



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



As I write my weekly reflection, I'm surrounded by boxes. After many happy years, I'm in the middle of packing up and preparing to move to West Derby. It's amazing how much we accumulate over time. Books, photographs, clothes and countless little things tucked away in drawers all seem to tell a story. As I sort through them, I find myself asking the same question over and over again: Do I really need to keep this?

There is something surprisingly freeing about letting go. Some things are worth keeping because they remind us of people we love or moments that shaped our lives. Other things have simply taken up space for years without us even noticing. Deciding what stays and what goes has become a strangely prayerful experience.

Perhaps that is a little like today's Gospel. Jesus speaks about the wheat and the weeds growing together until the harvest. We are often tempted to rush to tidy everything up, but God is more patient than we are. He knows that our lives, too, are a mixture of strengths and weaknesses, faithfulness and failure. Rather than giving up on us, he patiently continues his work, gently shaping us into the people he calls us to be.

As I prepare for this new chapter, I realise that the most important things cannot be packed into boxes. Faith, friendships, love, kindness and countless memories travel with us wherever we go. They are the treasures that truly matter.

Perhaps this week is an opportunity for all of us to ask ourselves: What am I holding on to that I no longer need, and what are the treasures that God is inviting me to carry into the future?.

Fr Mark

What is one thing I need to let go of so that God can help me grow?

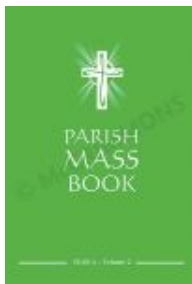
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Esther Gibbons



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 105 of the Parish Mass Book



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY

For respect for human life
Let us pray for the respect and protection of
human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a
gift from God.

Lord in your mercy...

WEEKDAY MASS

Please note that there will be Mass at English Martyrs on Wednesday at 10:00. There will be NO Masses on Thursday or Friday. Fr Mark is taking Salameh to London for a few days before he flies back to Jordan to join his parents on holiday.

COLLECTION FOR RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIESTS

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Retired Priests' Fund. Throughout their years of ministry, our retired priests have faithfully served our parishes, celebrated the sacraments, cared for the sick, and supported countless people in their faith.

Your generosity helps provide for their care and well-being in retirement and is a practical way of thanking them for their years of dedicated service to the people of our Archdiocese.

Thank you for your continued kindness and support.

FEAST OF THE WEEK **St Mary Magdalene**

St Mary Magdalene is one of the most important women in the Gospels. Having been freed by Jesus from great suffering, she became one of his most faithful disciples. She remained at the foot of the Cross when many others had fled and, on Easter morning, she was the first to meet the risen Lord.

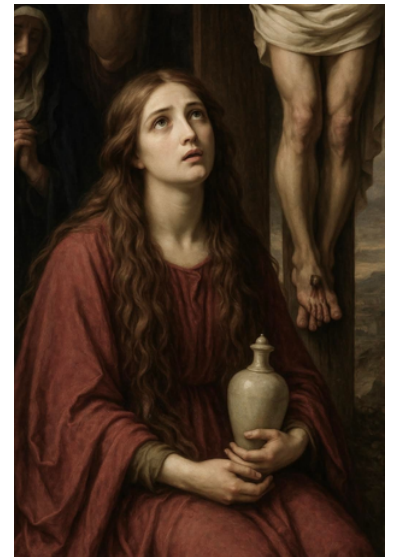
Jesus entrusted Mary Magdalene with the extraordinary mission of announcing his Resurrection to the Apostles.

For this reason, she has been given a title that no other saint shares:

"The Apostle to the Apostles." She was the first to proclaim the greatest news in history, that Jesus had risen from the dead.

In recognition of her unique role in the life of the Church, Pope Francis raised her memorial to a Feast in 2016, placing her celebration on the same liturgical level as the feasts of the Apostles. This highlights the importance of her witness and her mission in proclaiming the Gospel.

St Mary Magdalene reminds us that God's mercy can transform every life. She encourages us to remain faithful to Christ, especially in times of trial, and to share with others the joy and hope of the Resurrection.



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026



PARISH CELEBRATIONS

What a wonderful few days we had last week! Starting on Friday with a very hot but enjoyable day out to Llangollen for our final Parish outing with Fr Mark. We shared some yummy cake as a 'low key' celebration of his 30th anniversary. On Sunday we had a lovely mass led by Archbishop John to welcome Salameh and Fr Mark's KHS friends to our Parish. On Monday the Parish Mass was celebrated outdoors in the new Prayer Garden at English Martyrs school. And we just managed to squeeze in a bit more cake as Fr Mark's anniversary day!

We are blessed to have such wonderful celebrations in our Parish



What is one thing I need to let go of so that God can help me grow?

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

SUMMER: A SEASON OF GRACE

With our schools now closed for the summer holidays, a different rhythm begins for many families. The daily rush of school runs, homework and busy timetables gives way to holidays, days out and the chance to spend more time together. Even for those without children or grandchildren at school, the longer days and warmer weather remind us that summer has truly arrived.

This change of pace offers us a valuable opportunity to slow down. In the Gospels, Jesus often invited his disciples to come away and rest for a while after periods of busy ministry. He knew that rest is not a luxury but a gift. It allows us to recover our strength, reflect on God's goodness, and return renewed in mind, body and spirit.

While our routines may change during these weeks, our relationship with God should remain at the heart of our lives. Whether we are at home or away, a few moments of prayer each day, attending Mass wherever we may be, reading a passage from the Gospel, or simply taking time to appreciate the beauty of creation can all become moments of grace.

As we enjoy the summer, let us also remember those who may find this season difficult: the sick, the lonely, those who are grieving, and families who cannot afford a holiday. A simple visit, a phone call or a kind word can make an enormous difference.

I wish all our children, young people, families, teachers and school staff a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break. May these weeks be filled with joy, peace and precious time together. May God bless us all, keep us safe in our travels, and bring us back refreshed, ready to continue growing together in faith as a parish family

Save The Date: Adventurous Accompaniment Day Workshop - 19 September at St Margaret Clitherow Centre

"In the relationship of accompaniment, [we] are provided a space in which [we] can come to deeply know the love of Jesus Christ through friendship, guidance, and authenticity..." Whether you are new to the concept of accompaniment, or regularly incorporate it, this workshop is for you. There is no cost and we would just ask that you bring your own lunch.

Sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/9zxSLAndhm>

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

This week, hundreds of pilgrims from across the Archdiocese of Liverpool will set off on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. For more than 100 years, pilgrims from our Archdiocese have made this journey of faith, prayer and service, making it the oldest continuous diocesan pilgrimage from England. Generation after generation has travelled to the shrine where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette, seeking hope, healing and a deeper encounter with Jesus

The pilgrimage is much more than a visit to a holy place. It is a living expression of the Gospel, bringing together the sick, the elderly, young people, clergy, doctors, nurses and volunteers, all caring for one another with generosity, compassion and joy. Lourdes reminds us that everyone has a place in the Church and that those who are most vulnerable are at the very heart of our Christian family.

Our pilgrims have promised to remember all of us at home in their daily prayers. They will pray especially for our parish, our families, those who are sick or housebound, those who are grieving, and all who carry the burdens and worries of daily life. Although many of us cannot be there in person, we remain united with them through prayer.

Please remember all our pilgrims during the coming week. Pray that they may travel safely, grow in faith through their time in Lourdes, and return home renewed in hope and strengthened in their discipleship.

We are inviting parishes across the Archdiocese to join us in praying the pilgrimage novena which you can find at the back of church. Each day we will be posting videos on our facebook page and the Archdiocesan page, with a reflection by one of the priests. These will take place twice a day. One will be the Novena and the Second will be reflection based on a Papal Quote about Our Lady of Lourdes.

If you would like to send in a petition, please do so as soon as possible to:

PilgrimageDirector@liverpool-lourdes.org.uk



PETITIONS FOR
Lourdes

Bring the prayers and intentions of your parish to our Annual Lourdes Mass.

 **SUNDAY 19TH JULY**

 **3:00 PM**

 **IN THE CATHEDRAL**

Following Mass, all petitions will be packaged and taken to Lourdes with the Archdiocese of Liverpool pilgrimage this year.

 Please collect petitions from your parish community and bring them with you.

Together in prayer, united in hope.

What is one thing I need to let go of so that God can help me grow?

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPACE "200 CLUB" JULY DRAW

1st £20 No. 47 B Warner
2nd £15 No. 61 K McGarrigle
3rd £10 No. 153 P Roche
4th £10 No. 146 E Bailey



There are still spare numbers available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month.
Please contact Myra: 928 1136

CATHEDRAL DIAMOND JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL 2027

You can help make our Cathedral bloom for the Flower Festival by making a £30 donation to sponsor an orchid for a pew-end display.

As a thank you for your generosity, you will be invited to write a short personal message, dedication, or remembrance. Your note will be attached to your orchid, creating a meaningful and personal part of the festival display, and best of all you can take it home once the festival is over.

To register your interest, please contact Claire in Cathedral House at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

Details of how to make the payment will be sent to you, or you can pop the cash in an envelope with your message enclosed and post to Cathedral House.

SAFEGUARDING

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services. Or you can contact our safeguarding team direct- Ring Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 or Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237, or email - safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

RETREAT DAY – FRANCIS: A SAINT FOR TODAY? - SATURDAY 1st AUGUST

with Hazel Bradley of the L'Arche Community - 9.30am for a 10am start, finishing 4pm. At St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Freshfield, Formby, L37 1PH.
Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/e/r1T8RkZshD>

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

SUMMER FAITH CHALLENGE

Most of us know that physical fitness requires regular exercise. The same is true of our spiritual lives. Faith grows stronger when it is nourished by prayer, Scripture and acts of charity. A few minutes each day can make a real difference.

Over this Ordinary Time of the Church year, why not choose one simple spiritual habit and practise it each day?

Read a few verses of the Gospel.

Spend five minutes in prayer before bed.

Visit church for a few moments of quiet prayer.

Pray a decade of the Rosary.

Thank God each day for one blessing you have received.

Reach out to someone who may be lonely or in need.

Small acts of faith, practised faithfully, can make a big difference. Which one will you choose this summer?

VOLUNTEER YOUR TEACHING TALENT

Are you a retired or part time qualified teacher? You could be part of the Cathedral's Education Service team! Come and help hundreds of school children and young people learn about this wonderful Cathedral.

Contact education@metcathedral.org.uk for more information.

STAY CONNECTED – JOIN OUR 'WhatsApp' CHANNEL

Keep up to date with the latest news, events and announcements from the Archdiocese of Liverpool by joining our WhatsApp Channel!

Receive regular updates direct to your phone and never miss what's happening across the archdiocese.

Join our WhatsApp Channel here:

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb8B5Hu2f3EJJwDzn72z>

ENGLISH MARTYRS PENSIONERS CLUB

The group are looking for new members. It is a lovely few hours each Tuesday afternoon with bingo, refreshments and some wonderful company. If you are interested just call into the hall any Tuesday to have a chat with the group

All are welcome!

What is one thing I need to let go of so that God can help me grow?

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION

There are a number of ways in which you can respond to the two current proposals from the Strategic Planning Group:

- Complete the online response form using the QR code or web address provided in the consultation leaflet, available at the back of church.
- Write your comments on a sheet of paper and place them in the consultation box at the back of church.
- Leave a Post-it note with your comments on the consultation poster.

This period of consultation will end in mid September.

CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

On Wednesday 24 June, two catastrophic earthquakes struck near Caracas in Venezuela within seconds of each other. Buildings collapsed in minutes, leaving widespread destruction across the country.



Thanks to our supporters, we have allocated £100,000 to our trusted Church partners in Venezuela to help provide emergency water, food and hygiene kits to people affected by the earthquakes.

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives.

Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code.



Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

Crafting the Word of the Lord

An exhibition of knitted Bible scenes created by Francesca Vause will be on display at Our Lady & All Saints Church, Parbold, WN8 7HS, from Monday 7 to Friday 11 September.

The exhibition is free to visit and all are welcome.

Opening times

Monday: 11.00am - 3.00pm

Tuesday: 3.30pm - 6.00pm

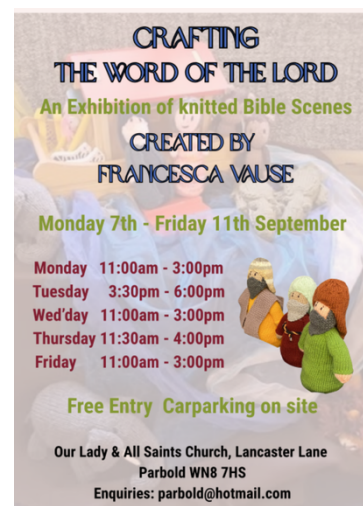
Wednesday: 11.00am - 3.00pm

Thursday: 11.30am - 4.00pm

Friday: 11.00am - 3.00pm

Free entry and parking on site.

Enquiries: parbold@hotmail.com



WeBelieve Festival– 24 - 27 July, St Mary's College, Oscott

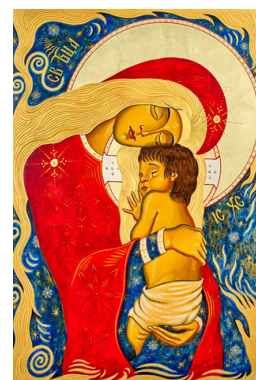
WeBelieve festival brings thousands together to encounter Jesus Christ in His Church. it's an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to grow in authentic community, and to encounter the transforming love of God.

Tickets: <https://www.webelievefestival.com/tickets>

A MOTHER'S WARMTH: ICON EXHIBITION AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL 30 JUNE – 30 AUGUST

The Metropolitan Cathedral will be hosting Mother's Warmth, an exhibition by Bulgarian artist and iconographer ian Kostov. Through contemporary artwork inspired by the image of the Virgin Mary as Mother, the exhibition considers how compassion and care for one another can bring hope and healing in a divided world.

Admission free.



What is one thing I need to let go of so that God can help me grow?

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

FLAME

The archdiocese is organising a trip to FLAME - the largest Catholic youth event in the country where 10,000 young people gather together at Wembley Arena to listen to speakers, pray and praise.

It is open to young people in Year 9 and above. If you're interested in bringing a group of young people, please contact Sarah McGeehan on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048.

Please note: young people must be accompanied by a teacher, youth leader or chaplain.

More information: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UK

Are you a doctor, nurse, healthcare student, or allied health professional? The Catholic Medical Association UK invites Catholics working in healthcare to join a growing community of fellowship, prayer and formation.

The Association supports healthcare professionals in living out their faith and vocation, while providing opportunities to connect with others working in the medical and healthcare professions.

Find out more about membership and upcoming events at catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk

Due to the growing need to support Catholic patients at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and Broadgreen Hospital, the Chaplaincy Management invites kind and caring individuals to join the Catholic hospital volunteer team.

This apostolate involves listening, praying, bringing Holy Communion to patients, and offering a comforting Catholic presence.

To get started: Contact the Catholic Chaplaincy at the Royal Hospital via the Chaplaincy Office on 0151 706 2828 or email the Lead Chaplain at faustinus.ugwuanyi@rlbuht.nhs.uk.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 19th July Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am People of the Parish Hugh Farrell	11.00am Rita Morgan Marie Hughes
Monday 20th July	10.00am Alec Barr	
Tuesday 21st July		10.00am Barry Hughes
Wednesday 22nd July	10.00am Brenda Clegg	
Thursday 23rd July	NO MASS	
Friday 24th July		NO MASS
Saturday 25th July	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 26th July	9.30am Tom Deegan	11.00am Eileen & Eugene Callaghan

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