



Parish of St Josephine Bakhita



ENGLISH MARTYRS



PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE



As I continue settling into new parish life here at Saint Josephine Bakhita, this past week offered one of those moments that gently reminds a priest of the depth of our shared faith.

On Tuesday, I joined a few parishioners for the requiem Mass for Mr Bernard Madden, father of Canon Mark, our cherished former Parish Priest at Saint Dominic's in Huyton. It was a solemn, dignified celebration, weaving together faith, family, and hope. May his soul rest in peace.

Today's readings speak directly to the heart of conversion. Ezekiel challenges us to recognise that God's justice is not rigid bookkeeping but the invitation to turn back, even late in the day. Psalm 24 asks who may ascend the Lord's mountain: those with clean hands and pure hearts. One parishioner once told me, "Father, my hands are clean... unless you inspect my garden shed!" We laughed, but the truth remains: God looks beyond the surface.

In the Gospel, Jesus presents two sons: one who says "no" but later obeys, and one who says "yes" but never acts. It's the spiritual version of the person who promises to help with the parish raffle... and then disappears faster than the last slice of cake at a coffee morning. Jesus reminds us that true obedience is lived, not announced. Saint Paul calls us to the humility of Christ, thinking not of status but of service.

As I continue finding my feet among you, I pray we become a parish where our "yes" to God is seen in the quiet, faithful beauty of our actions

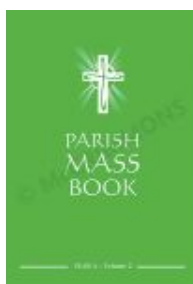
Fr Anthony

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Landon
Margaret Spencer
Peter Gibbons

Esther Gibbons
John Wilkinson
John Power



TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 134 of the
Parish Mass Book



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be
established throughout the Church, helping to
overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons
with mental illnesses.

Lord in your mercy

MASSES THIS WEEK

Please note that there is no mass at St Robert's on Friday 2nd October

CONFESSIONS

Fr Anthony will now be available at English Martyrs to hear confessions on Saturdays at 4pm – starting next Saturday 3rd October

TIME TO ACT: A just peace for all who call the Holy Land home. Sunday 27 September, 3:00pm–5:30pm.

Starts at Metropolitan Cathedral, finishes at Liverpool Cathedral. Walk of Witness with local Church Leaders, followed by a panel discussion (featuring Daoud Nassar, Canon Yazid Said, and the Just Peace Coalition) and a peaceful vigil. <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/time-to-act-liverpool>

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING, Saturday 28 November – The Irenaeus Centre (L22 1RD)

This course examines our baptismal calling, Vatican II's teaching on ministry, and the role of the Eucharistic minister. It also offers an opportunity to celebrate our place in the Church's synodal life. Parishes are encouraged to enable the faithful to receive Communion as both the Body and Blood of Christ.

The day runs from 9.15 am to 4pm. Speak to Fr Anthony if you are interested and we will get you enrolled

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass on Sunday mornings at St Robert's.

Please remember to refrain from talking or whispering inside church during this time.



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

THANKS FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED

I apologise for using the newsletter for personal news but I know so many people have kindly been praying for my granddaughter that I wanted to thank you and share some wonderful news. On Thursday Frances was finally well enough to be discharged from hospital and is now at home with Sara and Tom. It has been a very long and emotional nine weeks but your prayers have been a source of comfort to us and this little lady is now where she should be - with her family.



Thank you for all your love and support.

Bernie

YOUNG ADULTS MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON – Thursday 3 October

Archbishop John Sherrington invites young people aged 18-35 to celebrate Mass with him on Saturday 3 October, 5pm at St Philip Neri Church, Liverpool L8 7NL.

The meal following Mass is now fully booked, but all are still very welcome to the Mass.

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

ALIVE Worship celebration: Sun 27th Sept, 4-5pm - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE 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!

IRENÆUS 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>

ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL HAVE SENT A LOVELY INVITE FOR PARISHIONERS:-

☕ Mini Vinnies Coffee Morning – Everyone Welcome! ☕

The Mini Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul for Children) at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School would love to invite parishioners to a special Coffee Morning on Wednesday 30th September at 10.00am, held at English Martyrs School.

Our Year 6 Mini Vinnies are looking forward to bringing people of all ages together to share tea, conversation and friendship – making time for others and sharing kindness, one cup at a time.



There will be tea, coffee and cakes, so please come along, enjoy a drink and a biscuit, have a chat and spend some time with our wonderful young Mini Vinnies.

Everyone is very welcome! We look forward to seeing you there. Please see Bernie for a free ticket.

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.

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



Scripture Mornings: You either get it, or you don't. A look at the parables
10:30AM - 12:00PM

4,11,18,25 November

The latest Scripture Mornings from the Irenaeus Project. All are very welcome to attend.

If you cannot attend in person, a Zoom link can be requested via centreirenaeus@gmail.com

Archbishop's Certificate in Catechesis (Applications for 2026-2028 are now open)

This two-year online course whose aim is to equip and support catechists and lay leaders in evangelisation and formation. Beginning from mid-October, the course consisted of a study over 12 units, with four in-person Saturday sessions and seven online study sessions. For more details, please visit <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/liverpool>

CAFOD FAST DAY

Friday 2nd October is our day of solidarity and support for those most in need in our world. We do without something (we fast) and share the proceeds via CAFOD with those in need. CAFOD is the agency that brings the love and care of God to so many.

Please take an envelope today and keep it carefully and then return it when you have marked the day.



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



SPEAKEASY MUSIC GROUP 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – 24 October

Speakeasy Music Group will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at St William of York Church.

Mass will be celebrated at 6pm, followed by music and refreshments in the parish club. We would love to welcome any past members or friends of Speakeasy so that we can catch up and reminisce about the many memories we share.

For further information, please contact Helen McCall (formerly Exton/Cain) at helen.speakeasy@hotmail.com or 07778 746600.

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>

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.

HAVE YOU LOST A WATCH?

A watch has been found in English Martyrs Parish Hall. If you have lost one or know of someone who has please see Bernie in Parish office

DO YOU HAVE GREEN FINGERS?!

Our lovely ladies at English Martyrs who have given us wonderful flower arrangements for many years have decided to hang up their secateurs! We thank them for all they have done – just quietly volunteering week in and week out. They have been amazing.

Do you enjoy flower arranging? Would you like to help with the flowers at English Martyrs? It really is a lovely job and an important part of our Church life.



Have a word with Bernie in English Martyrs office who can give you more information.

ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE “200 CLUB” SEPTEMBER DRAW

1st £20 No. 57 H Birrell
2nd £15 No. 181 M Whittaker
3rd £10 No. 3 M Lovelady
4th £10 No. 142 S Bulger



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

WE DON'T LISTEN AS WELL AS WE THINK WE DO - Tuesday 22 & 29 September

Most of what people try to tell us never actually lands. Not because they didn't say it – but because we weren't really listening.

What gets in the way of listening to one another? What might change if we learned to listen differently – not just to information, but to the person in front of us?

Because when we truly listen, something happens. It stops being transactional – one person giving, another receiving – and becomes an exchange of gifts, often unexpected. Every person carries something worth hearing, however small or unlikely it might seem to them, or to us.

This is what synodality is really about: not more talking, but a different way of being together – one shaped by prayer, silence, and the discipline of genuine attention. Not a talking shop. A way of walking together that actually moves.

The School for Synodality is offering a 2 session Introduction to Synodality course for anyone new to synodality or wanting to go deeper.

Course details - There are 2 options – morning or evening sessions – both via zoom.

Session 1: Tuesday 22 September 2026 11 am - 1pm UK time (BST/GMT+1)

Session 2: Tuesday 29 September 2026 11 am - 1pm UK time (BST/GMT+1)

More information here: www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/events/introduction-to-synodality-autumn-2026morning

OR

Session 1: Tuesday 22 September 2026 7pm - 9pm UK time (BST/GMT+1)

Session 2: Tuesday 29 September 2026 7pm - 9pm UK time (BST/GMT+1)

More information here: www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/events/introduction-to-synodality-autumn-2026-evening

Find details of our other courses here:

www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/news/formation-and-training-with-school-for-synodality-new-dates

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus – the Little Flower

Feast Day: October 1

St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, was a French Carmelite nun in Lisieux who died of tuberculosis at the young age of 24. She was born in 1873, died in 1897. She believed that, since she would never be rich or famous, that she could serve God by the little things she did. Because of her simple approach to Jesus, she has come to be known as the “Little Flower” and her approach to God as the “Little Way.” She wrote:

"Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love." In her prayers, she would often say, “Make me resemble you, Jesus!”

*O Little Thérèse of the Child Jesus,
Please pick for me a rose from the heavenly gardens
and send it to me as a message of love.*

*O Little Flower of Jesus,
ask God to grant the favors I now place with confidence in your hands.
(pause to think of your personal intention)
St. Thérèse, help me to always believe
as you did in God's great love for me,
so that I might imitate your "Little Way" each day.
Amen.*



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.

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 27th September Sanctuary Lamp	9.30am Celia Byrne Kitty & Tom Murphy	11.00am People of the Parish Sheila Morley
Monday 28th September	10.00am Maureen Mullarkey	
Tuesday 29th September		10.00am Nicholas Bolan
Wednesday 30th September	NO MASS	NO MASS
Thursday 1st October	10.00am Magdalen & John Rimmer	
Friday 2nd October		NO MASS
Saturday 3rd October	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sunday 4th October	9.30am People of the Parish	11.00am Anne Kelly

English Martyrs Office
School Lane, Litherland, L21 7LX

0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm

St Robert Bellarmine Office
Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 6DZ

0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm