



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



Today we celebrate not a saint or a mystery of Christ, but a building — the Basilica of St John Lateran in Rome. At first glance, that may seem strange. Yet this feast draws our attention to something deeper: the Church not merely as stone and marble, but as a living temple of God's presence in the world.

The Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Pope as Bishop of Rome, is called “the mother and head of all churches.” It reminds us that our faith is not private or individual, but rooted in communion — with our local parish, with the universal Church, and with the successor of Peter who serves as its visible sign of unity. The basilica's long history, weathering fires, wars, and restorations, mirrors our own journey as God's dwelling place: sometimes damaged, always in need of renewal, yet never abandoned.

In the Gospel, Jesus cleanses the Temple, declaring that His body is the true sanctuary. By baptism, that same Spirit dwells within us. We become “living stones” (1 Peter 2:5), shaped and joined together to form the Body of Christ. Every time we gather for the Eucharist, the Church is built anew — not just the bricks of our church building, but the bonds between believers.

So this feast invites us to ask: what kind of temple am I? Do I let God's glory dwell within me, radiating peace, mercy, and unity — the true foundations of His living Church?

Fr Mark

Can I take the urgency of not knowing when the end times will come for me or for the world and channel it to do something good?

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9 November 2025

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Joseph Mulhaney
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Mary Spofforth

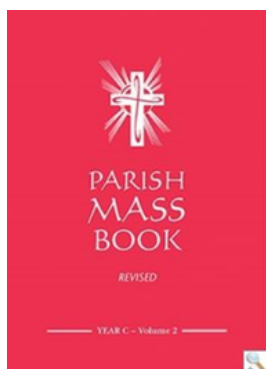
POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER



For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Lord in your mercy...



FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 202 of the Parish Mass Book



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Archbishop Malcolm joins us next Saturday for a November Mass of Remembrance, at St Robert Bellarmine's, together with some Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre. Mass begins at 11.00 am. All are welcome.

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NOVEMBER MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

Envelopes are now available at the back of both churches for names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the month of November. Please print the names, add a donation and bring it back to church.

Masses in remembrance will be said throughout the month.



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>

ST ANNE & BLESSED DOMINIC, SUTTON, ST HELENS – PILGRIMAGE VISITS VISITS

From the 8th November St Anne & Blessed Dominic will be open between 2-4pm on Saturday afternoons for pilgrimage visits. This arrangement will remain in place until the end of December.

It is still possible to arrange visits at other times by phoning the parish office - 01744811935. The office is open every Monday and Friday.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PENSIONERS GROUP

The Pensioners have a few spare places in their group if you would like to join them. They meet on a Tuesday in English Martyrs Parish Hall from 1-4pm.

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Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9 November 2025

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

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

THANK YOU!

Irenaeus Outreach and Spirituality Centre, Great Georges Road, Waterloo have sent their thanks for the recent donations of food etc. It has been a great help

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



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

CAFOD Christmas Fun Run – 27 December

Signup is open for CAFOD's annual Fun Run!

The run will take place on 27 December at Wavertree Sports Park and is open to all.

Run, walk, or wheel with family and friends to share the joy of Christmas and raise money for those in need!

Scan the QR code on the poster to sign up, or search CAFOD Fun Run.



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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, the third and the final one is on 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.uk

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/>

THE LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL CHOIR PRESENTS

A Celebration of Christmas – Saturday 13 December

A Celebration of Christmas returns this year on Saturday 13 December with a night of musical cheer, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit.

Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family.

Sing along to classic carols, enjoy traditional readings and celebrate Christmas in the glorious surroundings of the Metropolitan Cathedral



Tickets: £10 each/ £18 family, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

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DSC - DEANERY REPORT

Sefton Inland Deanery spans a diverse area—from Litherland and Netherton to Aintree, Maghull, and Lydiate—encompassing both rural and urban communities. This rich diversity is central to our identity, and through the Deanery Synodal Council (DSC), we've worked to celebrate and support each unique parish.

From the outset, we recognised the value of collaboration in shaping a sustainable future for our Catholic presence. The substantial work of developing and successfully implementing families of parishes was completed. It became clear as the DSC worked that a whole Deanery approach was the right way forward. This decision was presented to and ratified by the priests. One of the underlying reasons was concern it would be too easy to split into areas rich in resources and areas resource poor. It is clear this is not the way of the Gospel and would undermine our whole mission and vision for the future.

An example of adopting a whole deanery approach is in the sharing of successful outcomes, one parish developed a think tank group, who meet regularly to facilitate the synodal process, discussing this within the DSC allowed others to emulate what has worked well.

Recent changes have already impacted our structure. In January, two priests received new appointments, and one retired due to health reasons without replacement. This resulted in the closure of 2 churches and the amalgamation of some parishes. Local parish consultation meetings allowed parishioners to share concerns and contribute to the process of change. The Archbishop ratified the changes ensuring pastoral provision meets local needs.

These changes happened quickly due to reduced clergy presence. The reality of declining church attendance and fewer Priests urges us to continue to assess our pastoral priorities, sacramental provision, financial resources, and building needs. We understand that all of us, priests, people and deacons to name but a few, are all learning a new way of working together. Developing ways to support each other with individual and collective challenges is an essential work in progress.

The Parish Planning Strategy—launched in March—is being piloted in Sefton Deaneries. This diocesan initiative is our main focus for the year, guiding us in planning for the future.

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9 November 2025

Phase Two of the Parish Development Strategy Launches in Sefton

On 4th November, the second phase of the Parish Development Strategy was officially launched as steering groups from the three Sefton Deaneries came together for a creative and forward-looking workshop. Their task: to imagine what the church of the future could look like.

Using data from a fictional deanery—Hope Deanery—participants were invited to apply the vision of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan to the future development of parishes. The data was realistic, but the fictional setting gave space for bold and imaginative thinking, free from local constraints

The impact of the exercise was summed up by participants:

“This has helped us realise what a huge task we have.”

“It is exciting to be invited to be part of creating the way the church will be in the future in the Diocese.”

"This process is NOT about diminishing or closing, it's about developing – it is life-giving"

What Happens Next?

In the coming weeks, each Deanery will receive its own realistic data and future projections. They will be invited to engage deeply with the Pastoral Plan and develop up to three proposals for their Deanery that are both missionary in focus and sustainable in practice.

This strategy is being rolled out across the Archdiocese, with South Liverpool and Warrington & Widnes the next Deaneries to begin the process. The hope is that within two years, every Deanery will have embarked on this journey—helping us all become the Church God is calling us to be, both now and in the near future.

We would like to celebrate the resilience of our communities as we have navigate the ongoing process of change, which has sometimes been painful. All within the deanery have shown a desire to make the new reality work. We look forward with faith and great hope as we work together to shape the future of our beautiful and evolving catholic church and community.

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JUBILEE ICON TOUR

As part of the celebrations marking the Jubilee Year, the Jubilee Icon has been touring dioceses across the UK, inspiring communities with its message of hope and renewal.

We're delighted that at the end of October, the icon arrived in the Archdiocese of Liverpool for two weeks. This is a special opportunity to encounter the icon in person and reflect on the Jubilee theme Pilgrims of Hope.



A full timetable can be viewed here: (www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/jubilee-icon-tour)

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS

Christmas stock has now arrived in English Martyrs and is available in the Piety stall.



This year we have some wonderful olive wood and stained glass items which have come direct from the Holy Land.

Fr Mark's friend has an online shop and has provided a variety of items.

Proceeds from the sale of these go to support our friends in the Holy Land so please go in and have a browse.



St Robert's Christmas stock is on the way and will be available soon.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917))

She was born in Lombardy, the youngest of thirteen children. Because of her frail health she was refused admission to two convents. She devoted herself to teaching, and founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose aim is to spread devotion to the Heart of Jesus by spiritual and corporal works of mercy, running homes for the old and the sick, orphanages, and schools.

In 1889 the Pope sent her to New York, where she founded an orphanage.

In all she founded 67 institutions across the United States, South America and Europe.

She died of malaria at Chicago in 1917.



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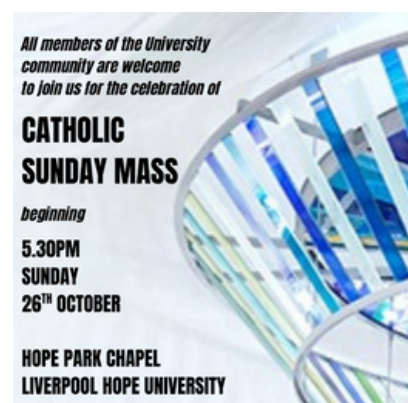
LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY - SUNDAY MASS

Sunday Mass will have recommenced at Liverpool Hope University. Mass will take place at 5.30pm in the Chapel on Hope Park Campus each Sunday during term time.

This Mass is in addition to the weekly 12.15pm Thursday lunchtime Mass.

All members of the university community are welcome to attend.

Contact Fr Peter Murphy (p.murphy@rcaol.org.uk) for more information.



COME AND SEE: NOVEMBER 25th 10:30AM - 4:00PM

The next Come and See day in the series will feature a keynote talk from Maria Burgess called Lord, Teach us to Pray. All are welcome to attend - you are asked that you bring a packed lunch and a suggested donation is £10. For more information, contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 0151 949 1199

BACH: MACHE DICH, MEIN GEIST BEREIT - Cantata 115 November 23rd 6:30pm

The Liverpool Bach Collective will be performing Cantata 115 at St Monica's Church, Fernhill Rd, Bootle, L20 9GA. Large-print Orders of Service are available. If you would like one, please email at least seven days before the service: liverpoolbach@icloud.com

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

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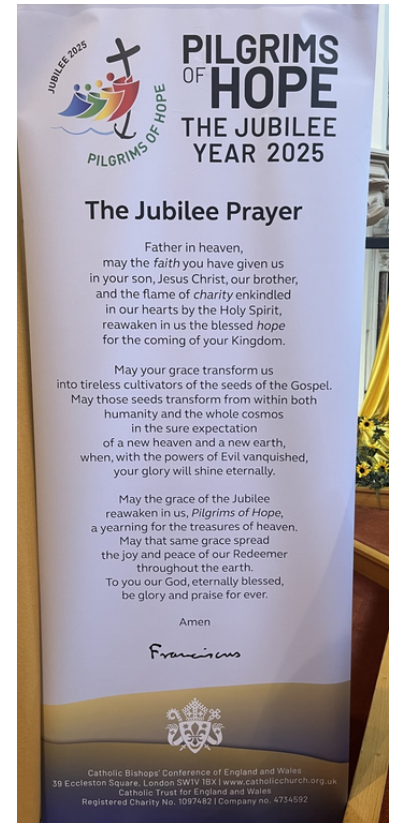


JUBILEE ICON

As we near the end of the Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope it was lovely to see the Jubilee Icon at Irenaeus on Wednesday

Quite a few parishioners took the opportunity to view the icon and recite the Jubilee Prayer after the Mass

The Icon was commissioned by CAFOD from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, to demonstrate that this was a global jubilee.



The icon interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue in Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2. This passage is particularly relevant to the Jubilee given its emphasis on bringing good news to those who are poor, and liberty to those who are captive or oppressed:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'

PARISH CHORAL OFFERING FEAT. KNOWSLEY CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S CHOIR

6:30PM

'On Friday 14th November the choir of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral will visit the Church of St Margaret Mary's in Pilch Lane, Knotty Ash, L14 0JG to present a Parish Choral Offering. They will be joined by special guests: Knowsley Catholic Children's Choir.

MICAH LIVERPOOL QUIZ NIGHT – FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Micah Liverpool are hosting a Quiz Night at St Bride's Church, L8 7LT. Join us for a night of fun and trivia, where all proceeds go to Micah Liverpool! Book your tickets at www.eventbrite.co.uk

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CHRISTMAS OUTINGS AND FUNDRAISING

All tickets for the two Christmas outings have now been taken up. Can those people who are joining us to either of the events please now pay the balance

Tickets are now on sale for the Irish Guards Choir Concert, the English Martyrs Christmas Bingo and Christmas Raffles at both Churches

BACK BY VERY POPULAR DEMAND!! IRISH GUARDS CHOIR CONCERT

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. We will have a fun Christmas tombola. Tickets for this are now on sale at the back of both Churches. Entry is £3 - a bargain for a lovely afternoon's entertainment

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Christmas Bingo in English Martyrs is on Wednesday 10th December. Tickets are now on sale.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLES

St Robert's and English Martyrs will be holding a Christmas Raffle. Tickets are now on sale at the back of church

DONATIONS PLEASE!

We are currently quite short on donations and would be very grateful for any donations of bottles/fancy goods etc to assist in our Christmas fundraisers.
Thank you!

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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Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 9th November Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am Maureen Mullarkey Georgina, Jay & Theo Tumelty	11.00am People of the Parish Sheila Morley
Monday 10th November	10.00am Pious list	
Tuesday 11th November		10.00am Skylie and Sandeep
Wednesday 12th November	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 13th November	10.00am Private Intention	
Friday 14th November		10.00am Pious List
Saturday 15th November	NO MASS	11.00am November Remembrance - Order of Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
Sunday 16th November	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am Paul Anthony Smith

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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