**2nd & 3rd Sundays in Ordinary Time**

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

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

**Ordinary Time begins…**

Besides the times of year that have their own distinctive character, there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honoured in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time.

*Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 43*

It’s tempting to think that Ordinary Time got its name because it is, well, ordinary, or non-exceptional, but that’s not really the case. Ordinary Time means ordered, and is derived from ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc.) as opposed to cardinal numbers (one, two, three).

On the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time the gospel continues to centre on the manifestation of the Lord, which Epiphany celebrates through the traditional passage about the wedding feast at Cana and two other passages from John.

Beginning with the Third Sunday, there is a semicontinuous reading of the Synoptic Gospels. This reading is arranged in such a way that as the Lord’s life and preaching unfold the teaching proper to each of these Gospels is presented.

*Lectionary Introduction, 105*

**I HOPE IN YOUR WORD**

*(Ps 119:74)*

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday of the Word of God**

It is a deeply human experience, as is usually found in the Psalter. Everyone hopes, we all have hopes, but what is communicated to us in this Jubilee is a “Hope,” in the singular. It is not an abstract idea or naive optimism, but a person, alive and present in everyone's life: Christ crucified and risen, the only one who never abandons us. Pauline theology is extremely clear on this point: “Christ Jesus our hope” *(1 Tim. 1:1).*

A jubilee that knocks on the door every 25 years and prompts us to take life seriously, offers the opportunity to keep our eyes fixed on the hope that evangelical realism brings. The Sunday of the Word of God once again allows Christians to reinvigorate Jesus' tenacious invitation to listen to and cherish his Word in order to offer the world a witness of hope that allows one to move beyond the difficulties of the present moment. The Word of God is not confined to a book, but remains ever alive and becomes a concrete and tangible sign. In fact, it challenges every community not only to proclaim the same faith as always, but above all to communicate it with the conviction that it brings hope to those who listen to it and welcome it with a simple heart.

*H.E. Archbishop Rino Fisichella*

UPDATE FROM THE LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

* **REVIEW OF OUR PASTORAL BULLETIN**

We are currently reviewing this bulletin and would like to know what you think! Please would you spend just a couple of minutes completing the digital form attached here with your honest opinion and suggestions of how we may make it more useful. Thank you. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PM621XT32U21f8Y1zmskbOZvNJ3BIBhLgOk8GH0YLptURTBOV1ZISzcyVFMwT1g1VUg4NU5QQ0JEVi4u>

* **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group will start again on **Tuesday 14 January**. The meetings will be held fortnightly at **Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY)**. As usual, we will start at **6.30pm** and refreshment will be provided. Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. This year we will explore different types of prayer. The theme of next meeting will be ‘Pilgrim of Hope’.

* **CONFIRMATION 2025 (ANIMATE)**

If your child is in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation, please register at [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/). Registration is open from **Monday 13 January** to **Monday 17 March 2025**.

Join the Animate team and special guests live for the **Sacrament of Confirmation Online Preparation Sessions** on **1 May** and **15 May** from **16.30-18.00** on the Animate Youth YouTube channel. No log in required. This session will offer a reminder of some of the work done in schools on Gifts of the Spirit, Saints, Rite of Confirmation. You will also hear how Confirmation has affected different people in the Archdiocese. **This is to run alongside your Local Parish/Deanery preparation**.

Animate will also be offering a special session on **Monday 31 March (16.30-18.00)** for those who attend non-Catholic schools or schools outside the Archdiocese on YouTube. Please register as normal at liverpoolcalled.co.uk; you will be contacted after **Monday 17 March** with login details. Please save the date!

* **RCIA – RITE OF ELECTION 2025**

**The Rite of Election is taking place on Sunday 9 March at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 3pm**. This event is for people who are to be received into the Catholic Church this Easter and are to be elected and called forward. For those attending with their families, please arrive at the Cathedral no later than **2.45pm** as you will need to register your attendance in order to sign the book of the elect. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis. The Application for Admission form is attached to this email. The deadline for sending registration forms is **Friday 7 February**. Please send them to **Aaron Kiely** at the Liverpool Archdiocese, Croxteth Drive, L17 1AA and put “The Rite of Election” on the envelope for an ease of processing. If you wish to submit an admission form electronically, please type in the email subject “RCIA Admission 2025”, attach the form, and send to Aaron Kiely: [a.kiely@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:a.kiely@rcaol.org.uk) .

* **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ENGAGED COUPLES TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE?**

The Archdiocese is now recruiting and training volunteer facilitators to join the marriage preparation team. The facilitator training will be held at St Helen’s Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ and consists of 5 sessions:

* **Monday 27 January 2025 (19.00 – 20.30)**
* **Monday 3 February 2025 (19.00 – 20.30)**
* **Monday 10 February 2025 (19.00 – 20.30)**
* **Monday 17 February 2025 (19.00 – 20.30)**
* **Saturday 1 March 2025 (10.00 – 14.00)**

This new team will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice in 2025. If this is something you are interested in, please contact [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk) or sign up on the online enrolment form <https://forms.office.com/e/M4jmd139PV?origin=lprLink>

*‘‘I encourage Christian communities to recognise the great benefit that they themselves receive from supporting engaged couples as they grow in love.’’ (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia 207).*

* **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 **Monday 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](mailto:badges@rcaol.org.uk).

* **“A MOTHER’S FORGIVENESS”: Peace Sunday Mass followed by Gee Walker talk, Sunday 19 January 2025, 11.00 (talk at 13.15) at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King**

After Mass at the Cathedral, join Gee Walker who will talk about the murder of her son Anthony, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice. This is a partnership event by Pax Christi and the Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission.

* **LIVE SIMPLY GROUPS – NETWORK EVENT**: **How to influence decision makers: Advocacy Training, Saturday 25 January, St Anne’s parish Centre, Ormskirk**

This is an in-person training event being run by Hope for the Future and CAFOD about how to make systemic change by influencing political decision makers. It is also a chance for Live Simply groups to come together and share their experiences and plans for the new year. Please contact [p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk) to register.

* **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS**

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 **11.00**. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those married in a Jubilee year.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room. For those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate through this link <https://forms.office.com/e/LLbcUJpL85?origin=lprLink>

For more information, please contact Moses at: [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk)

* **ARCHDIOCESAN TRIP TO ROME, 7-13 November 2025**

As part of the Jubilee celebration, the Archdiocese of Liverpool are organising a trip to Rome on 7-13 November 2025. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, please contact Pat Murphy [mpmmurphypat@aol.com](mailto:mpmmurphypat@aol.com).

RESOURCES & EVENTS

* **‘THE UPSIDE DOWN’ reflections at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD, 10.30-12.00**

Reflections on Luke’s Gospel begin Wednesday 15 January at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome. The sessions are also available on Zoom. For Zoom details contact Jenny at [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

* Wednesday 15 January
* Wednesday 22 January
* Wednesday 29 January
* Wednesday 5 February
* **BOOK LAUNCH: “The Romero Rosary” by Archbishop John Wilson, Friday 24 January, 14.30, at Pauline Books & Media Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool)**

“I wonder if you picked up and opened this little book because you love the holy rosary or because you love St Oscar Romero. Perhaps, like me, you love both. I hope what you read inspires you to pray the rosary and to learn more about St Oscar Romero. I keep everyone who reads this book in my prayers.”

This book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary and the new Romero mysteries, illumined for reflection and prayer by St Oscar's own words.

The Mysteries of the Rosary: Joy, Light, Sorrow, and Glory.

The Romero Mysteries of the Rosary: Charity, Compassion and Mercy, Justice and Peace.

* **WORD ON FIRE: EVANGELISATION CULTURE CONFERENCE: THE BIBLE, 21 – 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](https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR09qQxDlzHoxuwb-US16PYQTpjNmp5BuvsUeNoT3z6f2UbLi1yBsMpNdFg_aem_UQTTRs56jZqMWMoVp1glFQ&fbc_id=120212669747020010&h_ad_id=120212669746880010)

CONTACTS: PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) DEPARTMENT TEAM

[pd@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:pd@rcaol.org.uk) <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoral-development>

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**Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Development** Rev. Gerard Callacher [g.callacher@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:g.callacher@rcaol.org.uk)

**Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Organisation** Rev. Mgr. Philip Inch [p.inch@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.inch@rcaol.org.uk)

**& Synod Implementation**

**Bishops’ Delegate for CSA** Sr Lynne Baron, FCJ

**The Irenaeus Project** <https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/>

**Youth Ministry: Animate** <https://www.animateyouth.org/>

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