

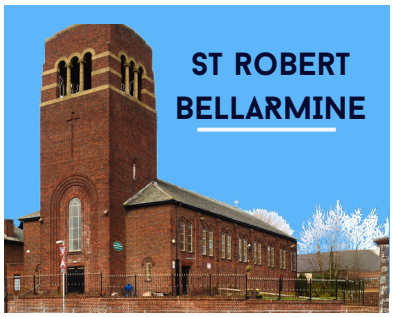
Parish of St Josephine Bakhita





PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr
Anthony Roger Afaako



November always draws us into a season of holy remembering. From All Saints last Sunday to the gentle beauty of All Souls on Monday, the Church has placed before us two profound realities: death and remembrance. Today, on Remembrance Sunday, these themes meet the lived experience of our nation as we honour those who gave their lives for peace.

The Scriptures deepen this reflection. Wisdom 6:12-16 reminds us that true wisdom is found by those who seek it with sincerity. Remembrance itself is a form of wisdom: an honest facing of our past so that we may walk more faithfully into the future.

In Psalm 63, the psalmist's longing for God reveals a truth we recognise in moments of loss: only God's love satisfies the human heart, and only His presence can steady us when life feels fragile.

St Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, offers the Church's enduring consolation: Christian grief is real, but never hopeless. Because Christ has died and risen, those who have died in Him are held in His promise of eternal life.

The Gospel (Matthew 25:1-13) calls us to vigilance through the parable of the ten bridesmaids. Faith cannot be borrowed at the last minute; discipleship is a daily readiness, a lamp kept burning through prayer, charity and integrity.

On this Remembrance Sunday, we bow our heads in gratitude for the fallen, pray for all victims of war, and renew our commitment to peace. May our remembrance be more than ceremonymay it shape how we live, speak and build community.

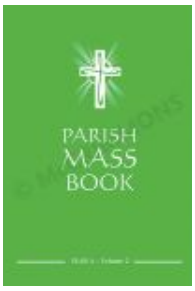
Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Sunday

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
Leo Devonald



THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Readings for Mass today can be found on Page 152 of the Parish Mass Book



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the proper use of wealth
Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Lord in your mercy

"Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. "

Lord,
keep our hearts ready and prepared.
Help us be ready when you call.
Amen.



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. Please come along - it is a wonderful hour of peaceful reflection

LIGHT OF THE WORLD: A DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR ADVENT- 12 December 10:00AM - 4:00PM

The Irenaeus Project are holding a special day of prayer and reflection for Advent. You are asked to bring a packed lunch, and a suggested donation is £10. All are welcome. For more information, contact centreirenaeus@gmail.com or call 0151 949 1199.

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!

CHRISTMAS BINGO AND RAFFLES

The Christmas Bingo will take place in English Martyrs Parish Hall on Wednesday 9 December. Tickets are now on sale at the back of both Churches.



Entry is by ticket only so please make sure that you get yours in advance. There is no admission on the door

Christmas Raffle tickets for both churches are now available at the back of each Church



We are quite short on prizes (for both churches) for the raffles so would be grateful for any donations please



CHRISTMAS AT THE PHIL!
LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS!!



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. We still have a few tickets left but need to confirm numbers soon. Names and deposit to either office asap

DISCERNING IN A DIGITAL AGE WORKSHOPS – FCJ – Wednesdays 18, 25 November, 2 December, 7:30pm – 8:30pm

A new series of workshops considering the pressures on us as we try to be attentive to God's Spirit among all the things that clamour for our attention. Join us as we look at the challenges of discerning in an age of noise. Sign up:
https://forms.gle/Bt21usn13c8tQbk17

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

SOUTH SEFTON DEANERY WOMAN'S FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP MEETING – 19 November, 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, L23 7TG

EVENING PRAYER AND CANTATA - LIVERPOOL BACH COLLECTIVE (Cantata 36) – 29 November, 6:30pm

Liverpool Bach Collective will be performing this Cantata to mark the First Sunday of Advent. It is called "Soar joyfully towards the exalted stars". All are welcome. It is free to attend, with a retiring collection.
Christ the King, Wavertree, Queens Drive, L15 6YQ

COME AND SEE: REFLECTING ON THE CHURCH IN OUR TIMES – Saturday 5 December, 10:30am – 4pm

The Irenaeus Centre is hosting a Come and See session on The Church in Our Times. Keynote speaker: Austen Ivereigh. For more info, please email: centre@irenaeus@gmail.com or call 0151 949 1199



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

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.

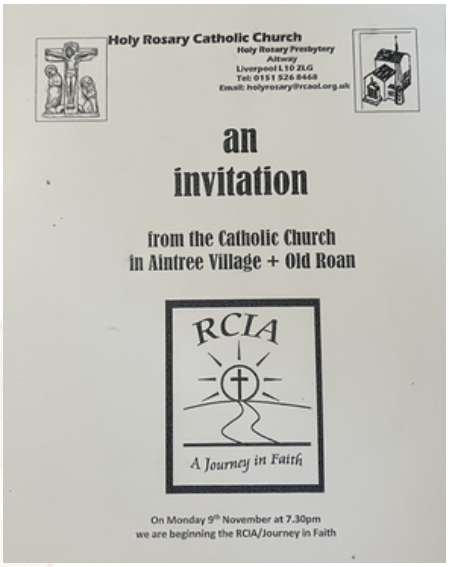
For further information please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

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" NOVEMBER DRAW

1st Prize £20 No. 70 C Maloney
2nd Prize £15 No. 42 C Matthews
3rd Prize £10 No. 105 L Smith
4th Prize £10 No. 18 C Jones

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

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



CHRISTMAS AT JOSPICE

Join our friends at Jospice on 4 December for a lovely Christmas Afternoon Tea

Myra at English Martyrs also has Christmas Cards available for purchase. They are really popular so get in quick!

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.

Thank you

Ann Jones wishes to thank all parishioners and friends for the lovely cards, presents and birthday wishes she received for her 'special' birthday that she celebrated recently.



Masses and Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Sunday 8th November **Sanctuary Lamp**	**9.30am** Lynn Fairclough **Theo Tumilty**	**11.00am** People of the Parish **Joan Povall**
Monday 9th November	**10.00am** Pious List	
Tuesday 10th November		**10.00am** Birthday Greetings (SI)
Wednesday 11th November	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Thursday 12th November	**10.00am** Michael O'Neill	
Friday 13th November		**10.00am** Pious List
Saturday 14th November	**NO MASS**	**NO MASS**
Sunday 15th November	**9.30am** People of the Parish	**11.00am** Anthony Murphy

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