



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



It is with great joy and humility that I begin this new chapter among you as your Parochial Administrator.

As I take up this appointment, following Fr Mark Madden, I come not simply as “the new priest,” but as a fellow pilgrim, brother, son, friend and priest. I look forward to journeying with you through the joys, struggles, laughter and ordinary moments of parish life. Please pray for me as I begin this new mission; I promise to pray for you, your families and the friendships and relationships God will bless during my time here.

Today’s readings offer us a beautiful lesson in Christian responsibility. Ezekiel reminds us that sometimes love requires us to speak the truth. Ezekiel speaks of the watchman's responsibility. Jesus teaches us how to correct one another not with anger or humiliation, but with charity, patience and the desire to restore communion. St Paul gives us the simplest measure: “Love does no wrong to a neighbour.” There is a parish saying that if two Catholics disagree, eventually one will say, “I forgive you, but I shall remember this in my prayers!” Perhaps that is why Jesus also reminds us that when two or three gather in his name, he is among them!

May our parish be a community where we speak truth gently, forgive generously, listen humbly and keep Christ at the centre. I look forward to walking this journey with you.

Pray for me and be assured of my prayers for you.

Fr Anthony Roger Afaako

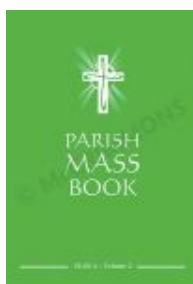
Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lunden
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Esther Gibbons
John Wilkinson
John Power



TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 125 of the
Parish Mass Book

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER



For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of
water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal
access to it.

Lord in your mercy

MASSES and SERVICE

There is a funeral service at 11.45am on Tuesday in St Robert's for Marie Hayes
May she Rest in Peace

There is no Mass at English Martyrs on Thursday

WELCOME FR ANTHONY

This weekend we welcome Fr Anthony as our new Priest. He has given us a lovely reflection for this week's newsletter. We will get to know him as the weeks and months go by but for now please keep him in your prayers as we welcome him into our Parish family



A CONCERT FOR THE NUNCIO - Saturday 12 September

All are invited to A Concert for the Nuncio on Saturday 12 September at 7.30pm at St Francis de Sales Church, Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool L4 3RL.

The concert will feature Anna Callacher (soprano), the Hope Street Consort, Paul Thomas (trumpet) and James Luxton (organ). A light supper will be served afterwards, and there will be a retiring collection. All are welcome.



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..

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



**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

SOME SAD NEWS

Please keep in your prayers Fr Mark and all his family as, on the day he was due to move into his new parish, sadly his Dad passed away. Many of us know his Mum, sister and niece from our parish trips. They really have been part of our Parish family. Please pray for them all at this saddest of times
Rest in Peace Mr Madden

Marriage Preparation Catechists Training – 1 October, 8 October, 15 October, 22 October, 29 October

Would you like to accompany the engaged couples in their journey of marriage preparation? The archdiocese is now recruiting catechists to join the marriage preparation team. The catechist training will be provided at St Joseph's Church, Penketh, Warrington WA5 2BB and consists of five sessions. Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course taking place across the archdiocese. If this is something you are interested in, please sign up here <https://tinyurl.com/5c52zbbz>
For more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

ADOREMUS – Saturday 10 October 9am – 6pm at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Join us on the 10th of October for this year's Adoremus. The theme this year is "How we are Eucharist". Come and join us to adore the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The event itself is free and available to all. At the Metropolitan Cathedral, there will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, Holy Mass, opportunities for confession, a variety of workshops and a shared time of prayer during the day for all. Celebrated with Archbishop John Sherrington, this is an event not to be missed! Sign up for workshops here:
archdioceseofliverpool.org/adoremus2026

PAULINE BOOK CENTRE – TALK BY Mgr PETER FLEETWOOD - Saturday 19 September, 2pm

Monsignor Peter Fleetwood will be hosting a talk on the use of AI and what it means for Catholics to use AI whilst following the guidelines not only set by the Church but also outlined within Pope Leo XIV's recent encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas". Please sign up via Pauline Book Centre – Liverpool@pauline-uk.org or 0151 709 1328.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

FR MARK

Thank you to everyone who attended the celebration for Fr Mark leaving. It really was a lovely few hours together.

We send him every good wish for his new appointment at St Paul and St Timothy in West Derby.



ALIVE Worship celebration: Sun 20th Sept, 4-5pm Our Lady of the Assumption Church, L25 2RW

Come and experience worship and prayer led by One Hope Project, a Catholic collective bringing impactful music, fresh creativity and building community. ALIVE celebrates God's active presence in our lives. There will be prayer, adoration, friendship and hospitality to follow. All are welcome!

IRENAEUS WATERLOO

Fr Chris at Irenaeus is asking for volunteers to give up just a few hours of their time to help at the centre. They particularly need help on a Monday afternoon. If you have any spare time please contact either him or Jenny on 0151 949 1199

Marriage Preparation Course – Monday 26 October, 2 November, 9 November, 16 November

Are you planning to get married in a Catholic church? The archdiocese is now offering the marriage preparation course for engaged couples. To be led by trained lay facilitators, the 4-session course will help the couples develop skills which could facilitate good communication within their relationship and an understanding of sacramental marriage within Catholic faith.

The next course will be available on Monday 26 October, 2 November, 9 November and 16 November (for 4 consecutive Wednesday), at St Anne's Church, Prescott Road, Ormskirk, L39 4TG. There is a non-refundable cost of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. If you are interested to join, please book online here <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/cMQ1fpza3G?origin=lprLink>

More information about upcoming courses for this year, please refer to the archdiocesan website <https://tinyurl.com/mr6p8vne>

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

SHOWING OF "THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING" - Tuesday 15 September – 7PM

A showing of the film "The People's Emergency Briefing" in the parish rooms of St Anne's, Overbury Street, Liverpool L7 3HJ.

The film features footage from last year's National Emergency Briefing, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature. It presents a clear, measured overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting life in the UK.

The initiative is non-partisan and has support from organisations including National Trust, Church of England, Exeter University, the Royal Meteorological Society, WWF, National Education Union, and many more.

Following the 50-minute film, we will host a 45-minute discussion on what it means for our community

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

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

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

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

WEEKEND OF PRAYER AND RENEWAL - Retreat at St Joseph's Prayer Centre – 25th – 27th September

“The Lord heals, restores, and renews...” Keynote Speaker: Ros Powell. Booking is essential. Residential stay: £190; Non-residential with meals: £50 per day; self-catering: donation.

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.

50 YEARS OF LOURDES MEMORIES CAPTURED IN ONE BEAUTIFUL SCRAPBOOK

From iconic photos to quirky facts and the stories that shaped our pilgrimage family, this anniversary edition is something truly special.

■ £10

■ £15 with commemorative badge

Every penny supports our Youth Pilgrimage, helping the next generation make their own memories.

To purchase, contact: admin@animateyouth.co.uk or 01744 740461



MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE - Wednesday 9, 16, 23 And 30 September 2026, at 6.30pm - 8.30pm

The Archdiocese is offering a marriage preparation course for engaged couples. Led by trained lay facilitators, the 4-session course will help the couples develop skills to facilitate good communication within their relationship and an understanding of sacramental marriage within Catholic faith.

The next course will be taking place at Christ the King Church, Childwall, L15 6YQ. There is a cost of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. If you are interested, please book online here: forms.cloud.microsoft/e/ASxKS8Cnnp?origin=lpLink

More information about upcoming courses for this year, please refer to the archdiocesan website www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/marriage-family-life/marriage-preparation

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>

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

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.

ST FRANCIS: CELEBRATING 800 YEARS – SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER, 6pm

Pilkington Choir will be performing a special concert, followed by tea and coffee and a raffle, to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. The event will be held at St Francis of Assisi, Garston, L18 1RT, and all are welcome to attend. Tickets cost £5 and can be bought from Fr David Potter, or from Anne (01744 732504), or bought with cash at the door.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

Irenaeus Waterloo are running a Eucharistic Minister Training day on Saturday 26th September 2026 from 9.15am to 4.00pm. If you are interested in becoming a Minister please have a word with Fr Anthony and we will get you booked on the course.

LOOK, LISTEN, LINGER, LOVE – Retreat at St Joseph's Prayer Centre – Saturday 12 September, 10am – 4pm

Come along to this day retreat to encounter God in the beauty of creation. Take time to see, hear, and be still. A peaceful day of reflection, prayer, and time together to help us slow down, notice God's presence, and grow in love for Him. £15 with lunch & refreshments included. To book your place, email theprayercentre.stj@psmgs.org.uk or call 01704875850.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 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



When a devastating earthquake hit Myanmar nearly 18 months ago, CAFOD responded through our partners and the church network. Now, CAFOD's international staff involved in that response are visiting Liverpool Archdiocese! Hear about their work with families and communities affected by the earthquake – the type of work made possible with your support.



Tuesday 8th Sept - 6.45pm for a 7pm start - 8.30pm

St Anne's parish room, Overbury Street, Liverpool L7 3HJ (Car parking for church on Harbord Street. Overflow parking - a Tesco across the road on Overton Street which has a maximum stay of 3 hours). Be careful not to park in the residents only restricted street area.

The event will be held in the parish room at the back of the church which can be accessed from the car park through the orange gates.”

NUGENT SLEEP OUT 2026 - Thursday 24 September, 6pm

Support Nugent Sleep Out 2026 and help raise vital funds and awareness for people experiencing homelessness, poverty and social isolation across our communities. By spending one night outdoors, participants will help support Nugent's life-changing work with children, young people, adults and families, while reflecting on the challenges faced by some of the most vulnerable in society.

The Reader, Mansion House, Calderstones Park, Liverpool L18 3JB

Whether you take part yourself or sponsor someone who does, your support will help provide care, opportunity and hope to those who need it most. All are welcome.

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.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 6th September Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am People of the Parish Maureen Wilkinson	11.00am John French Carl Jones
Monday 7th September	10.00am Molly Dempsey	
Tuesday 8th September		10.00am Joe Morrisroe 11.45am Funeral Service Marie Hayes
Wednesday 9th September	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 10th September	NO MASS	
Friday 11th September		10.00am Anthony Murphy
Saturday 12th September	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 13th September	9.30am Debbie & John Vondy	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