

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

NEW UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE AT STONYHURST: LOVE & BEAUTY IN ST JOHN'S SPIRITUAL CANTICLE, 20 - 22 FEBRUARY 2026**

2026 marks the centenary of the declaration of St John of the Cross as a Doctor of the Church. In honour of this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend reflecting on the themes of love and beauty in the most celebrated poetry of the great Spanish mystic.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/>

[Download JPG flier - Love & Beauty in St John of the Cross](#)

- **THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE AT STONYHURST: MARRIAGE PREPARATION RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND COURSE, 13 - 15 MARCH 2026**

The CHC's weekend marriage prep course is intended for couples who wish to engage more deeply with the Catholic vision for marriage. Structured around the elements of the marriage rite, couples will reflect deeply on foundational Scriptural texts to gain a deeper understanding of both the natural and Sacramental aspects of Matrimony. The weekend is framed by prayer, time for reflection personally and as a couple, group discussion and a social. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation>

GOOD NEWS

- **READER TRAINING**

As part of celebrating the Sunday of the Word of God, Knowsley Deanery held formation and training for Readers last Saturday. Over 30 readers gathered at Our Lady's, Portico to pray together and consider the importance and beauty of the Ministry of the Word. The day involved some practical elements too. What a powerful day filled with laughter too!

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS - FORMATION

- **ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP**

Whether you hold a particular role within the Church or simply share in the life and mission of the Archdiocese, **this invitation is for you**. You are warmly invited to take part in the **Adventurous Accompaniment** formation programme delivered by **Million Minutes**.



Pastoral Development Department:

St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA T: 0151 522 1040

pd@rcaol.org.uk

Subscribe: <https://mailchi.mp/e8bb057375db/sign-up-form>

The programme takes place over a **six-week journey**, including **three four-hour workshops**, and online resources to explore and offers participants the opportunity to explore the core principles of Adventurous Accompaniment and to reflect on how these can be embedded in everyday encounters and parish life.

Adventurous Accompaniment is not about training people for specialist roles, but about nurturing a **shared culture of accompaniment** across the archdiocese, in response to the Church's call to walk with others.

All costs of the programme are covered by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Those who are interested are encouraged to **register online**. 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

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



| |
|---|
| First Workshop Saturday 7 February or Sunday 8 February |
| Second Workshop Saturday 28 February or Sunday 1 March |
| Third Workshop Saturday 21 March or Sunday 22 March |
| <i>*All Saturday workshops will take place at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool, L17 1AA (10:00-14:00)</i> <i>All Sunday workshops will take place at St Joseph's Church, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BB (12:00-16:00)</i> |

- **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



- **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 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.



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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 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>

- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION 2026**

The idea behind this competition is to celebrate children making their First Holy Communion across the whole archdiocese and provide them an opportunity to celebrate with one another. The winning designs will be made into a badge to be given out to all First Communicants and shared across our parish communities, website and social media. We will then be providing every child making their Holy Communion with a badge showing the winning design for free. If you are a teacher or a catechist or a parent, please [click here](#) for more details or email badges@rcaol.org.uk.

- **RETREAT DAY FOR RCIA CATECHUMENS**

The Archdiocese will organise the Retreat Day for Catechumens on **Saturday 14 March between 09:45 and 15:00**, at Carmelite Monastery, Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 3NU. All RCIA catechumens, candidates, sponsors and catechists are most welcome to join. If you're interested, please sign up here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/G6YkmHFS85?origin=lprLink>

For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk



- **LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE ONLINE ALPHA COURSE**

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is hosting an 11-week online Alpha course for anyone curious about life, faith, and meaning. It's a chance to meet new people and explore the Catholic faith in a friendly, open environment - no pressure, no judgement. Sessions run every Thursday at **18:45**, from **15 January to 26 March**. Each week we tackle big questions about life and faith, sparking great conversations. Sign up today! Scan the QR code or follow the [link](#) to sign up. For more information, please email pd@rcaol.org.uk.



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- **MARY'S MEALS EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS**

| Month | Event | Brief |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| May 2026 | Pray in May | Annual appeal for faith schools and churches. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org . |
| June 2026 | Volunteer Thank You Picnic | Annual picnic. More details to follow. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org . |
| July 2026 | Stall at new Brighton Summer Festival | Hoping to have a stall at New Brighton Summer Festival (24-26 July). For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org . |
| November 2026 | Regional Christmas Fundraising Event | Taking place on Saturday 21 November in St Helens. More details to follow. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org . |

- **MARY'S MEALS SPEAKER TRAINING (ONLINE)**

A public speaking training session will be taking place **Saturday 21 February, 10-11:30** for anyone who would like to refresh their skills, learn new ones or want to "dip your toe" into finding out more about giving talks, then please do reach out. This is a fantastic opportunity, led by two professionals as a gift to Mary's Meals which has received positive feedback from volunteers. These sessions will take place again throughout the year so if you can't make February please don't worry as there will be further opportunities. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton: anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

- **COME & SEE DAY - SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY, 10AM-4PM, THE IRENAEUS CENTRE (32 GREAT GEORGES ROAD, L22 1RD)**

The Irenaeus Centre welcomes Nicholas King, a Jesuit priest currently serving at Farm Street Church, London. His teaching ministry has included posts at Oxford University, Boston College, St Mary's Twickenham, and Heythrop College, University of London. He is also the translator of the entire Bible. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation: £10. For more information, email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 0151 949 1199.

- **COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART: A SILENT RETREAT**

Led by Sr Moira Meeghan at the Irenaeus Centre (Great Georges Road, L22 1RD) from **18:00 Friday 20 February – 13:00 Sunday 22 February**. Those interested are advised to book early: residential places are £95, non-residential with meals is £70, non-residential (self-catering) is £30. To book and for more information please contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call **01519491199**.



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- **THE IRENAEUS CENTRE: PILGRIMAGE THROUGH LENT**

The Irenaeus Centre would like to invite you to a series of Lenten Evenings held on Tuesdays at 7pm on the following dates: 24 February and 3, 10, 17, 24 March.

For more information and Zoom links please contact: centreirenaeus@gmail.com

- **BLESSED ARE YOU – SCRIPTURE MORNINGS**

You are warmly invited to join the Irenaeus Centre for a series of Scripture mornings reflecting on the theme “Blessed Are You.” These sessions explore Matthew and the Beatitudes and offer a gentle and prayerful space to explore the scripture during the Lenten season.

Wednesdays, 10:30am-11:45am: 18, 25 February and 4, 11 March. For further information please contact centreirenaeus@gmail.com

- **THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING AND VULNERABILITY – A GUIDE THROUGH HOLY WEEK**

Join the Irenaeus Centre for a reflective Holy Week retreat exploring the themes of suffering, vulnerability from 6pm, Wednesday 1 April to 10pm Saturday 4 April 2026. For more information please contact: centreirenaeus@gmail.com or call **0151 949 1199**.

- **LIGHT OF TRUTH: DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD (Online Formation)**

A session to understand how to discern the will of God in every circumstance of life. Held **Friday 13 February 19:00-20:00**. [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#)

- **LIGHT OF TRUTH: SHOWING REVERENCE TO GOD (Online Formation)**

A session to explore the virtue of religion and how to practice it in the liturgy of the Church and in our daily life. Held **Friday 13 March 19:00-20:00**. [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#)

- **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 16:00 (UK time)** the group will hold a short recap, discussion, and plenary. From Friday 5 September the group have been reading “*Living God's Future Now*” by Sam Wells. No need to attend every week – just join when you can. To receive the link, please email: fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com

- **FCJ PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE**

Beginning on **Wednesday 8 April (17:00) and concluding Sunday 12 April (14:00)**, the FCJ's are inviting all young adults (20's and 30's) to a walking retreat to the [Holy Island of Lindisfarne](#), a tidal island off the coast of Northeast England. Walking in the footsteps of the Northern saints, the trail will include a two-day walk on [St Cuthbert's Way](#), crossing the pilgrim route to the island. One day in Lindisfarne and the final day will include Mass and a visit to St Cuthbert's Shrine at Durham Cathedral. Accommodation is a [Bunkhouse](#) on the mainland with simple facilities, bunkbeds, an open fire and some storage heating. Each day the group will drive to the start of the walk and arrange to be collected from the end. The terrain is open countryside so good walking shoes, a backpack and waterproof jacket are essential. The group will pray together every day with some opportunities for Mass.

[Complete the form to register](#)



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- **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2026**

Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. For more information, please follow the [link](#)

- **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)
- 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

- **EUCCHARISTIC 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

- **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.



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YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

• LENTEN RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Archdiocese will organise the Lenten Retreat Day for Young Adults (aged 18 to 35) on **Saturday 7 March** at Carmelite Monastery, Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 3NU. The Retreat Day will start at 10.00 and aim to finish at 16.00. Fr Peter McGrail will be with us and talk about baptismal priesthood. This Retreat Day is free of charge, but please bring your packed lunch. If you're interested, please sign up here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/B8jbFyeYzV?origin=IprLink>. For further information please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk



• 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. For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk. On **Tuesday 17 February (18:30-20:00)**, the group will be having a faith-based talk with Fr Ron Johnson who will talk about 'unexpected gift'. Please register here if you are interested

<https://forms.office.com/e/NF6c9jK4L8?origin=IprLink>

• 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 get in touch with the email: jovenscatolicosemliverpool@gmail.com or Instagram: @jovens.catolicos.em.liverpool

• 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/H7vBavJ4Jlm2spPNI9d2DT> If you want more information please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or 07546667394

- o [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



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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

CONTACTS: PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (PD) TEAM

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

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|---|------------------|--|---------------|
| <i>Director of Pastoral Development</i> | Liz Parsons | e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1023 |
| <i>Pastoral Development Administrator</i> | Jonathan McGuirk | j.mcguirk@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1040 |
| <i>Pastoral Plan Administrator</i> | Ian Parrott | i.parrott@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1044 |
| <i>Training Coordinator</i> | Moses Mui | m.mui@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1047 |
| <i>Catholic Social Action Coordinator</i> | Lucy Rauer | l.rauer@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1042 |
| <i>Youth Ministry Coordinator</i> | Sarah McGeehan | s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1041 |
| <i>Parish & Deanery Development Adviser</i> | Chris Higgins | c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk | 0151 522 1046 |

Episcopal Vicar for Parish Development Rev Gerard Callacher g.callacher@rcaol.org.uk

Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Organisation & Synod Implementation Rev Mgr Philip Inch p.inch@rcaol.org.uk

Bishops' Delegate for Catholic Social Action Sr Lynne Baron, FCJ l.baron@rcaol.org.uk

The Irenaeus Project www.irenaeus.co.uk/

Youth Ministry: Animate www.animateyouth.org/

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