



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



This Sunday's Gospel gives us one of Jesus' most puzzling parables: the dishonest steward who, when caught out, acts quickly to protect his future. Jesus is not commending dishonesty, but his urgency. In a moment of crisis, the steward does not delay—he acts.

We too are living in a time of crisis: our common home is under strain. During this Season of Creation, Pope Francis calls us to hear “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” Like the steward, we cannot simply sit still. Each of us is asked to take practical, prayerful steps to care for God's creation—whether that means reducing waste, treading more gently on the earth, or supporting initiatives that protect the vulnerable most affected by climate change.

Jesus also warns: “You cannot serve both God and wealth.” This is a challenge to our priorities. Creation is not ours to exploit, but a gift entrusted to us. How we use our resources—our money, time, and energy—shows whether we serve ourselves or the Kingdom.

It is also Home Mission Sunday: a reminder that our first mission field is right here at home. Just as creation begins with the patch of earth beneath our feet, so mission begins with the people around us—our families, our parishes, our communities. To live faithfully at home is the seedbed of all evangelisation.

Let us ask the Spirit for wisdom to be “shrewd for the Kingdom”: caring for our common home and sharing the Gospel with urgency, joy, and love.

Fr Mark

How can I be a prudent steward of the wealth God has blessed me with? Where do I regard my “genuine riches”

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time 21 September 2025

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER



For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Lord in your mercy...

WEEKDAY MASSES

Please note that there will be an additional weekday mass on Wednesday 24th September at 10.00am at English Martyrs Church



Celebrating Missionaries of Hope

You, your family, friends, and the Red Box supporters in your parish, are cordially invited to the



Liverpool Archdiocesan Mission Mass Sunday, 28th September 2025 at 3.00 p.m.

Our Lady & All Saints Church, Lancaster Lane,
Parbold, Wigan WN8 7HS

With Bishop Thomas Neylon

Please join us for tea/coffee & biscuits/cake after Mass



To assist us with planning, if possible, please RSVP by 19th Sept:
e-mail redbox@missio.org.uk
or tel. Theresa on 07593 544625



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MASS OF CELEBRATION – MARY’S MEALS – SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

All are invited to a special Mass of celebration for the work of Mary’s Meals, the global charity providing school meals to children in some of the world’s poorest communities. Archbishop John Sherrington will preside at the Mass on Sunday 21 September at 3.00pm at St Teresa’s Catholic Church, Church Road, Upholland, Wigan (WN8 0PY).



STOP child hunger for just 10p

Join us to celebrate the work of Mary's Meals

Archbishop John Sherrington will be presiding at a special Mass of celebration for the work of global feeding charity Mary's Meals.

All are welcome!

Light refreshments will be served in the church hall after Mass.

Sunday 21st September at 3 pm
St Teresa's Catholic Church,
23 College Road, Upholland, WN8 0PY

Events in your area

marysmeals.org.uk

Light refreshments will be served in the church hall after Mass.

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Fr Alvison Fernandes who will be here for the next couple of weeks. Fr Fernandes is a priest of the Archdiocese of Goa-Daman, in India. He was ordained in the year 2022 and spent two years as assistant priest in his diocese before being sent to Rome for further studies – he is presently working on a Master’s Degree: ‘The Cultural Heritage of the Church,’ at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.



EVANGELII SUNDAY 2025

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday will be celebrated this weekend.

This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary. It’s 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim Sunday by Sunday. It is the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, “I believe...” This is the theme for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 2025.

HOME MISSION COLLECTION

This annual collection will take place after the Masses **NEXT** weekend.

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ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM

On Friday, 3 October at 7pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral, a Mass in thanksgiving for Archbishop Malcolm's ministry as Metropolitan Archbishop of Liverpool will take place; all are welcome to attend to give thanks to God for Archbishop Malcolm.



A thank you gift will be given in the form of a "spiritual bouquet" in the form of offerings of prayer, Masses, rosaries, holy hours etc. The diocese will then collate this and present it to him. Please think how you can contribute to this special gift and we will collate the information on Sunday 21 September.

Parishes have also been asked to have a collection as an expression of thanks to him. Our parish will have a retiring collection for him **THIS WEEKEND.**

HELP PLEASE!

Irenaeus Outreach and Spirituality Centre, Great Georges Road, Waterloo are asking for our help with donations of food or personal items to help people who are struggling and the homeless.

There is now a box at the back of St Robert's for donations.

Thank you



DAY FOR CATECHISTS – FORMATION & REFLECTION

Are you a catechist looking for spiritual refreshment? No matter what kind of ministry you are serving, there is a good opportunity for you to refresh your vocation of being a catechist.

On 27 September, the Day for Catechists will be organised from 10.00–16.00 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre L17 1AA. With the facilitation of Sr Carino and Sr Hyacinthe from the Dominican Sister of St Joseph, there will be spiritual input and practical discussion on the mission of catechesis. If you're interested or for more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

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ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" SEPTEMBER DRAW

1st Prize £20 No. 31 I Oakes
2nd Prize £15 No. 204 M Stoops
3rd Prize £10 No. 166 M Dickinson
4th Prize £10 No. 167 M Spofforth



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

LGBT+CATHOLICS

The next gathering will be on Sunday 21st September 2025 at All Saints, Oakfield, Anfield, L4 2QG. Mass will be at 2.00pm. This will also be the 4th anniversary of these gatherings.

A LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT

The latest Scripture Mornings from the Irenaeus Project will be taking place on 24 September, 1 October, and 8 October. They will be led by Fr Chris Thomas. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link is also available if you cannot attend in person. Email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk for more information.

FAMILY AND GROUP STAYS AT CASTLERIGG MANOR THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM

Castlerigg Manor is a Retreat Centre in the Lake District, owned by the Diocese of Lancaster, and they are opening their doors to family groups, individuals and other small groups once again during October Half Term (Oct 27-31). A good option for anyone looking for a budget get-away in a beautiful part of the country. Book at <https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/> or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

The next Eucharistic ministry training days at Irenaeus are on 25th October 2025 & 14th March 2026. Please give your name to either of the parish offices if you are interested or speak to Fr Mark

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time 21 September 2025

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>

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 for further information, including booking costs, please contact Rose Curry on 07932 729896.

SUPPORT FOR THE DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

The Restored Lives course is run over six weeks, one evening per week. The talks cover the key issues to help you to move on and highlight the practical steps and tools to enable you to tackle the issues that arise from separation and divorce.

For more information contact Maureen 07967753471 or Jacqui Sellek 0793825815

LEFTOVER FOREIGN CURRENCY?

Holidays probably already seem a life time away. However, you can maybe help Mary's Meals with a new initiative. Do you have any leftover foreign coins rattling around in pockets or purses? Or UK coins that are no longer legal tender (eg old 50p's).

Mary's meals are collecting these and can turn them in to contributions to help those millions of children who are hungry and need help.

We can offer our support as a parish if we work together to collect any coins. So - dig deep! Check pockets, bags, purses and if you have any foreign coins (no matter how small) please pass them in to either of the parish offices. Let's see if we can help feed some children who need our help!



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Delve into the Bible – Workshop – Wednesday 8 October

All are invited to a Bible workshop led by Dr Dorothy Jonaitis (Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University Chicago) on Wednesday 8 October 2025, 6.30–9.00pm at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool (L17 1AA).

The evening will explore:

- The reality of biblical authorship and audiences
- How timeframe and geography affect scripture writing
- The books of the Bible and translations
- How to use the right tools to maximise your study.

Refreshments available from 6.00pm. Scan the QR code on the poster to sign up. For enquiries, email: Moses Mui at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We are looking forward to beginning preparation for the children of Year 4 who will celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2026. This is always a special and joyful time for our parish family as the children grow in faith and come closer to Jesus in the Eucharist.



For children attending English Martyrs and Our Lady Queen of Peace schools: please complete the registration form and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

For children who do not attend any of our three parish primary schools but would like to make their First Holy Communion, please collect a registration form from the English Martyrs Parish Office and return it promptly.

Preparation sessions will begin in October, so we kindly ask that all forms are completed and returned without delay. Thank you for supporting your child on this important step in their journey of faith.

Two Cathedrals' Messiah OCTOBER 11th 7:30PM

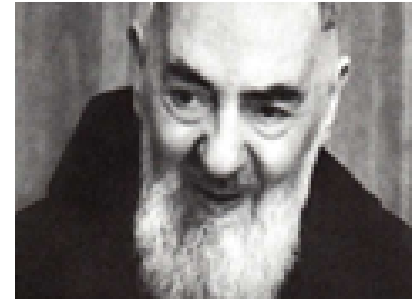
The Choirs of Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King will come together to perform Handel's Messiah. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are priced at £15 for general admission and £20 for premium seating.

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time 21 September 2025

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968)

He was born in the small village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy, and joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 16. He became a priest seven years later, and spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he was very much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor. Our pilgrims were lucky to have visited during the recent Parish Pilgrimage.



Many miracles were popularly ascribed to him during his lifetime. He died a few days after the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving the stigmata, and over 100,000 people attended his Funeral Mass. His Feast Day will be celebrated on Tuesday.

Exploring Faith, Work and Civic Life: Reading the Signs: Where Are We, Really?

Together Liverpool is running three linked events exploring faith, work and civic life led by Jenny Sinclair, on September 30th, October 30th, and November 27th. The event is aimed at Church leaders, volunteers and activists, Community organisers, local councillors and curious neighbours, anyone interested in a deeper, hope-filled vision of public life. More information at eventbrite.co

Time Out on Tuesdays October 14th 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Sisters of Our Lady of The Cenacle Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, L15 6TW

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

Newman Association: A Talk on Medjugorje by Tony Hickey 7:30pm

The Newman Association presents a talk on Medjugorje by Tony Hickey, a well known speaker on the subject. The event will take place at St Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TQ, and is free, but a small donation is welcome.

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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COMING UP AT IRENAEUS - contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or 0151 949 1199

SCRIPTURE MORNINGS

10:30 - 12 noon 24th September, 1st & 8th October,

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

10:30 - 12noon Thursday 25th September '25

DAY OF RENEWAL

10am - 4pm 11th October '25

WOMEN AT THE WELL A WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th October '25



175th ANNIVERSARY

29 September 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy of England and Wales in 1850 by Pope Blessed Pius IX following the Reformation. It therefore also marks the 175th birthday of the (Arch)diocese of Liverpool. All parishes in the diocese have been asked to celebrate that day "in thanksgiving for the gift and mission of our Catholic faith."

ST ROBERT'S OVER 50's CLUB

The Over 50's Club meet in St Robert's parish centre on Thursday afternoons between 1.00 and 3.00pm. and is open to all.

Why not pop along and join in the fun - tea and coffee are available and, for a small charge, there is a raffle and a couple of games of Bingo for you to enjoy.

Regular members are asked to make a payment of £1.50 per week

LECTIO FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Every Friday at 6pm at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN, there is a "lectio" prayer group for young adults. There will be a Mass at 6pm, followed by a short time of sharing the Sunday readings at 6.30pm.

It's a friendly group and sometimes they also organise trips and retreats. If you want more information please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or 07394 503 911

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ROSARY MATERIALS - GET INVOLVED!

The Pastoral Development Department and the communications team are working together to create some materials on the rosary for October and we would love for you to get involved!

If you, or someone in a rosary group in your parish would be happy to speak about one of the mysteries of the rosary and what it means to you – either by being filmed or providing a voiceover – please get in touch! You can email the communications team on:

communications@rcaol.org.uk

TEA PARTY Saturday 27 September, 1.30-3.30pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby, Merseyside L37 7EH

A chance to come together with other supporters to celebrate

Mary's Meals – and bring a friend to learn about our work.

Featuring a performance from the incredible Amadeus Chamber Choir.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Book your free ticket for both the above by contacting :

info@marysmeals.org or calling 0800 698 1212.



SAVE THE DATE - ADOREMUS

Mark your calendars - this year's Adoremus will take place on Saturday 8 November. The theme this year is Ministry, and the timetable of workshops will be released in due course.

CSSA PUBLIC CALL FOR SURVIVOR INPUT

As part of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency's (CSSA) focus on survivor engagement and support, they have created a public survey inviting survivors to contribute their experiences.

The purpose of this public call is to gather information from anyone who has had recent contact with a diocese or a Religious Life Group. This includes experiences that are new or ongoing, as well as those connected to non-recent abuse.

Their primary focus is the period from July 2024 onwards, but they do not wish to limit what survivors choose to share. More information regarding this survey can be found here: Public Calls for Information

The direct link to the survey is https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fT0OpJmB_Xy63KLBEXoG2tIVAm_9UYqKjMSFUOTc5TzLLTEdTWkUySjhaTlUOQURaOU05SC4u

This process is being conducted with transparency, respect, and in a survivor-centred way. Cooperation will help the CSSA hear from as many voices as possible, enabling them to identify good practice and areas for improvement across the Church.

If you have any questions, please contact their Quality Assurance team at:

qualityassurance@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

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CHRISTMAS - YES IT IS COMING!!

Tesco have decided that it is already Christmas so it is time to let you have details of our Christmas outings and celebrations/fundraisers.

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2025 - CHATSWORTH HOUSE

Day Coach trip to Chatsworth House for their Christmas Extravaganza and Christmas Markets. This is always a popular trip as the market is excellent with many stalls and places to eat. Cost is £65 which includes entry to the House, garden light trail and the Markets. The decorations in the house are spectacular with each room having a different theme and the dressed Christmas trees will take your breath away!



MONDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2025 - LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

This is a wonderful evening of classic carols, seasonal readings, audience singalongs and festive fun, all wrapped up and delivered by the fabulous baritone Benjamin Appl. He'll be hosting the entire extravaganza and of course treating us to some musical magic along the way. Last year's performance was amazing and was also very popular with everyone. Cost for this one is £60 which includes your ticket and transport to and from the Hall.

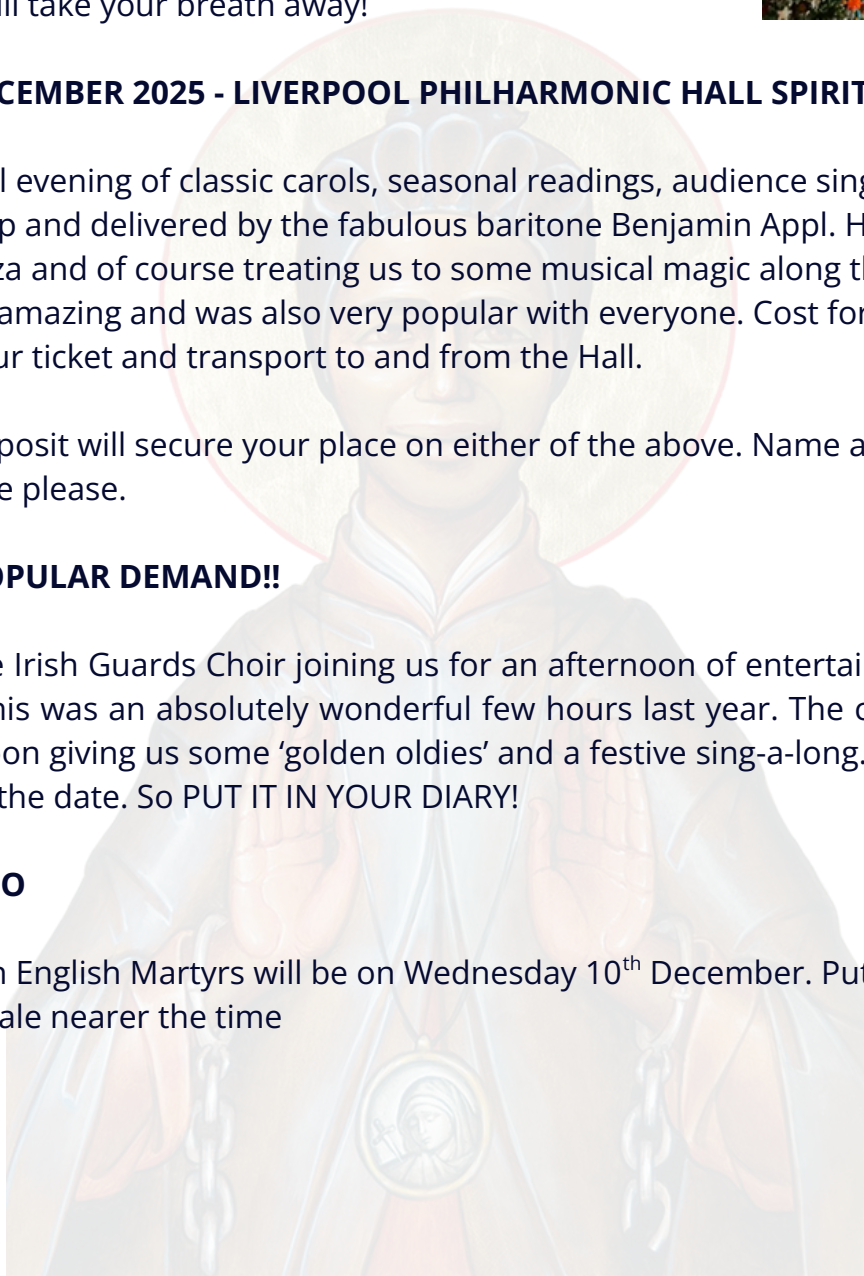
As usual, a £10 deposit will secure your place on either of the above. Name and deposit to either Parish Office please.

BACK BY VERY POPULAR DEMAND!!

We again have the Irish Guards Choir joining us for an afternoon of entertainment on Saturday 29th November. This was an absolutely wonderful few hours last year. The choir perform twice during the afternoon giving us some 'golden oldies' and a festive sing-a-long. Tickets for this will be on sale nearer the date. So PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY!

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Christmas Bingo in English Martyrs will be on Wednesday 10th December. Put it in your diary - tickets will be on sale nearer the time



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23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time 7 September 2025

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 21st September Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am Doreen Lambert Frank & Elizabeth Morgan	11.00am Ann Marie Hore Jan Huntley
Monday 22nd September	10.00am Kerry Rowell	
Tuesday 23rd September		10.00am Veronica Curphy
Wednesday 24th September	10.00am Stephen McQuade	NO MASS
Thursday 25th September	10.00am Magdalen & John Rimmer	
Friday 26th September		10.00am Susan Bolger
Saturday 27th September	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 28th September	9.30am Celia Byrne and Tom Smartt	11.00am Ken Williams

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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