



## Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



### ENGLISH MARTYRS



### PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon  
Mark B Madden  
KCHS FRSA

### ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



“In today’s Gospel, Jesus says something very ordinary, using things everyone understands: salt and light. Nothing complicated. Nothing dramatic. And that’s the point.

Salt doesn’t draw attention to itself. You don’t sit down to a meal and say, “What wonderful salt!” But if it’s missing, you notice straight away. Salt quietly brings out the flavour of everything else. Jesus is telling us that faith works like that. Christians are not meant to overpower the world or shout louder than everyone else.

We are meant to make life better simply by being present — by kindness, honesty, patience, and care.

Light works in the same way. You don’t light a lamp to admire the lamp. You light it so people can see.

Light helps others find their way. A small light in a dark place can make a huge difference. Jesus doesn’t ask us to flood the world with brilliance; he asks us not to hide the little light we already have.



For most of us, being salt and light happens in very ordinary places: at home, in the workplace, in school, in the parish, in how we speak to people and how we treat them. A word of encouragement. A refusal to gossip. A moment of patience when it would be easier to be sharp.

Jesus reminds us that these small things matter. They are not wasted. They point quietly but clearly to God. When we live this way, others may not remember our words — but they will remember how they felt in our presence. And that, too, gives glory to God

*Fr Mark*

*Where, in an ordinary moment this week, can I be salt or light for someone else?*

**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 FEBRUARY



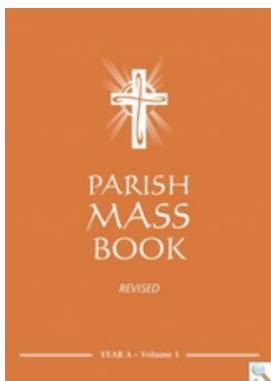
### For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

*Lord in your mercy...*

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 133 of the Parish Mass Book



## 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 Parish Office or place in the collection bags with £5 offering. Thank You.

## ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB” FEBRUARY DRAW

1st £20 No. 42 C Matthews

2nd £15 No. 176 C McPhilips

3rd £10 No. 174 J Quinn

4th £10 No. 25 J Byrne



Just a reminder that those who pay annually in January their donations are now due if you haven't already paid. There are still spare numbers available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month. Please contact Myra: 928 1136

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## PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

In every parish family there are times when someone's world changes overnight through the loss of a loved one. In those moments, the simple presence of a compassionate fellow parishioner can make all the difference. Fr Mark would like to form a new Parish Bereavement Team—a small group of volunteers who can offer gentle support to grieving families through prayer, listening, and practical help around funerals.

You just need a caring heart, a willingness to listen, and a desire to bring Christ's comfort to those who mourn. A training course within the deanery will begin at the start of February for those interested.

If you feel you could offer a little time to this quiet but essential ministry, please contact the parish office. Together we can ensure that no member of our community walks through grief alone.

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## IRENAEUS CENTRE

Irenaeus are again asking for help with donations. They are in desperate need of all personal cleansing products e.g. soaps, shampoo, women's' items, etc plus tinned and packet food and cereals. They are also asking for warm coats, hats, scarves and gents socks

The box for donations is still at the back of St Robert's if you can please help

## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS**

The Irenaeus Centre will be leading a Eucharistic ministry training day on 14 March 2026. Speak to Fr Mark if you are interested and we can get you registered for the training for this important ministry

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## **PARISH MEETING**

The next meeting to discuss the deanery proposals will take place on Monday 9 February at 7 pm at English Martyrs Hall. If you require transport, please call either of the Parish Offices and we will try and arrange this for you.

As we step into 2026, our Archdiocese is blessed with exciting opportunities to reflect Christ's presence and respond with hope to the challenges of our modern world here in Liverpool. These times invite us to embrace renewed faith, vibrant mission, creative action, and deep trust in

God's guidance. This journey builds on the grace of our Synod 2020 and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, calling us forward together. This process of reflection within the 3 Sefton deaneries is being rolled out in other parts of the diocese this weekend.

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## **NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH**

This annual event will take place from 10-18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers.

You can be part of the Novena by sending your petitions and requesting a Novena booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)

You can also donate by picking up a 'Red Box' and fill that with all your loose change. Every little helps!

Speak to either office if you would like a box





## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Are you planning to get married 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 next course will be available in April 2026:

**Date:** 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 21 May (all Thursdays)

**Time:** 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Venue:** St Agnes & St Aidan Church, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 5SQ

There is a fee of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. Please book online here at <https://forms.office.com/e/hgy2JbUpY3?origin=lprLink> For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk)

“9th Bootle and Litherland, English Martyrs Brownies, currently have spaces for any girls aged between 7 and 10 who wish to join. They meet on a Thursday evening in the Parish Hall, School Lane 6.15pm to 7.45pm.

If you wish for your daughter to join, please register their name on the following website:



[www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter).

If you have any queries or questions please email: [engmartbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:engmartbrownies@outlook.com)

## 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.



## MARRIAGE PREPARATION CATECHISTS NEEDED

Would you like to help engaged couples to prepare for marriage? The archdiocese is now recruiting catechists to join the marriage preparation team. The catechist training will be provided at St Monica's Church, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9GA and consists of 5 sessions:

- Monday 23 February 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Monday 2 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Monday 9 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Monday 16 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Saturday 28 March 2026 (10am – 2pm)

Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice a year. If this is something you are interested in, please sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/JGbP8AtZwn?origin=lprLink> For more information, please contact Moses at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk).

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### Our Lady of Lourdes

In 1858 the immaculate Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, near Lourdes in France, in the cavern called “de Massabielle.” Through this poor, fourteen-year-old girl, Mary calls on sinners to change their lives. She has inspired in the Church a great love of prayer and good works, especially in the service of the poor and the sick.



## Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor // March 27-29th // £160-230 per family-

For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick. For more info >> [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> events

**May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor** - In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more info >> [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> stay with us

*Where, in an ordinary moment this week, can I be salt or light for someone else?*



## CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection



This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought.

Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



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## ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT

Do you work with people in the church, or are you interested in doing so? Have you ever thought about how can you can become an Adventurous Accompanier? Adventurous Accompaniment focuses on walking alongside people in their faith journey. It emphasises listening, presence, and empowering individuals to discover their own path, rather than directing them.

Through the journey of a 6-week programme including 3 full-day workshops, you will not only explore the core principles of accompaniment but also going in-depth to embed those principles in practice.

All costs of the programme will be covered by the archdiocese. Please register online if you are interested. Sign up here <https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/accompaniment>

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk). You will choose either one workshop for each weekend when you sign up.

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## ST HELEN'S CHURCH CROSBY

St Helen's Church in Crosby will be putting on an extra Sunday Mass at 4pm every week.

## COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART: A SILENT RETREAT

Led by Sr Moira Meeghan at the Irenaeus Centre (Great Georges Road, L22 1RD) from 18:00 Friday 20 February – 13:00 Sunday 22 February. Those interested are advised to book early:

residential places are £95, non-residential with meals is £70, non-residential (self-catering) is £30. To book and for more information please contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 01519491199

## FREE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS – OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN IN YEARS 2–8!

Exciting opportunities for young singers to join a Catholic children's choir in your area! Open to all children in school years 2 to 8, our choirs offer free musical training led by DBS-certified musicians from the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Rehearsal Information:

- Knowsley Catholic Children's Choir - Wednesdays, 4–5pm  
Space Centre, St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Hillside Road, Huyton, L36 8BL
- Widnes Catholic Children's Choir - Mondays, 4–5pm  
St John Fisher Parish Centre, 55 Moorfield Rd, Widnes, WA8 3JA
- Liverpool Catholic Children's Choir (Central) – New from March 2026! - Mondays, 4:30–5:30pm  
Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ
- Liverpool Catholic Children's Choir (South) – New from March 2026! - Tuesdays, 5–6pm  
St Mary's Church – Parish Hall, Church Rd, Liverpool, L25 5JF

Choir members will have the chance to perform locally and further afield, developing their musical skills while enjoying a fun, supportive environment.

Sign up here:

<https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7578a4f8bc41ae198517aea33&id=34918afeaf>



## Carlo Acutis: First Class Relic and Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles

Our Lady and All Saints Church, Parbold (Lancaster Lane, WN8 7HS) are privileged to be able to host a First Class Relic of Saint Carlo Acutis for nine days in February.

At the same time, they will hold an exhibition of 30 Eucharistic miracles he curated. Each miracle will be displayed alongside historical details and scientific analysis. The Exhibition will be in the adjacent Our Lady and All Saints school (Brandreth Drive, Parbold WN8 7HB) – a short walk from the church. Both events will run from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February and opening times are:  
Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30am to 3:00pm  
Monday to Friday: 11:30am to 3:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

There is parking and accessibility at both locations and exhibition notes, prayer cards and children's activities will be available at the exhibition. (All children must be accompanied by an adult).

Contact details are (01257) 463248, email: [parbold@hotmail.com](mailto:parbold@hotmail.com), or via the parish website: [www.ourladysparbol.org.uk](http://www.ourladysparbol.org.uk)



## ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at the Pauline Book Centre (Church Street, L1 3AY) in Liverpool City Centre. Anyone aged 18-35 is most welcome.

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk).

On Tuesday 3 February (18:30-20:00), the group will be having a faith-based talk with Fr Peter McGrail. We will talk about our shared priesthood through baptism. Please register here if you are interested

<https://forms.office.com/e/vDKWdNWKLm?origin=lprLink>

## **CIVIC MASS – SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY**

The Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, Monsignor Anthony O'Brien, has pleasure in inviting you to attend the Annual Civic Mass, celebrated by Archbishop John Sherrington. Light refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after Mass.

## **LECTIO FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

Every Friday at 18:00 at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN, there is a "lectio" prayer group for young adults.

There will be a Mass at 18:00, followed by a short time of sharing the Sunday readings at 18:30. It's a friendly group and sometimes they also organise trips and retreats.

Follow this link to join my WhatsApp community:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/H7vBavJ4Jlm2spPNI9d2DT> If you want more information please contact James: [djmoroney@cantab.net](mailto:djmoroney@cantab.net) or 07546667394

## **CAFOD BIG LENT WALK**

CAFOD are again running their 'Big Lent Walk' challenge to walk 200KM in 40 days to raise funds for life-saving water projects.

You can walk alone or with a group of friends or why not organise a group of parishioners?

Sign up online at [CAFOD.org.uk](http://CAFOD.org.uk)

You will also find an article in this month's Catholic Pic



## CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN

We encourage all young people who wish to be confirmed next year to visit the Liverpool Called website with their parents/guardians.

The details you provide the online form will be shared with the Dean of the area of which you have applied, your local parish, and the Diocesan administration team. It may be shared with other parties associated with Diocesan sacramental preparation and relevant and appropriate Diocesan bodies and authorities.



Your local parish will be in touch after registration period ends on the 13 February (you will not be contacted beforehand) with details about meetings in your local area. You will likely be contacted after Easter. Please do not worry if you are not contacted immediately. If you have any queries, please contact your own parish priest.

The information you provide will be held for the sacramental year (which ends on the day new application forms go online for the succeeding sacramental preparation year) and your contact information may be used to contact you by email, text, letter or phone. For more information on how your data may be used and our retention policy please see <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy>

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## 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



### Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
<b>Sunday 8th February</b>  <b>Sanctuary Lamp</b>	<b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish  <b>For Peace</b>	<b>11.00am</b> John & Violet Kelly  <b>Paul Jones</b>
<b>Monday 9th February</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Tom Hall	
<b>Tuesday 10th February</b>		<b>10.00am</b> Sandra Doyle
<b>Wednesday 11th February</b>	NO MASS	NO MASS
<b>Thursday 12th February</b>	<b>10.45am</b> Funeral Mass David Flynn	
<b>Friday 13th February</b>		<b>10.00am</b> Thanksgiving (SS)
<b>Saturday 14th February</b>	NO MASS	NO MASS
<b>Sunday 15th February</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Elsie Smartt	<b>11.00am</b> 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