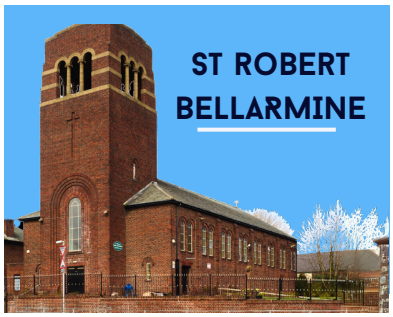
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako



This Sunday's readings invite us to step into one of Scripture's most joyful images: God preparing a feast for His people.

Isaiah speaks of a banquet on the mountain, rich food, fine wine, and the wiping away of every tear. It is God's way of saying, "I want you close, fed, healed, and rejoicing."

A parishioner once told me, "Father, if heaven has a buffet, I'm definitely going!" We laughed, but the truth is that God's hospitality is far more generous than any earthly spread.

Psalm 23 continues the theme: "You prepare a table before me." The Lord is not a distant host; He is a shepherd who knows our needs. I'm reminded of a recent parish tea where someone insisted I take a second slice of cake "for pastoral strength." I didn't argue. God's care is just as persistent; He keeps offering what restores us.
In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast. Historically, a royal banquet was the highest honour imaginable. Yet many invited guests refuse. One even goes off to his farm, perhaps the ancient equivalent of saying, "Sorry, can't come, Father... I need to sort the shed." Jesus warns that God's invitation is serious, and His joy is meant to be shared. Saint Paul reminds us that he has learned to be content in all circumstances because Christ strengthens him. That is the secret to accepting God's invitation: trust.

As we gather this week, may we come to the Lord's table with open hearts, ready to feast on His mercy, clothed in His grace, and joyful in His call.
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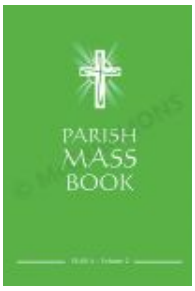
Fr Anthony

PLEASE OFFER YOUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ILL

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



TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 140 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

FUNERAL SERVICE THIS WEEK

There is a funeral service at 1.00 pm on Thursday in St Robert's for Christopher Pomeroy

May he Rest in Peace

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

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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.

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

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CATHOLIC PIC

The 'Pic' is now available at the back of both churches. Main article is the visit of the Apostolic Nuncio. Please take a copy

Marriage Preparation Catechists Training – 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

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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

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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

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 COMMUNION

Please keep in your prayers this week the Year 4 children from our schools who are beginning their preparation for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation next year

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

ARCHBISHOP'S CERTIFICATE – Starting Monday 14 October

The Archbishop's Certificate in Catechesis is the principal training course in the Archdiocese of Liverpool whose aim is to equip and support catechists and lay leaders in evangelisation and formation.

Applications are open for this year. For more information, or to apply, please visit: aec.rcaos.org.uk/liverpool

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

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

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.

PRISONER'S SUNDAY - 11 OCTOBER

Today is Prisoner's Sunday and is the national Catholic day of prayer for prisoners and their families

It is a moment to reflect on the lives of those affected by imprisonment- those in prison and their children and families, and all who struggle with the lasting impact of justice system involvement. It is an invitation to respond with compassion, prayer and practical support.

Pact is the National Catholic prison charity. I t supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching they believe in the dignity of every person and the possibility of a fresh start.

Please include prisoners and their families in your prayers If you wish to donate to Pact there are envelopes at the back of Church.
There is more information on volunteering etc at www.prisonadvice.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

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.

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.

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

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection.

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.

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11 October 2026

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 11th October **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Linda Little **Denise Hagan**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Ann and Bob Jones**
Monday 12th October	**10.00am** Jeanette Southern	
Tuesday 13th October		**10.00am** Bernadette Duffy
Wednesday 14th October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 15th October	**10.00am** Patrick & Rose Maloney	**1.00pm** Funeral Service Christopher Pomeroy
Friday 16th October		**10.00am** Thomas O'Shea
Saturday 17th October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 18th October	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Margaret, Gerard & Albert Price

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