



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



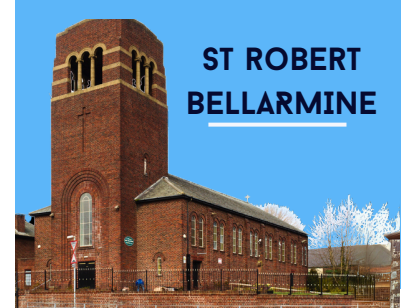
ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



The parable of the Good Samaritan is more than a moral tale—it's a mirror. It asks us to examine who we see as worthy of love, and who we would rather pass by.

In Jesus' time, Samaritans were the outsiders—foreigners with the “wrong” religion and culture. To Jesus' listeners, the idea that a Samaritan is the hero in the story would have been scandalous. That's exactly the point.

In our world today, we too have our “Samaritans”—people some prefer to keep at a distance. Migrants seeking safety, refugees fleeing war, the homeless on our streets, the mentally ill, the ex-prisoner, the addict. People whose presence may challenge our comfort, or stir up fear or prejudice.



Do to others as you would
have them do to you.

But Jesus tells us: That one is your neighbour. And more—Go and do likewise.

It's easy to pray, “Lord, help the suffering,” and yet step around the one who suffers beside us. Compassion is not a feeling—it's a costly choice. The Samaritan didn't just feel sorry. He stopped. He helped. He gave.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, perhaps Christ is inviting us to look again at who we exclude from our definition of “neighbour.” Love crosses boundaries, breaks down walls, and draws near.

As Christians, we are not called to ask, “Do they deserve my help?” but rather, “How can I be Christ to them?”

Mercy always has a face. Let's not walk past it.

Fr Mark

To whom can I become a neighbour? How will I follow my compassionate heart even if my head comes up with a dozen different excuses?

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

13.55 Arrive Rome

Monday 15 September

14:20 pm depart Rome on Ryanair

16:10 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

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Ann Hore

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.

To whom can I become a neighbour? How will I follow my compassionate heart even if my head comes up with a dozen different excuses?



This young priest has a very special celebration today

Recognise him?

See next page!

PARISH READERS

We need a few more Parish Readers, willing to read at St Robert Bellarmine. If you would like to volunteer, please give your name to the Parish Office.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Are you planning to marry in a Catholic Church?
Are you looking for some time out from the busy wedding planning, providing you and your partner with an opportunity to focus on your relationship and to learn more about each other?



The Liverpool Archdiocese is now offering a marriage preparation course for engaged couples. The course will involve four sessions, meeting in group with other couples. To be led by trained lay facilitators, the course will help the couples develop skills which could facilitate good communication within their relationship and an understanding of unconditional love set within a Catholic faith. The course will be starting on 29 September - 20 October. The venue is St Helen's Church, Crosby.

There is a fee of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. Please book online here at [Marriage Preparation Course Link](#). For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

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A WORD OF GRATITUDE

Today I give thanks to God for 29 years of priesthood—a journey filled with grace, challenges, laughter, and love. I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving this parish and for the countless ways you have supported, inspired, and prayed for me.

I'll be in Rome for a few days this week for Holy Land meetings, and while there—close to the heart of the Church—I will remember you all in my prayers.

Please continue to pray for me, as I pray for you. May Christ, the Good Shepherd, guide us all in love and faith.

Fr Mark.

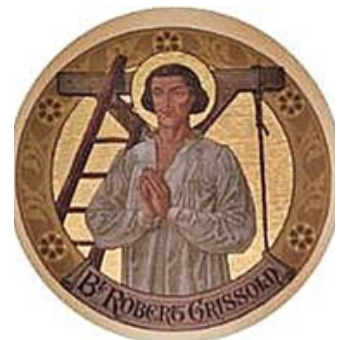
FEAST OF THE WEEK

Blessed John Sugar & Robert Grissold.



Blessed John Sugar was born at Wombourne near Wolverhampton about 1558 and studied at St Mary's Hall, Oxford, becoming a clergyman of the Established Church at Cannock in Staffordshire. He later became a Catholic, studied at the English College, Douai, and was ordained a priest on 21 April 1601. His ministry was in Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, where he travelled on foot and especially looked after the "poorer and meaner sort of Catholics".

Blessed Robert Grissold lived at Rowington in Warwickshire; he was the son of a weaver and is described as a "husbandman"; he had a special reverence for Catholic priests.



Robert and John were arrested on the highway on 8 July 1603 after a raid on the Grissold house; Robert was given the chance of escaping by his first cousin, Clement Grissold, who was with the search party and had probably led it to the house, but he refused to leave the priest. Both were offered their freedom if they would conform. They were executed at Warwick on 16 July 1604. Sugar said on the scaffold "Be ye all merry, for we have not occasion of sorrow but of joy: for although I shall have a sharp dinner, yet I trust in Jesus Christ that I shall have a most sweet supper".

They were beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1987.

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SANCTUARY LAMP

We are running a bit low on dedications for the Sanctuary Lamp at both churches. If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a week please just write the dedication on a piece of paper and pass to the relevant Parish Office with £5 offering. Thank You.



HAVE YOU TRAVELLED THE CAMINO de SANTIAGO?

The Communications Team at St Margaret Clitherow Centre would love to hear about it!. If you have a story to share on the feast day of St James then please email: communications@rcaol.org.uk

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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UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

The Ukrainian Rite Mass is held in Saint Sebastian's Church every Saturday evening at 5.30pm. All are welcome. If you would like to offer help or support to the Ukrainian Community, please contact Fr Taras on 07784 634 136 or email: liverpool@ucc-gb.com

LOURDES MASS

All are warmly invited to the Annual Lourdes Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 13 July at 5.00pm, with Archbishop Emeritus Malcolm presiding.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

This is a special opportunity to pray together, seek Our Lady's intercession, and remember the pilgrims travelling to Lourdes—especially those seeking healing and strength. A lantern carrying parish petitions will be brought to the Mass before continuing on to Lourdes, where it will be placed at Our Lady's Shrine. This year, we also give thanks for the 71st recognised miracle of Lourdes—the healing of Jack Traynor, a significant figure in our diocesan history. Members of Jack's family will be present at the Mass and some will join the diocesan pilgrimage.

The Lourdes lantern will be at St Robert Bellarmine today before it goes to the Cathedral.

The Adventure with the Spirit Wednesday 16th July 7:00PM - 8:30PM

The Irenaeus Project continue their 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.

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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BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI

The Parish of St Anne and Blessed Dominic, Sutton St Helens, invites clergy and parishioners to two special pilgrimage Masses at the Shrine of Blessed Dominic Barberi—designated as one of the Jubilee Churches of our Archdiocese.

Blessed Dominic Barberi Pilgrimage Mass

Monday, 25 August at 12 noon

Principal Celebrant: Fr Giuseppe Adobati Carrara, Superior General of the Passionist Order

Venerable Elizabeth Prout Pilgrimage Mass

Saturday, 13 September at 12 noon

Principal Celebrant: Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury

All are warmly invited to attend these significant occasions of prayer and pilgrimage.

On Tuesday 15 July, St Swithin's, Gillmoss (now merged with Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, Croxteth) will celebrate its 600th anniversary since the first Mass on the site. To mark the occasion, a Mass will be held on the site of the old church (next to Swithin's Cemetery). Bishop Tom Neylon will preside.

Mass is at 6:30pm followed by refreshments in Queen of Martyrs Parish Centre. All welcome.

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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ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JULY DRAW

1st Prize £20 No. 105 L Smith
2nd Prize £15 No. 195 P Johnson
3rd Prize £10 No. 32 J Byrne
4th Prize £10 No. 191 Madden family



Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Contact Myra on 928 1136

'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

SEA SUNDAY

This weekend we celebrate Sea Sunday, when the Church remembers and prays for all those who live and work at sea. We give thanks especially for the seafarers who work long months away from home, often in challenging conditions, to bring us much of what we rely on daily – including food, fuel, and goods.

Sea Sunday is also a time to support the work of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic charity that offers pastoral and practical care to seafarers, fishers, and their families around the world. Their chaplains and volunteers provide a vital ministry – offering welcome, friendship, help in times of distress, and the reassurance of faith.



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>

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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

PRIESTS IN RETIREMENT

Next weekend, we will take up a special collection to support the retired priests of our Diocese. These are the men who have faithfully served our parishes for many years — celebrating Mass, baptising our children, hearing our confessions, visiting the sick, and guiding us in our spiritual lives.

In retirement, they continue to pray for us and live lives of quiet witness. Now it is our turn to care for them. Your generosity will help provide for their housing, medical needs, and day-to-day living expenses in their later years.

Please take a moment this week to pray for our retired priests, and consider how you might support them financially in next Sunday's collection.

Thank you for your kindness and continued support

Caring
**FOR OUR
RETIRED PRIESTS**

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Masses and Services for the coming week

| DATE | English Martyrs | St Robert Bellarmine |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 13th July | 9.30am Edward Taylor | 11.00am People of the Parish |
| Sanctuary Lamp | Tony Medlicott | Gill and Graham Burrows |
| Monday 14th July | 10.00am Francis Molloy | |
| Tuesday 15th July | | 10.00am Rita Knight |
| Wednesday 16th July | NO MASS | 10.00am Funeral service Maureen Skarratts |
| Thursday 17th July | 10.00am Vera Ferry | 10.00am Funeral Mass David Halliday |
| Friday 18th July | | 10.00am Anne Taylor |
| Saturday 19th July | NO MASS | NO MASS |
| Sunday 20th July | 9.30am People of the Parish | 11.00am Michael Rumsey |

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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