



PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and 1st Sunday of Advent

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

For the current week's readings and Saints please look at Liturgy Office www.liturgyoffice.org.uk, *Universalis* (Liverpool/IOM) and *The Liverpool Ordo*. You can find additional Saints' information on https://www.catholicireland.net/saints_category/saints/

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

"For you anointed your Only begotten Son... [so that] ... He might present the immensity of your majesty an eternal and universal kingdom,
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace."
Preface, Feast of Christ the King

Living according to truth and integrity is what matters. If we succeed at something by deception or hypocrisy or disregard for the dignity and welfare of our brothers and sisters around us, we are really losing. However, Pilate has an answer for this: "and what is Truth?". Here Pilate turns truth into a commodity to be bought and sold at will. Yet, we know that truth is not a statement; Truth is a Person, Truth is a way of living: Jesus is the truth.

Can we dare to follow this radical King? The one whose way of thinking is not of this world but is certainly intended to transform and change this world and the people in it. True power is FOR others and not OVER others. Instead of dominating and subduing others, this true service of leadership helps us to become truly the people God wants us to be. God's ways are about giving without expecting a return and loving without counting the cost.

"So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer for it is Christ we're serving"
© *Graham Kendrick – The Servant King*

ADVENT

"Advent has a twofold character: for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered; and likewise when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time."

Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, 39

If the season of Advent illustrates the need to prepare for the coming of Christ, then both St Paul in the second reading and Our Lord in the Gospel make it clear that our preparation to meet the Lord is nothing more and nothing less than the living out of our ordinary lives. As we enter upon this season of preparation for the joyful celebration of Christ's coming as a baby in Bethlehem, let us remember too that as we live out our ordinary day-to-day lives as Christians, we are also preparing for the joyful completion of that work of our salvation which, in becoming human, Christ has wrought for us.

Gregory Pearson OP



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UPDATE FROM THE LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

- **ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL:**

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND, WALES, AND SCOTLAND UNITE IN COMPASSIONATE ACTION TO OPPOSE BILL ON ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have issued a statement on Assisted Suicide ahead of the Second Reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill.

<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/catholic-bishops-of-england-wales-and-scotland-unite-in-compassionate-action-to-oppose-bill-on-assisted-suicide>

ONLINE PRAYER GATHERING AHEAD OF THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL:

Join the Pastoral Development Team for a short time of prayer on **Wednesday 27 November at 7pm until 7.30pm**, ahead of the second reading of the bill.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84288027664?pwd=kC4n7SqHvs4TBza0ahxyfu1dCcijKq.1>

Meeting ID: 842 8802 7664 and Passcode: 820245

- **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The next Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meeting at Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY) on **Tuesday 26 November**. We will start at 18.30pm and refreshment will be provided. Anyone aged 18-35 is welcome to attend. The theme is praying to St Catherine of Alexandria and Christ the King. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

- **HOW TO INFLUENCE DECISION MAKERS: FROM NATIONAL POLITICIANS TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES, Thursday 28th November, 18.30pm, Online**

This Archdiocese Social Action Network will focus on how we can make systemic change - both nationally and locally. It also includes inspirational stories of when simple actions have had great effect. Speakers include Nicola Sansom, Director of Delivery, Hope for the Future; Annette James, Speaking on Craftivism.

<https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/qOrf9whm>

- **HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION**

Following the success of last year's holy communion badge competition, we are pleased to announce that the closing date for this year's competition will be **27 January 2025**. It is an opportunity for children making their holy communion to design a special badge that will be given out to every child who participates in this sacrament next year. If you are a teacher or a catechist or a parent, please click here for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/FHCBadges>, or email badges@rcaol.org.uk

- **MUSIC AT THE MET 2024**

During 2024 the Metropolitan Cathedral are celebrating the return of their restored grand organ with a series of concerts and events that will demonstrate the versatility of the instrument.

- **Advent Sequence**, Sunday 1 December, 17.00
- **Bach and Handel**, Sunday 8 December, 15.00
- **A Celebration of Christmas**, Saturday 14 December, 19.00
- **A Ceremony of Carols**, Sunday 15 December, 15.00

For more information, please call 01517087283 or email music@metcathedral.org.uk

or download their brochure: <https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/LMC-2024-Concert-Brochure-FINAL.pdf>



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- **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS, Sunday 9 February, 11.00am, Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, L3 5TQ**

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on **Sunday 9 February 2025 at 11.00am**. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

RESOURCES & EVENTS

- **THE POVERTY OF HOMELESSNESS, Wednesday 20 November 2024, Irenaeus Centre L22 1RD**

An afternoon of reflection led by the Whitechapel Centre. Mass at 12.00pm. Soup and a roll offered at 12.40pm. Sharing at 13.15pm. Donations gratefully received.

- **COMMEMORATING THE HOLODOMOR OF 1932-1933, Saturday 23 November, 17.30pm, St Sebastian's Church, L7 0HG**

The Ukrainian community in Liverpool has established a Campaign of HOPE – Help Other People Eat - in memory of the victims of the 1932-33 Holodomor in which millions of innocent men, women and children lost their lives through Stalin's genocidal forced starvation to destroy the Ukraine. Campaign of HOPE offers an opportunity for the Ukrainian community in Liverpool to express their gratitude by giving back to the people of the UK through donations to local foodbanks to bring some measure of help to those struggling to support themselves and their families who would otherwise go hungry.

As we approach the day of mourning for the victims of the Holodomor, we honour their memory with Sunday Divine Liturgy followed by an ecumenical memorial service in **St Sebastian's Church** on **Saturday 23rd November** at **17.30pm**. There will be baskets at the church entrance for donations which will provide practical care and help to those in need. Everyone is invited.

- **RE-IMAGINING PASTORAL COUNCILS WORKSHOP, Saturday 23 November, 10.30am – 13.00pm**

Want to know more about our Pastoral Council Starter Kit and how it can be used? Join the School for Synodality as we explain the journey of a reimagined Pastoral Council, the challenges and opportunities available and hear from those implementing this at the grassroots.

Register: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/schoolforsynodality/1427151>

Re-imagining Pastoral Councils Starter Kit:

This toolkit for pastoral councils is designed to foster faith-filled communities, more engaged participation, and a renewed openness to mission. Far from being just another managerial tool, it draws us deeper into a relationship with the Lord and one another, through prayerful listening, sharing, and being moved by the Holy Spirit.

<https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/pastoral-council-toolkit>

- **YOUTH SUNDAY 2024: BUILDING THE KINGDOM THROUGH A TIME OF PRAYER**

With parishes, schools, retreats, action, Lourdes, on Sunday 24 November, 17.00pm –18.00pm, St Mary's Catholic Church, Lowe House, North Rd, WA10 2BE

On Youth Sunday, Animate will be hosting a special service of thanksgiving and celebration, which will include talks from Bishop Tom Neylon, School Chaplains, Animate, Faith in Action and Lourdes staff members. The year's theme is 'Your Kingdom Come' which links to the Jubilee Year 2025 theme:



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'Pilgrims of Hope'. After the service there will be a social event which will conclude at 7pm. All are welcome to attend, if you are free, please come along.

- **PAX CHRISTI ADVENT SERVICE FOR PEACE, Sunday 8 December, 16.00pm, St Teresa's Church, Utting Avenue East, Norris Green, Liverpool, L11 3BW**

'Light in Dark Times' an Ecumenical Advent Service for Peace and Justice in our city, our country and our world. All are welcome. Organised by Merseyside Pax Christi.

- **CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS**

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a catalogue in church.

- **COME AND SEE DAY: 'THE WONDER OF MUSIC', Saturday 7 December, 10.00am-16.00pm, the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road**

Long-time friend of Irenaeus, Jo Boyce of CJM to lead the next 'Come & See' day on 'the wonder of music'. Everyone welcome. Suggested donation of £10. Attendees asked to bring a packed lunch. For further details contact: jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or tel. 0151 949 1199.

- **FAITH WINTER CONFERENCE, Thursday 2 – Saturday 4 January 2025**

There is a three-day conference for young Catholics aged 16-30 at Stonyhurst College from 2-4 January 2025. Organised by the Faith Movement, the conference offers a unique blend of catechetical, spiritual and social activities in a relaxed holiday atmosphere and the theme is 'Why The Church?' For more details or to book your place at www.faith.org.uk/events

- **WORD ON FIRE: EVANGELISATION CULTURE CONFERENCE: THE BIBLE, Friday 21 – Saturday 22 February 2025**

This conference is for those who are seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the beauty of the Catholic faith while growing in your evangelisation efforts. It will be at Excel London, right in the heart of London's historic Royal Docks. Please follow this link for more details and to book your place: [Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible](#)



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The Irenaeus Project		https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/
Youth Ministry: Animate		https://www.animateyouth.org/

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