



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus responds to the disciples' plea, "Lord, increase our faith" not by promising more, but by pointing to the power of even a tiny mustard-seed faith. He then challenges them — and us — to live faithfully, not seeking rewards or recognition, but simply doing what is asked of us, humbly.

We live in times that test our faith. This week we have heard the announcement of a new peace plan for Gaza, a fragile effort toward reconciliation amid terrible loss and suffering. At the same time, the tragic attack at a synagogue in Manchester — on Yom Kippur, no less, the holiest day of the year for Jews — has shaken our sense of security and our commitment to religious solidarity.

How do we respond to such suffering, doubt, division, and evil? The Gospel's teaching encourages us not to wait for exceptional faith, but to respond in small, faithful actions each day: to pray earnestly for peace, to stand with the persecuted, to speak truth in love, and to resist hatred with compassion. The tiny mustard-seed faith is enough when it is lived out in humility and service, trusting that God — the true Master — is already at work.

Let us pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters, for victims in Gaza, and for all caught in violence. May we carry the light of faith into even the darkest places, trusting that God's mercy and justice will prevail.

Fr Mark

What injustice, conflict, or problem does faith give me the power to address? How can I put my faith into action

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER



For collaboration between different religious traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity
Lord in your mercy...

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the soul of Sheila Morley whose Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 11.30 in St Robert Bellarmine. We keep her family in our prayers.

Please note that Mass on Friday will be at English Martyrs.

CATHOLIC PIC

The October edition is available this weekend.

The main feature is on Gaza, with Fr Mark interviewed for it. The article also launches this year's Archdiocesan Christmas Card Campaign to the Holy Land. More details will follow.



EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

Two further courses for those who would like to become Eucharistic Ministers will take place at the Ireneaus Centre on Saturday 25 October and Saturday 14 March. If you would like to be considered to be part of this important ministry, please see Fr Mark. We particularly need more Ministers at St Robert Bellarmine's.

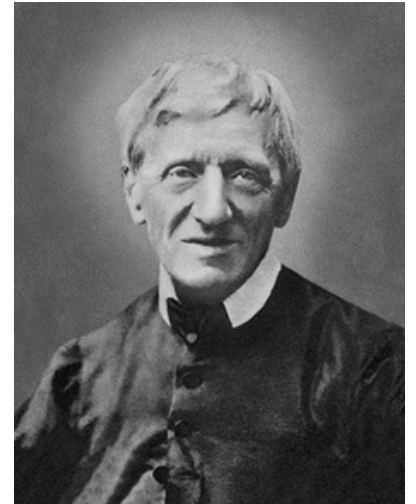
What injustice, conflict, or problem does faith give me the power to address? How can I put my faith into action

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Saint John Henry Newman was born on 21 February 1801 in London, England. As an Anglican clergyman for over twenty years he won renown as a preacher and theologian.

A Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, he became one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement and a prominent figure in the Church of England.



On 9 October 1845 he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi of the Passionist Congregation. After a period of study in Rome he was ordained priest on 30 May 1847. Returning to England he established the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Birmingham.

He was an influential writer on many subjects, most notably the development of Christian doctrine, the true understanding of conscience, faith and reason, the role of the laity, and university education. In 1879 he was created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII and given the title of San Giorgio in Velabro. He died in the Birmingham Oratory on 11 August 1890. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 September 2010 and canonised by Pope Francis on 13 October 2019. His feast day is celebrated on Thursday.

On 1st November, Pope Leo will declare St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church. A 'Doctor of the Church' is a man or woman of great holiness and learning whose teaching and wisdom not only resonated with their own contemporaries, but still illuminates, instructs and inspires today.

The Church gives them the title 'Doctor', from the Latin 'docere', meaning 'to teach', in recognition of the eminent contribution to our knowledge of the faith – spiritually, intellectually or morally. He becomes the 38th saint to be declared a Doctor and only the second Englishman.

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

What injustice, conflict, or problem does faith give me the power to address? How can I put my faith into action

A CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL

A day of prayer, praise and Fellowship A YEAR OF JUBILEE HOPE FOR OUR WORLD
Guest Speaker Abhy Thomas Co-ordinator of the Charis National Service of Communion Suggested donation £10 Bring a packed lunch 10am – 4pm 11th October 2025 At the Irenaeus Centre Great Georges Rd L22 1RD

LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2026

Applications for the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage with Sefton Coach 7 are LIVE now at liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk. Young people aged from Year 10-age of 22 are invited to be part of Coach 7 this year (22nd-31st July 2026). The cost of the pilgrimage is £720 but fundraising will reduce this cost. For more information email coach7@rcaol.org.uk

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



Donations left at the back of English Martyrs will continue to be given to the hub on Moss Lane - providing support for families in our immediate local area

ST CARLO ACUTIS EUCHARISTIC EXHIBITION

St Stephen's Church, Orford, Warrington, WA2 9HS have an exhibition running until the end of October 2025. The exhibition is open every Wednesday from 10am (after mass) to 2pm.

A LOOK AT THE OLD TESTAMENT

The latest Scripture Mornings from the Irenaeus Project will be taking place on 8 October. 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.

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ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "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

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

**CHURCHES TOGETHER ON MERSEYSIDE
Faith in the City Anniversary Survey**

As part of the Faith in the City 40th anniversary project CTMR/Together Liverpool are developing a manifesto that will be presented to civic leaders within the Liverpool City Region at a 40th anniversary event taking place in November 2025. That manifesto will be developed by asking people to contribute their perspectives through a brief survey. Please see the link(s) below. Thank you in advance for your time.

<https://togetherliverpool.org.uk/whats-new/faith-in-the-city-survey/>

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

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 begin **NEXT WEEK** 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.

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

"A DECADE OF LAUDATO SI' - LESSONS, IMPACT AND THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY" - 14 OCTOBER

To mark the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si', CBCEW will host an interdenominational event, 'A Decade of Laudato Si': Lessons, Impact and the Road Ahead'. The event will be held on 14 October (6-8.30pm) at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester. Speakers will include Bishop John Arnold, Rev. Grace Thomas (Church of England) and Rev. Ian Rutherford (Methodist Church). The event will be opened by special guest Andy Burnham, Mayor of Manchester. The gathering will celebrate the power of faith in action and explore how collaboration can both sustain and amplify that impact, while also addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The event is free but tickets must be booked via CBCEW's Eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-decade-of-laudato-si-lessons-impact-and-the-road-ahead-tickets-1664309918769?aff=oddtcreator>

TWO CATHEDRALS' MESSIAH - OCTOBER 11th 7:30PM

The choirs of Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, accompanied by the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra, join together to sing Handel's choral masterpiece 'Messiah.'

Soloists Kelsey Thomas (soprano) Danny Townley (alto) Stefan Kennedy (tenor) and Joe Murphy (bass) were all born and educated here in Liverpool.

Conductor Richard Lea will lead the choirs, orchestra and soloists through some of Handel's best loved movements such as 'I know my redeemer liveth' the 'Hallelujah Chorus' and 'Worthy is the Lamb.'

All are invited to experience this unique Liverpool tradition of the Two Cathedrals Messiah on Saturday 11 October. Tickets (£15/20)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral/>

Newman Association: A Talk on Medjugorje by Tony Hickey October 16th 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.



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

SCRIPTURE MORNINGS

10:30 - 12 noon 8th October,

DAY OF RENEWAL

10am - 4pm 11th October '25

WOMEN AT THE WELL A WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th October '25



“CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL THIS HARVEST

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges.



Your generosity offers “signs of hope” in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.”

You can view a video of this year's CAFOD appeal at <https://vimeo.com/1115554004/a2a29b6d82>.

Donation envelopes are available at the back of both Churches

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

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

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.

SONGS WE REMEMBER

Come and join us at Irenaeus Centre on Wednesday 8th October for a sing-a-long



.Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday 2.0pm - 4.00pm

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_9UYqKjMSFUOTc5TzILTEdTWkUySjhaTlU0QURaOU05SC4u

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

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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Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 5th October Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am People of the Parish Michael Lundon	11.00am Anne Kelly John, Lawrence & David Breen
Monday 6th October	10.00am John Fairclough	
Tuesday 7th October		10.00am Alice O'Brien
Wednesday 8th October	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 9th October		11.30am Funeral Mass Sheila Morley
Friday 10th October	10.00am Ann, Patrick & Family	
Saturday 11th October	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 12th October	9.30am Alan Egerton	11.00am People of the Parish

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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