

# ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

For the current week's readings and Saints please look at *The Liverpool Ordo*, Liturgy Office [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk) and *Universalis* (Liverpool/IOM).

### GOOD NEWS

#### • CHRIST IS BORN!

When the Magi arrived in Bethlehem their concern for the newborn Jesus must have been overwhelming. The vulnerability of a tiny new life versus the huge and powerful political powers that aimed to destroy him seemed like an unwinnable fight. However, the good news is that even in the most unlikely and fragile situations, God's power is unstoppable. As Jesus himself says, 'Take courage! I have overcome the world!' (Jn 16:33)

#### • REASONS TO BE HOPEFUL



#### Pastoral Development Department:

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- **NUGENT ADVENT CELEBRATIONS AT SMCC**

Staff from across the archdiocese were delighted to join Nugent's Advent Celebrations at St Margaret Clitherow Centre on 12 December. Staff, volunteers, and friends from Nugent, the Archdiocese of Liverpool, and other partner charities came together for Mass with Archbishop John Sherrington, followed by a festive meal and gathering.

A particular highlight of the afternoon was the freshly baked mince pies, prepared with care in Nugent kitchens! And we are especially grateful to the wonderful contributions of a talented group of musicians from the Wigan & Leigh Deanery, who came to help us celebrate.

A huge thanks goes to everyone who helped bring the day together so beautifully. We look forward to many more joint celebrations in the New Year and we ask that you join us in continuing to pray for Nugent and their work in the year ahead!

## **SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS – FORMATION**

- **ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP**

Are you a DSC member, a chaplain or a catechist? Have you ever thought about how can you increase the awareness and confidence towards becoming an Adventurous Accompanier? Through the journey of a 6-week programme including 3 full-day workshops, you will not only explore the core principles of accompaniment but also going in-depth to embed those principles in practice.

All costs of the programme will be covered by the Archdiocese. Please register online if you are interested. Sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/bE7TndtW9p?origin=lprLink>  
For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk)

**You will choose either one workshop for each weekend** when you sign up



First Workshop	
<b>Saturday 7 February or Sunday 8 February</b>	
Second Workshop	
<b>Saturday 28 February or Sunday 1 March</b>	
Third Workshop	
<b>Saturday 21 March or Sunday 22 March</b>	
<i>*All Saturday workshops will take place <b>at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool, L17 1AA (10am-2pm)</b></i>	
<i>All Sunday workshops will take place <b>at St Joseph's Church, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BB (12pm-4pm)</b></i>	

- **CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

We encourage all young people who wish to be confirmed next year to visit the [Liverpool Called website](#) with their parents/guardians. The details you provide the online form will be shared



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with the Dean of the area of which you have applied, your local parish, and the Diocesan administration team. It may be shared with other parties associated with Diocesan sacramental preparation and relevant and appropriate Diocesan bodies and authorities.

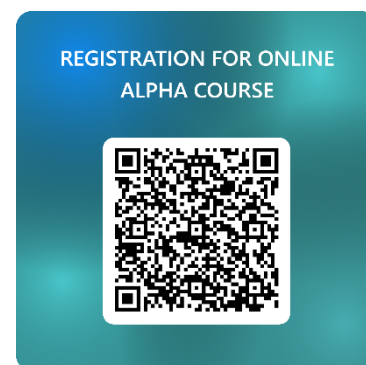
Your local parish will be in touch after registration period ends on the 13 February (you will not be contacted beforehand) with details about meetings in your local area. You will likely be contacted after Easter. Please do not worry if you are not contacted immediately. If you have any queries, please contact your own parish priest.

The information you provide will be held for the sacramental year (which ends on the day new application forms go online for the succeeding sacramental preparation year) and your contact information may be used to contact you by email, text, letter or phone. For more information on how your data may be used and our retention policy please see <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy>

- **LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE ONLINE ALPHA COURSE**

Beginning on **Thursday 15th January for 11 weeks at 6.45pm**, we're offering an Online Alpha Course for anyone wishing to explore life, faith and meaning. If you, or someone you know is looking to meet new people and explore the Catholic faith together, Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith and purpose and is designed to spark conversation. If you'd like to find out more, please use the QR code to fill out a contact form, or email [pd@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:pd@rcaol.org.uk)

[REGISTRATION FOR ONLINE ALPHA COURSE – Fill in form](#)



- **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS**

Archbishop John Sherrington will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on **Sunday 8 February 2026 at 11:00**. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries. 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 which will be collected on the day. Register here

<https://forms.office.com/e/uE6amHrQ6w?origin=lprLink>

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



- **MARRIAGE PREPARATION CATECHISTS NEEDED**

Would you like to help engaged couples to prepare for marriage? The archdiocese is now recruiting catechists to join the marriage preparation team. The catechist training will be provided at St Monica's Church, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9GA and consists of 5 sessions:

- Monday 23 February 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)



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- Monday 2 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Monday 9 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Monday 16 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)
- Monday 23 March 2026 (6.30pm – 8pm)

Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice a year. If this is something you are interested in, please sign up

here <https://forms.office.com/e/JGbP8AtZwn?origin=lprLink>

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

#### • EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

The Irenaeus Centre will be leading a Eucharistic ministry training day on 14 March 2026. For more information and Zoom links, parishes are invited to book by emailing [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

#### • RE-IMAGINING PASTORAL COUNCILS' WEBINAR SERIES

In our crazy changing world, it's more important than ever that our parishes can respond to people's needs and share the Gospel in our local communities. Pastoral Councils, rooted in prayer and driven by mission, can be places of discernment and real creativity – but sometimes they're not quite right. Join us for a series of webinars to explore everything to do with pastoral councils from purpose to membership, and from resolving conflict to letting the Spirit lead.

Would you like to explore a new approach for your Parish Council?

Would you like to set up a Parish Council for the first time?

Would you like support in ensuring your current Parish Council is fruitful, spiritual, and life-giving?

This is a joint project between the RC Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Dioceses of Hexham & Newcastle and Northampton.

Webinars are Tuesday evenings from 19:00-20:00 (UK time).

Registration is free. The registration link is <https://buytickets.at/northamptondiocese/1861328>  
A one-time registration for all webinars. A link will be sent on the day to each person.

#### • FCJ: INTERNATIONAL READING GROUP (ONLINE)

Join the FCJ's International Reading Group and explore current thinking in Christian churches, ecology, spirituality, and theology. Every Friday at 4pm (UK time) the group will hold a short recap, discussion, and plenary. The group are currently reading *"The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage"* by Richard Rohr. No need to attend every week – just join when you can. To receive the link, please email: [fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com)

#### • FCJ: FORMATION IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

This online programme is designed for young adults who wish to use their gifts and talents in the service of others. Beginning on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 18:00, the programme will run over three months and include three online workshops, reflective activities, personal accompaniment, and practical experience. Participants will be encouraged to cultivate an



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attitude of generosity and gratitude for their gifts, be actively involved in their local parish or faith setting and commit to attending all sessions. If you would like to learn more about the programme or have a conversation about whether this is for you, please email Sr Lynne FCJ at [fcjcentresthughes@gmail.com](mailto:fcjcentresthughes@gmail.com).

- **'OLD AND NEW' REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Hosted by the Irenaeus Project (Great George's Road, L22 1RD), reflections will be Wednesday mornings (10:30-12:00) on 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, January and 4<sup>th</sup> February. Zoom links are available from [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

## **CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION**

- **LIVERPOOL JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION**

The Archdiocese of Liverpool's Justice & Peace Commission invites you to this year's Peace Sunday Memorial Lecture. In light of Pope Leo XIV's recent World Peace Day Message, Dr Joanna Frew will speak on "Towards an 'Unarmed and Disarming Peace': Seeking Sustainable Security for an Unstable World."

This will take place on Peace Sunday: **January 18th at 2pm**, at **St Vincent de Paul, L1 5JN**. All those who wish to deepen their understanding of Pope Leo's message, and reflect on what it means for us today, are warmly welcome to join us for this lecture. Please sign-up using the following link:



[Peace Sunday Lecture: Peace be with you all- Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace. – Fill in form](#)

## **YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS**

- **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at the Pauline Book Centre (Church Street, L1 3AY) in Liverpool City Centre. Anyone aged 18-35 is most welcome. There is no registration to join the group. For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk). On **Tuesday 20 January** (18:30-20:00), the group will meet with Chris Reynolds from Stella Maris to discuss how we can stand in solidarity with seafarers and fishers. To reserve your place please scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Rc8CSK0XbW?origin=lprLink>



- **PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING YOUNG ADULTS PRAYER GROUP**

Join our monthly gathering for prayer, friendship, and faith at **St Michael and All Angels Church, Kirkby L32**. All Portuguese-speaking young adults are welcome! For more information please contact: 07752 773037 Tiago and 07857 178601 Karine.



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## • LECTIO FOR YOUNG ADULTS

**Every Friday at 18:00 at St Vincent de Paul's Church, L1 5JN**, there is a "lectio" prayer group for young adults. There will be a **Mass at 18:00**, followed by a short time of sharing the **Sunday readings at 18:30**. It's a friendly group and sometimes they also organise trips and retreats. Follow this link to join my WhatsApp community:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/H7vBayJ4Jlm2spPNI9d2DT> If you want more information please contact James: [djmoroney@cantab.net](mailto:djmoroney@cantab.net) or 07546667394

- [Register here](#)
- [Event details](#)
- [Young people in the ecumenical movement](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

Rite of Election Mass

Sunday 22 February

Mission Days

Tuesday 21 April / Thursday 23 April / Saturday 25 April

## CONTACTS

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 our safeguarding team direct at



or Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or [safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk)



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## CONTACTS: PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (PD) TEAM

**pd@rcaol.org.uk**    <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development>

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<i>Parish &amp; Deanery Development Adviser</i>	Chris Higgins	<a href="mailto:c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk">c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk</a>	0151 522 1046

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<b>Episcopal Vicar for Parish Development</b>	Rev Gerard Callacher	<a href="mailto:g.callacher@rcaol.org.uk">g.callacher@rcaol.org.uk</a>
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<b>Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Organisation &amp; Synod Implementation</b>	Rev Mgr Philip Inch	<a href="mailto:p.inch@rcaol.org.uk">p.inch@rcaol.org.uk</a>
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<b>Bishops' Delegate for Catholic Social Action</b>	Sr Lynne Baron, FCJ	<a href="mailto:l.baron@rcaol.org.uk">l.baron@rcaol.org.uk</a>
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<b>The Irenaeus Project</b>		<a href="http://www.irenaeus.co.uk/">www.irenaeus.co.uk/</a>
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<b>Youth Ministry: Animate</b>		<a href="http://www.animateyouth.org/">www.animateyouth.org/</a>
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