, charitable works, and active support of the Church in the land where Jesus lived, died, and rose again. They are known as Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre and are called to be witnesses of the Resurrection in their daily lives.

The Lieutenancy of England and Wales, established in 1954, is the regional body that oversees the Order's mission in our country. Members regularly gather for prayer, formation, and fellowship, and work to raise funds for schools, parishes, and humanitarian projects in the Holy Land. Their efforts help to sustain Christian communities often under pressure and to keep alive the living stones of our faith. There are approximately 550 members in this country.

While the Order has a distinctive ceremonial and historical identity, its heart is service, supporting peace, justice, and hope for Christians in the Holy Land. You may encounter members wearing a capes with a red Jerusalem cross, symbolising their commitment to Christ and His Church. Knights and Dames living in the North West regularly visit our parish to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Malcolm, the local Prior.

Fr Mark has been a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre for 20 years and now holds senior positions within the Lieutenancy of England and Wales. He is the Ecclesiastical MC and Spiritual Director and is the most senior cleric after the Grand Prior, the Archbishop of Southwark.

Last weekend, Knights and Dames from across England and Wales, along with visiting members from many other countries, gathered in St George's RC Cathedral, Southwark, for the Investiture of eight new Knights and one Dame. The weekend also saw the Installation of the new Lieutenant of England and Wales, His Excellency John McNally.



Knights and Dames from across the world will gather in Rome later this year to celebrate the Holy Year with Pope Leo.

Please join them in praying for peace in the Holy Land.

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PARISH SUMMER EXCURSION - FRIDAY 11th JULY HURRY - STILL A FEW PLACES LEFT!

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!



There are still some places left so why not join us for this lovely day out! Total cost for is £74 which includes travel, ticket into the auditorium for the full day programme of dance and song and a 3 course meal in the Hand Hotel in Llangollen. A delight not to be missed!

Could those people who are coming please now pay their balance and collect a menu from Bernie for your pre-order meal.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Thomas the Apostle

On July 3rd, we celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle—a man who journeyed from doubt to deep faith. Often remembered for questioning the Resurrection, Thomas is also known for one of the most profound confessions of faith in the Gospels: “My Lord and my God!” His honest doubt became a doorway to belief, and that belief compelled him to mission.



Tradition holds that Thomas travelled to India, courageously preaching the Gospel and establishing Christian communities that flourish to this day. The Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Churches proudly trace their roots to his witness. His legacy in India reminds us that the Church is truly universal, born not only in Jerusalem but carried to the ends of the earth.

St. Thomas teaches us that faith can grow from uncertainty, and that God uses even the hesitant to build His Church. May we follow his example with courage, faith, and missionary zeal.

St Thomas, pray for us.

RETIRING COLLECTION

A collection will be taken after Masses this weekend, the annual Peter's Pence. Peter's Pence is an annual collection that supports the Pope's charitable works and his mission worldwide. It helps fund aid to those suffering from war, oppression, and natural disasters. The collection is the Church's gift to the Holy Father as we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.

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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.

FAMILY & SOCIAL GROUP STAYS AT CASTLERIGG THIS AUGUST

Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic residential youth centre in the Lake District and it's opening its doors to family groups and social groups this August. There are single rooms, twin rooms, and large family rooms at very cheap rates. Guests have access to the grounds, chapel, games room, and lounges, with Keswick and the Lake only a short walk away. For more info director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com/open

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THE PALLIUM

Today, our new Archbishop is in Rome to receive the Pallium from Pope Leo at a solemn liturgy in Rome. Rooted in the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, this ancient woollen vestment symbolises the shepherd's yoke—echoing Christ the Good Shepherd—placed upon him by the hands of the Successor of Peter.



For the Church in Liverpool, the Pallium carries profound significance. It affirms the full pastoral authority granted to Archbishop John as Metropolitan of the Northern Province, marking not only his unity with the Holy Father but his responsibility to guide, protect, and unite the local Church

The Archbishop is first and foremost the chief shepherd of his own archdiocese. Like any bishop, he teaches, sanctifies, and governs the faithful in his care, helping to ensure that the Gospel is preached and the sacraments are celebrated faithfully.

The Archbishop of a Metropolitan See also has certain responsibilities over an ecclesiastical province, which includes his own archdiocese (the metropolitan see) and several suffragan dioceses (neighbouring dioceses under his care in a limited, supportive way). There are 5 Metropolitan Sees in England & Wales, Liverpool is the largest which covers 6 diocese's

As he returns to Liverpool, this token reminds clergy and laity alike of our shared mission—to bear one another's burdens and witness boldly to the Gospel.

May Archbishop Sherrington, weighed by this symbol of unity and service, lead with compassion and conviction, fostering communion and evangelising hope across our communities.

There will be a special Mass in the Metropolitan Cathedral, possibly in the Autumn, when Archbishop John will have the pallium placed on him by the Apostolic Nuncio (the Pope's Ambassador in Great Britain).

MISSIO RED BOX APPEAL

Thank you to those people at English Martyrs who took a red box when we had the appeal a few weeks ago. Mary Maloney is our representative and she has asked that the boxes be returned to the Parish Office when full. She will then count the contents and pass back to you. Please complete your name and address on the bottom of the box before handing in to office



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JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

This September, members of our parish community will undertake a very special journey in celebration of the Jubilee Year—a sacred pilgrimage to Italy, visiting some of the most important sites in our Catholic heritage. Fr Mark has now finalised the itinerary with our Travel Company.

We depart from Manchester on Monday, 8 September at 07:45, with Rome as our first destination. For three grace-filled nights, we will stay in the Eternal City, celebrating Mass at the heart of our faith—St Peter's Basilica—and, we hope, also at the Venerable English College, a place dear to the history of the Church in England. The highlight of our time in Rome will be processing together through the Holy Door of St Peter's, entering the Jubilee with open hearts and renewed hope. We will visit all four Major Basilicas—St Peter's, St John Lateran, St Mary Major, and St Paul Outside the Walls—drawing us ever deeper into the spirit of the Holy Year. We will also join pilgrims from around the world for Pope Leo's General Audience, a powerful witness to the universality of our faith.

Leaving Rome, we journey into the peaceful hills of Lazio to visit Subiaco, where St Benedict first embraced the monastic life in silence and solitude. From there, we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of St Pio (Padre Pio), where we will spend two nights learning from his example of suffering, holiness, and deep devotion to the Eucharist.

Our next stop is Assisi, where we will spend two nights walking in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare, embracing their message of simplicity, peace, and trust in God's providence. On the way, we will make a special visit to Lanciano, the site of a profound Eucharistic Miracle, reminding us of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Finally, we return to Rome on Monday, 15 September, filled with memories and blessings, arriving back in Manchester later that afternoon.

Please keep all our pilgrims in your prayers as we prepare for this journey of faith, encounter, and renewal during this Holy Year of Hope

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Fr Mark is keen to resume Children's Liturgy at St Robert Bellarmine, but we need volunteers to help with this. Please give your name to the Parish Office and Fr Mark will arrange a meeting. Hopefully, we can start this important ministry in September.



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WHAT'S ON AT IRENAEUS?

THE ADVENTURE WITH THE SPIRIT

Wednesday 2 July 2025 7:00PM - 8:30PM



Throughout July, The Irenaeus Project will be hosting a series of Summer Scripture Evenings called The Adventure with the Spirit. You can either attend in person, or get a Zoom link from jenny@irenaeus.co.uk.

COME AND SEE DAY: Saturday July 5

10:30AM - 4:00PM

The Irenaeus Centre welcomes its next speaker, Canon Chancellor, Rev Canon Dr Ellen Loudon who leads the Justice and Mercy work of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral which serves the diverse City and Diocese of Liverpool. They pride themselves in excellence, equity and inclusion. Ellen will be sharing her very interesting story at the Irenaeus Centre (32 Great Georges Road, L22 1RD). Please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation of £10. For further details contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 0151 949 1199.

LIGHT OF TRUTH: CHILDREN'S LITURGY TRAINING, Saturday 6 September, 9.00 to 12.00.



Online morning workshop for everyone involved in Children's Liturgy, looking at the principles and practical tools we can use to help children participate in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/childrens-liturgy-training>

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Fr Mark is looking for more Ministers of the Eucharist to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound in their homes. This is an important part of our service to those who are unable to join us for Mass. If you are willing, please give your name to the Parish Office.



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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MASS AT QUEEN OF PEACE

Our brothers and sisters of the Catholic Syro-Malabar parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Kirkstone Road West, have invited Fr Mark to celebrate Mass in the church to which you are all invited. Thursday 10 July at 10:00 am, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. This is part of their annual celebrations for the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the founder of the Syro-Malabar Church in India.

'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



WeBELIEVE FESTIVAL

Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ. From 25-28 July, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. Early bird tickets available now at www.webeliefefestival.com

FAITH IN THE FAMILY

On Saturday 5 July and in support of our Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan – Becoming a Church that accompanies people through life – the Deanery Synodal Council for Sefton Coast North warmly invites you to Holy Family Church Hall (1 Brompton Road, Southport, PR8 6AS) from 10:00 – 13:00 for the following event which aims to explore ways to resource parishes to accompany parents as they bring up their children and hand on the faith to them. Facilitated by Archie Cameron & John Sullivan. For further enquiries and to sign up, please contact Chris at c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk

TIME OUT ON TUESDAYS

8 July 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

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Fr. Sean O'Connor on the occasion of his Diamond Jubilee of Priesthood, celebrated last Friday. Fr Sean spent many happy years in our parish and also in Netherton. Ad multos annos!



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PARISH NEWSLETTER & GDPR

THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR), which came into effect on May 2018, has imposed some new ways of administration and management of information in different institutions and/or organisations. The Church is not an exception. As a result of this development, there have been some noticeable changes in the administration of our parish, especially when publishing names of the sick, deceased etc in parish newsletters.

It has always been best practice to obtain consent before putting someone's name on a sick list, as some people, for a whole variety of reasons do not want their name published. Changes in data protection law mean that it is now necessary.

1 Do I need the consent of the person before their name can be published in the Newsletter? Yes, if a 'sick' list is put up at church or published in the parish newsletter (whether or not that newsletter is posted on the parish website).

Why? Because a name on a sick list is special category personal data (because it reveals information about the person's health) and can only be disclosed outside the church with the consent of the sick person. Once a name is on a newsletter the church has no control over where that information may end up.

2 Do I need permission before I can add their name to a published list?

If a person is well enough to do so easily, you can ask them to sign a simple form. If you do not think it appropriate to ask the sick person to sign a form, then you can ask them whether they want their name to be on the sick list. You should tell that person what happens to the sick list in your parish, ie whether it goes on the church wall/ newsletter/website. You should then make a note of the conversation as evidence of the fact that you obtained oral consent. Why? Because everyone has a right to know what the parish will do with their information.

We are pleased to restart a sick list, etc, in the weekly Newsletter, but permission **MUST** be obtained from the person or next of kin whose name you wish to submit. To do this, please take a form from the back of the church or the parish office, complete it, and return it. The published list will remain in the Newsletter for six months before it is removed.

LIGHT OF TRUTH: ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS (ONLINE WORKSHOP), Saturday 6 December, 9.00 to 12.00

Join the Dominican Sisters on Saturdays, from 9.00 to 12.00 noon for a short course of 3 sessions, to discover the essential nature and principles of catechesis, the sources of catechesis, and the best ways to prepare and deliver our catechesis. This course is open to everyone involved or interested in any kind of catechesis for adults, young people or children. This course is free, and the Dominican Sisters gratefully accept any donation you may be able to contribute. <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/essential-training-for-catechists-2025-12-06-09-00>

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 29 June 2025

PARISH STRATEGY PLAN

We are looking for a couple of people to join the small group to complete the survey for the Parish Strategy Plan, being conducted in every parish in Sefton over the next few months. The work is not difficult, but a couple of people would be appreciated. Please have a word with Fr Mark.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

Faithful God

You guide us on the path of life and your goodness is our constant companion

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, in his service of the Church

Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ.



May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people
to embody your love for the world

Amen

LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

Last week, the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool was officially upgraded from Grade II* to Grade I listed status by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, following Historic England's recommendation.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

This distinction—reserved for buildings of “exceptional architectural and historic interest”—recognises Sir Frederick Gibberd's groundbreaking 1960s circular, modernist design, built atop Sir Edwin Lutyens' unfinished crypt. Once divisive, its conical concrete form and central lantern are now praised as a “revolution in cathedral design.”

Archbishop John, City and Religious Leaders celebrated the move, declaring it a major cultural landmark that enriches Liverpool's skyline and spiritual life.

Both Cathedrals in Liverpool now have this unique status.

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Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 29th June	9.30am Jacqueline & Anne Marie Morley	11.00am People of the Parish
Sanctuary Lamp	Nickson family	Des and Noreen Short
Monday 30th June	10.00am Margaret Cain	
Tuesday 1st July		10.00am Billy Wright
Wednesday 2nd July	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 3rd July	10.00am Frances McDonagh	
Friday 4th July		10.00am Peter Cherry
Saturday 5th July	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 6th July	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am Tommy Kelly

English Martyrs Office
School Lane, Litherland, L21 7LX
St Robert Bellarmine Office
Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 6DZ

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm
0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm

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