

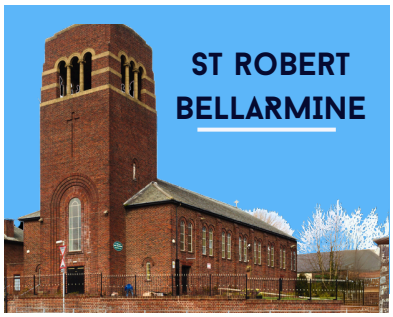
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako



Mission Sunday always reminds us that the Church doesn't simply have a mission—she is a mission. This weekend, I shall be saying my farewell Mass at Holy Name RC Church, and I find myself reflecting on how every goodbye is really God whispering, "Your mission continues... just in a new place."

Today's readings beautifully intertwine themes of divine purpose and our response to God's call. Isaiah gives us an unexpected missionary: Cyrus, a Persian king who didn't even know God, yet God chose him to free Israel. It's biblical proof that God can work through anyone, yes, even the parishioner who always arrives late but somehow gets the best seat.

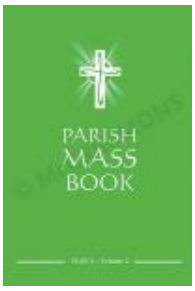
Psalm 96 widens the horizon: "Proclaim His salvation day by day." Mission isn't a specialist hobby; it's the Christian lifestyle. A child once told me, "Mission means telling people God is kind... and sometimes reminding Dad not to shout at the TV." Surprisingly sound theology.
St Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, reminds us that mission begins with example. They preached Christ not just with words but with conviction, joy, and the Spirit's power.

In the Gospel, Jesus sidesteps a political trap with divine wit: "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God." Mission is exactly that: giving God our hearts, our witness, our courage. Let us remember that being on a mission doesn't mean we have to travel far. Sometimes, it's as simple as sharing a smile or a kind word with a neighbour. This week, let's consider how we can be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Whether it's our time, talents, or treasures, we are called to share them generously. As we celebrate Mission Sunday, may we remember that every moment, every kindness, every prayer, every act of patience is missionary work. May we continue the mission joyfully, generously, and faithfully. May we all be inspired to live out our calling, bringing light to the world around us. God bless you all!
Fr Anthony

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL



Mary Spofforth
Michael Lundon
John Power
Peter Gibbons
Esther Gibbons
Margaret Spencer



TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 143 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



NOVEMBER MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

Envelopes are now available at the back of both churches for names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the month of November.

Please pringt the names, add a donation and bring it back to church.
Masses in remembrance will be said throughout the month

CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION

Fr Anthony is now available at English Martyrs to hear confessions on Saturdays at 4pm

There will also be Holy Hour exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the hour from 4pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



There is now 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 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, Prescot 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

A MESSAGE FROM FR MARK

After ten wonderful years in Litherland, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you all for the extraordinary kindness, friendship and generosity you have shown me, particularly over these past few weeks.

I have been deeply touched by the many beautiful cards, generous gifts, messages and good wishes I received as I prepared to leave. Your thoughtfulness has been overwhelming, and I am enormously grateful.

Above all, I want to thank you for the prayers you have shown me and my family following the death of my dad. Losing him on the day that I was leaving the parish was something I could never have anticipated. Your kindness, especially from those who attended his funeral, has brought us tremendous comfort during this time. I will never forget it.

This weekend, I will finally be moving into the presbytery at St Paul's and beginning to make it my new home. It has taken a little longer than expected, but I am looking forward to getting settled, even if there are still many boxes to unpack!

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your priest. Please keep me in your prayers, as I will certainly keep you in mine.

With my love, heartfelt thanks and prayers,

Fr Mark

EUCHARISTIC 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

YOUTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION – Sunday 22 November

Come and join us for our Youth Sunday Celebration at LACE! The fabulous 'One Hope Project' are hosting the day, and there will be guest speakers on the theme of TAKE COURAGE, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD. The workshops will be on Courage to Listen, Courage to Pray, and Courage to Act.

The day will start at 10am and finish with Mass together with Archbishop John Sherrington at 5pm. There will be a marketplace of information and groups to get involved with.

Please bring a packed lunch.

The day is free and open to all young people in Secondary school, but they must apply for
tickets and attend with a chaplain, teacher, or youth leader/ catechist.

The ratio is 1 adult to 8 young people aged 11 or 12; and 1 adult to 10 young people aged 13+. (Parents must give young people permission to attend and give leaders permission to share young person's information with the archdiocese.)

We look forward to seeing you there!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Today we welcome the Year 4 children from our schools to Mass at English Martyrs for their enrolment Mass as they begin their preparation for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation next year. Please keep them in your prayers

FLAME 2027 THE UK'S LARGEST CATHOLIC YOUTH CONGRESS – SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2027

We are arranging for tickets and coaches to go to Wembley for FLAME - where 10000 young Catholics come together for praise, worship and talks. You can find out more here FLAME 27 – CYMFED If you are interested in possibly bringing a group of young people then please contact Sarah McGeehan (Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator) for more information on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048

LECTIO FOR YOUNG ADULTS

A lectio prayer group for young adults meets every Friday at 18:00 at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN. For more information, please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or call 07546667394. To join the WhatsApp community please follow the https://tinyurl.com/53brpjbz

OFF TO UNI?

The Chaplaincy to the University of Liverpool, John Moores University and the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts is based at St Philip Neri Church on Catharine St, L8 7NL. We offer a place of welcome and hospitality for students and staff.

There is a student Sunday Mass at 6pm during term time, and many events through the week and the academic year, helping students to explore their faith, develop their prayer life, and – importantly! socialise with each other and have fun.

The chaplain is Fr Neil Ritchie and he is always available to help and support students and staff, whether they are Catholic, are interested in the church or just like what we have on offer. There is a very active student led Catholic Society. There is a group for staff members which meets fortnightly at the chaplaincy; in the coming year we will be reading together and discussing The Afternoon of Christianity by Tomáš Halík.

If you are interested, please contact Fr Neil.Our website is www.cathchap.org.uk

Fr Neil's email: n.ritchie@rcaol.org.uk
Phone: 0151 709 3858



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

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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

ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS - Saturday 28 November 10AM – 4PM

Led by Fr Derek Lloyd, we will organise the Advent Retreat for Young Adults on Saturday 28th November at St Basil's Church, Widnes, WA8 4SZ.

The Retreat Day will start at 10am and aim to finish at 4pm. The event is free of charge, but please bring your packed lunch.

For further information please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

NUGENT CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Nugent's Christmas Toy Appeal is back! We are welcoming donations of new, unopened toys and gifts for primary ages (4-11) and secondary aged (11-16) children, suitable for both girls and boys. If you would like to donate, you can drop toys off at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA during November.

SOUTH SEFTON DEANERY WOMAN'S FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP MEETING
22 October 7:00PM

The latest meeting of the South Sefton Deanery Woman's Faith and Friendship group. Come along and share prayer, friendship, and a short talk on a saint whose feast we have celebrated this month.

St Helen, Crosby, Alexandra Road, Crosby, L23 7TG

RIVER OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Lady's Help of Christians, Portico, Knitters & Stitchers group invite you to enjoy their 'River of Remembrance' which includes approximately 3000 knitted & crochet poppies. Whilst the display can be viewed anytime as it is in the garden, the parish hall will be open for tea & coffee on all Thursday afternoons during November. 1-4pm. All are welcome.

Our Lady Help of Christians, Portico, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park, L34 2QT

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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DEACON?

The deacon embodies the spirit of service and compassion in the Church, a man who is dedicated and humble, uniquely ordained to help both the spiritual needs and the practical needs of a community. Candidates for the diaconate are typically mature men between the ages of 30 and 65. If they are married, they must be in a stable sacramental marriage.

The journey to discern if you have a calling to the diaconate involves asking yourself whether you have a genuine desire to serve God and His Church in this capacity. We invite you to attend either or both of our enquirers' events to learn more about the role of deacons, their ministry in parish life, and to support your prayerful discernment

Online: Tuesday 20 October, 7pm (Scan the QR code to book)
In Person: Tuesday 24th November, 7pm, St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith Canon's Hall, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield.

Scan me!

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

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.

NUGENT'S LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICES

Join Nugent's Christmas remembrance services across the Archdiocese and dedicate a star to a loved one.

Wednesday 25 November, 6pm – St Mary's Church, Leyland. Led by Fr Joe Bibby, followed by refreshments.
Thursday 3rd December, 12 noon – Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. Led by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Tom Williams, followed by refreshments.

For more details or to dedicate a star to a loved one, please scan the QR code or visit: wearenugent.org/events



CHRISTMAS (Yes it's coming!) AT THE PHIL!

We again have tickets available for our annual trip to the Liverpool Philharmonic for
'The Spirit of Christmas' on Friday 18 December.

'A festive extravaganza like no other, it's got to be Spirit of Christmas! Liverpool's greatest musical Christmas tradition, these legendary concerts are packed with classic carols, audience singalongs and always a few special surprises too... Lighting up our stage this year, we'll have the one and only Jess Dandy, coming together with Matthew Hamilton, the Orchestra and Choirs to deliver the city's biggest Christmas party.'

Cost including coach transport to and from the venue is £62. Deposit of £10 secures your seat on the coach and your ticket. First come, first served! So be quick. Names and deposit to either parish office

Watch this space in the coming weeks for other Christmas events

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - 18 October

This Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection at the end of Masses today.

This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

To donate, use the Missio envelopes at the back of Church , call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

You can also use the QR code shown here

Pope Leo XIV has written this prayer to mark the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday.

Holy Father, make us one in Christ, rooted in his love that
unites and renews.
May all members of the Church be united in mission,
docile to the Holy Spirit, courageous in bearing witness to the Gospel,
proclaiming and embodying daily your faithful love for all creatures.
Bless all missionary men and women, support them in their efforts,
and watch over them in hope!
Mary, Queen of Missions, accompany our work of evangelisation
in every corner of the earth: make us instruments of peace,
and grant that the whole world may recognise in Christ the light that saves
Amen

missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 18th October	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Margaret, Gerard & Albert Price
Sanctuary Lamp	**James Bracken**	**Michael Rumsey**
Monday 19th October	**10.00am** Wendy O'Brien	
Tuesday 20th October		**10.00am** Aspinwall Family
Wednesday 21st October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 22nd October	**10.00am** Thanksgiving (prayers received)	
Friday 23rd October		**10.00am** **L**eila Bromilow
Saturday 24th October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 25th October	**9.30am** Tony Coady	**11.00am** People of the Parish

English Martyrs Office 0151 928 3471 englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk
School Lane, Litherland,L21 7LX Office hours Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm

St Robert Bellarmine Office 0151 922 1352 strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Orrell Road, Bootle, L20 6DZ Office hours Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm