



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev Canon
Mark B Madden
KCHS FRSA

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



This Sunday's readings remind us that God knows exactly what we need—and He never leaves us hungry.

In the first reading, Isaiah invites everyone who is thirsty to come to the Lord. It's a beautiful reminder that we often spend so much time chasing things that promise happiness but never quite satisfy. Whether it's success, money, busyness, or simply trying to keep everyone else happy, we can end up feeling exhausted and empty. God gently reminds us that lasting peace and joy are found in Him.

In the Gospel, we hear the familiar story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. The disciples look at the crowd and see a problem. Jesus looks at the crowd and sees people who need care. With just five loaves and two fish, He feeds everyone—and there is plenty left over.

It's a wonderful reminder that God can do great things with the little we bring Him. Sometimes we think we don't have enough to offer—enough time, enough energy, enough faith, or enough patience. Yet when we place what we have into the Lord's hands, He can achieve far more than we could ever imagine.

The story also points us towards the Eucharist. Every time we come to Mass, Jesus gathers us just as He gathered the crowd that day. He feeds us with His Word and with Himself in Holy Communion. We come with all our worries, our joys, our failures, and our hopes, and He never sends us away empty-handed.

St Paul reminds us in the second reading that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Those are reassuring words to hold onto. Life isn't always easy, and we all carry our own burdens, but whatever we face, the Lord walks with us. His love is constant, even when life feels uncertain.

As we begin another week, perhaps we can ask the Lord to help us notice the needs of those around us and not be afraid to offer whatever little we have. A kind word, a phone call, a visit to someone who is lonely, a helping hand—these may seem like small things, but in God's hands they can make a real difference.

What am I hungry for? And what small gift can I place into the Lord's hands today?

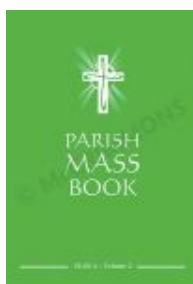
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 August 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Esther Gibbons



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 111 of the Parish Mass Book



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Lord in your mercy

WEEKDAY MASS AND SERVICE

On Tuesday at 2pm there is a funeral service in St Robert's for Margaret Grundy

Mass on Friday at St Robert's will be at 10.45am and is a funeral Mass for Agnes Yarwood

May they both Rest in Peace

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CONTACT YOUR MP TO OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted dying. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill.

Please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament. For more information and resources, visit: cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

FAITH INTO ACTION – VOLUNTEERING WITH CAFOD

Would you like to volunteer for CAFOD and make a difference in the lives of countless people in poverty throughout the world? You can help in your parish, local schools and other interesting ways.



If you're interested in joining CAFOD's community of volunteers for a better world, please get in touch on liverpool@cafod.org.uk or 07779 804 241. We look forward to meeting you.

A FLOWER FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE CATHEDRAL'S 60th DIAMOND JUBILEE 2027 - THURSDAY 14 - MONDAY 17 MAY 2027

Experienced floral arrangers are needed for next year's event to celebrate the Metropolitan Cathedral's Diamond Jubilee. The theme will be 'Hope' in all its different forms. If interested, please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk. For further details.

FR MARK LEAVING

We are all aware that Fr Mark will be leaving us at the end of August to take up his new position in West Derby. He will be back with us on Sunday 30th August and his final Mass in the Parish will be on Monday 31st August at 12 noon in English Martyrs.

Obviously, we want to give Fr Mark a lovely 'send off' to thank him for his wonderful 10 years as our Parish Priest. We will have a 'get together' after Mass – weather permitting this will be in the garden at the back of English Martyrs Church.

We will need to know numbers for catering so please let either office know if you will be attending. We appreciate that it is the Bank Holiday Monday so some people may be away. Also if we have any 'star bakers' please let us know if you can provide any cakes.

We will have a parish collection for Fr Mark. If you wish to contribute to this please just place in an envelope and pass to either office.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for some nice weather and give Fr Mark a farewell celebration to remember!

EVENING PRAYER WITH THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO - Sunday 13 September at 3pm

All are invited to assemble as our archdiocesan family at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 13 September at 3pm for the culmination of the Apostolic Nuncio's visit to the archdiocese.

This date coincides with the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Metropolitan Chapter of Liverpool. The celebration will take the form of Evening Prayer sung in the Cathedral. There will be a drinks reception following in the Cathedral crypt..



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

The Apostolic Nuncio will also celebrate the Solemn Mass at 11am in the Cathedral on that date.

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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

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PILGRIMAGE MASS IN HONOUR OF BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI - Monday 31 August

12:00pm at St Anne & Blessed Dominic Church, Sutton

Bishop Tom Neylon will celebrate this annual Pilgrimage Mass in honour of Blessed Dominic Barberi. All are welcome to attend.

St Anne & Blessed Dominic Church, Monastery Road, Sutton, St Helens WA9 3ZD

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. John Vianney (1786–1859),

The patron saint of parish priests, was a humble French priest renowned for his holiness, compassion, and dedication to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Despite struggling in his studies, he was ordained and assigned to the small village of Ars, where his prayerful example and tireless ministry transformed the parish. Thousands traveled from across France to seek his counsel and confession.



Canonized in 1925, St. John Vianney remains an inspiring model of faithful service, reminding us that prayer, humility, and love for God can profoundly touch the lives of others.

His Feast day is 4 August

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - 25–31 OCTOBER 2026

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen is organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes, open to adults aged 18–70. Prices start from £600 per person; contact the Guild for full details and booking information. For more information, please contact Rose Curry on 07932 729896.

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CATHOLIC PIC'

The August edition of Catholic Pic is now available in both churches. The main article is the celebration for Mgr John Furnival's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood.

Ad Multos Annos Fr John!



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

CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING OF THE CENTENARY OF ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, TOXTETH – 22 AUGUST

All are welcome to join St Patrick's Church as the parish celebrate the opening of its centennial year. Archbishop John Sherrington will be presiding at Mass.

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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!

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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.

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



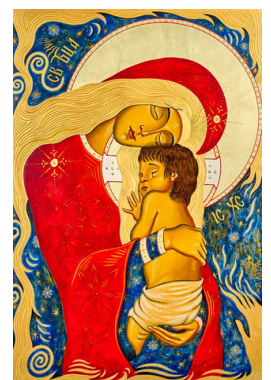
THE PILGRIMAGE MASS TO THE HOLY HAND OF ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH – Sunday 30 August, 3:00PM St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Liverpool Road,, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 9NP

The Principal Celebrant will be Fr John Hogan of the Diocese of Meath, Ireland. He is the author of the most recent CTS booklet on the life of St Edmund Arrowsmith. All are welcome! If you would like to volunteer, there will be a meeting at the Canons' Hall after 11am Mass on 2 August.

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.



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

CAN YOU HELP THE ROYAL HOSPITAL?

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.

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Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 2nd August Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am Joe Lovelady John Daly	11.00am Anne Hunter George & Irene Byrne
Monday 3rd August	10.30am Leila Bromilow	
Tuesday 4th August		10.30am Sheila & Joe Morley 2.00pm Funeral service Margaret Grundy
Wednesday 5th August	NO MASS	
Thursday 6th August	10.30am Evelyn Bisson	
Friday 7th August		10.45am Funeral Mass Agnes Yarwood
Saturday 8th August	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 9th August	9.30am Michael McDermott	11.00am Tony Hoare

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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