

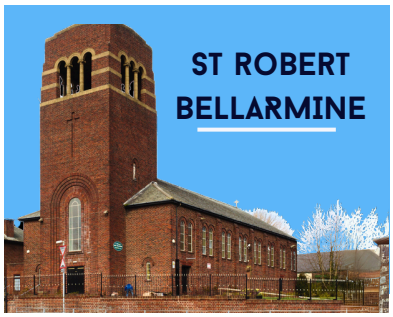
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako



Half-term is upon us: some will enjoy a breather, others will take on extra duties as the little ones charge around with renewed energy. Whatever this week holds, let love be our foundation.

Providentially, this Sunday's readings return us to the heartbeat of Christian life: love expressed in action. A child once told me, "Love means sharing your crisps… even when you don't want to." That is Exodus, Paul, and Jesus in one line.

In Exodus 22, God reminds Israel, newly freed from slavery, that compassion is not optional. Care for the stranger, the widow, the orphan, the poor. These laws protected those with no voice or legal standing. In Liverpool terms: "Don't forget the ones everyone else forgets." Psalm 18 proclaims God as our rock and refuge. Mission begins here: letting God steady our hearts so we can steady others. A parishioner once joked, "Father, God must be my rock; He's the only one who doesn't roll His eyes at me." Surprisingly sound theology. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul praises a community whose quiet, consistent goodness became a witness to all believers. Mission is rarely dramatic; it is usually the gentle fidelity people notice when they think no one is watching.

Finally, Jesus gives us the greatest commandment: love God and love your neighbour. He unites what rabbis debated, showing that love of God is proven in love of neighbour.

May our parish Community be known not for perfection, but for love: practical, joyful, generous, unmistakably Christ-like.

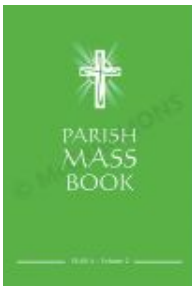
Wishing you all a blessed Sunday.

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
Lynn Fairclough



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 146 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 AND SERVICE

Please note that there is NO MASS in English Martyrs on Thursday

Also there is a funeral service in English Martyrs on Tuesday at 11am for Mary Toolan

May she Rest in Peace



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 print the names, add a donation and bring it back to church.

Masses in remembrance will be said throughout the month

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.

CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION

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

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

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE - ENGLISH MARTYRS

Please note that on Sunday 8 November there will be road closures around English Martyrs to accommodate the Remembrance Sunday Parade that will affect Mass on that day. Closures are detailed below and will be from 7am to 12pm.

Sefton Road (up to Junction of School Lane), Wilsons Lane, Litherland Park (before School Lane Junction), School Lane (entire), Cambridge Avenue, Oxford Avenue, Moss Lane,

IRISH GUARDS CHRISTMAS CHOIR

We have again invited the Irish Guards Choir to join us on Saturday 28 November from 1pm – 4pm for our Christmas 'Sing-a-long'. Those who have joined us before will know that it is a wonderful festive few hours of Carols and Christmas songs.



We will also have a small tombola so any donations would be gratefully accepted. We especially need fancy goods etc

Tickets are £3 available from both offices. A donation is given to the choir which they, in turn, donate to Charity
Come and join us for a lovely few festive hours!

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

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 invitation has now been extended to young people who would like to come but don't have an adult to bring them as there wlll be chaperones attending.

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!

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF ARCHDIOCESE

Archbishop John Sherrington invites the Parishioners to join him for Holy Mass for the deceased clergy of the Archdiocese of Liverpool at 12noon on Saturday 14 November at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

All are welecome

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool

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

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.

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

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.

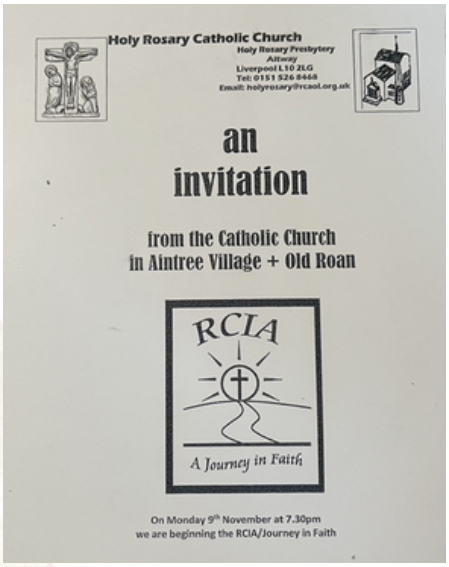
For further information please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

MORE GREEN FINGERS NEEDED



The small team of gardeners at St Robert's are looking for some more help in keeping the church grounds looking beautiful. If you're able to help, for one hour on a Friday morning, please either speak to Delia or contact the Parish office for more information.

RCIA



On Monday 9 November at 7.30pm Holy Rosary, Aintree are hosting a RCIA/Journey in Faith introduction.

This is a way of helping adults become Catholics and preparing them to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Communion.

Meetings will be held in the Romero Room at Holy Rosary Church. You are welcome to come along and see what it is like – bring a friend if you wish. The course is free!

If you are interested please contact Fr Philip, Pauline Yee or Maureen O'Brien at Holly Rosary Church

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ENGLISH MARTYRS JOSPICE "200 CLUB" OCTOBER DRAW

1st Prize £20 No. 185 B Morrin
2nd Prize £15 No. 177 M Madden
3rd Prize £10 No. 111 A Jones
4th Prize £10 No. 7 J Moran

Spare numbers are available for anyone wishing to join, £1 per month.
Contact Myra on 928 1136

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

In Person: Tuesday 24th November, 7pm, St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith Canon's Hall, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield.

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

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE SEPTEMBER 2027 Information Evening – Monday 9 November

Do you want to step away from the noise, pray and reflect and make space for God? Do you want to celebrate 110 years since Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta?

Over 11-14 September 2027, we will be making a pilgrimage to Fatima as an archdiocese. This is open to everybody, regardless of age or parish.

The pilgrimage package includes return flights, airport and local transfers, a guided visit, and the services of a McCabe tour manager. The cost is £1,090 per person based on two people sharing a twin room, with a single room supplement of £200. For further information and booking details, visit tinyurl.com/bdhc833n.

We will be hosting an online open evening about the pilgrimage on 9 November. If you would like to find out more information, sign up here: https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/fatimainfoevening

MARYS MEALS – Christmas Wreath Making Workshops – Saturday 28 November

Our Lady Help of Christians, St Helens, are hosting a festive wreath-making workshop in their church hall to help raise money for Mary's Meals, bringing hope and daily meals to children around the world.

There are two sessions available on the day: 10am-12pm or 2pm-4pm

The session, which includes tutor, all necessary material, and refreshments, costs £35 per person. Please bring your own scissors, secateurs, and/or apron if you wish. Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code or by calling 0800 698 1212.

Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 25th October **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Tony Coady **Martin Dash**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Leila Bromilow**
Monday 26th October	**10.00am** Irene Campbell	
Tuesday 27th October	**11.00am** Funeral service Mary Toolan	**10.00am** Brian Murray
Wednesday 28th October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 29th October	**NO MASS**	
Friday 30th October		**10.00am** Leila Bromilow
Saturday 31st October	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 1st November	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Anne Kelly & Rene Carey

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