

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY 29 MARCH 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). www.liturgyoffice.org.uk and **Universalis** (Liverpool/IOM).

GOOD NEWS

• DONATIONS FROM ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

We were delighted to invite friends from Reaching Out Liverpool to the Archdiocesan Young Adult Group last Tuesday, 17th March, for an evening of volunteering and discussion around homelessness in our region. Reaching Out Liverpool have expressed their thanks for our support, with over 10 large bags of donated supplies gifted by generous members of our group and local parishes. Thank you to all those involved in Lenten giving and volunteering who are working hard to live out the mission of the Church by supporting those in need!

• ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOPS

Last weekend was the third and final sessions of the Accompaniment Workshops held at SMCC and St Joseph's Penketh. What joyous occasions! All the participants agreed that the course enabled them to be more present in the encounters they found themselves in. It was a perfect opportunity to hone our listening and accompaniment skills. The sessions ended by considering the future of accompaniment in the life of the archdiocese – watch out for green shoots in the near future!

NEW UPDATES THIS WEEK

• UPDATING DEPRIVATION INSIGHTS: THE ENGLISH INDICES OF DEPRIVATION 2025 (Online)

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) calculates local measures of deprivation in England. This online session between 12:30pm-1:30pm on **Thursday 26 March** covers how the Indices are reviewed, updated, enhanced and developed to provide users with a robust insight into small area deprivation across the country. To book your place please follow the [link](#).

• GENERAL CATECHIST COURSE 2026

Beginning from 6 May until 27 June, a General Catechist Course will be provided by the archdiocese. The course will be taking place over 8 weeks at St John Fisher Church, Widnes. We will talk about the key elements of Catholic faith and how they can be explored through




Pastoral Development Department:

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Catechesis. If you are considering being catechist or are existing catechist (e.g. RCIA, first holy communion, confirmation etc) looking to refresh your knowledge, this course is for you.

Date:	Wednesdays 6 May, 13 May, 20 May, 27 May, 3 June, 10 June, 17 June Saturday 27 June	
Venue:	St John Fisher Church, 55 Moorfield Road, Widnes, WA8 3JA	
Time:	18.30 – 20.30	

If you are interested, please sign up here

<https://forms.office.com/e/vXWAjbxjdc?origin=lprLink>. For more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS – FORMATION

• **MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

Are you planning to get married in a Catholic church? Are you looking for some time out from the busy wedding planning, providing you and your partner with an opportunity to focus on your relationship and to learn more about each other?



The Liverpool Archdiocese is now offering a marriage preparation course for engaged couples. The course will involve four sessions, meeting in group with other couples. To be led by trained lay facilitators, the course will help the couples develop skills which could facilitate good communication within their relationship and an understanding of unconditional love set within a Catholic faith. The next course will be available in **June 2026:**

Date: 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, and 2 July (all Thursdays)

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Venue: St Monica's Parish Centre, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9JD

There is a fee of £50 per couple to help towards materials and other expenses. Please book online here at <https://forms.office.com/e/rXqwenub4P?origin=lprLink>

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

• **HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF LIFE**

Parishes and Catholic communities are asked to join with the Bishops of England and Wales to pray a Holy Hour for the dignity of all human life. The Holy Hour will be held at 16:30 on Sunday 19 April as peers in the House of Lords continue to debate whether to make Assisted Suicide law. For the full article please visit the CBCEW website: [Holy Hour for the Dignity of Life - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)



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- **MISSION DAY**

Have you ever thought about your gift and call? Do you have a desire to do something more for the Church? To facilitate the faithful reflecting on vocation of all baptised and their response to God's calling, the Archdiocese is going to organise a Mission Day event which will be taking place in April 2026. During the event, there will be a keynote presentation by Fr Peter McGrail, workshops on ministries (e.g. reader, catechist, evangelisation and Catholic social action) and time for prayer & reflection. You can choose the event either on Thursday 23 April or Saturday 25 April, with details as below:

Thursday 23 April	Saturday 25 April 2026
6.30pm – 9pm	10.30am – 1pm
St Mary's Community Centre, Leyland, Liverpool, PR25 1PD	St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA

If you're interested in joining us, please register online here on or before 17 April <https://forms.office.com/e/TYfqTqFnig?origin=lprLink>. For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

- **VERONICA'S STATIONS**

Enrich your "Domestic Church" this Lent with Veronica's Stations by Deacon Justin Malewezi. This free interactive flipbook brings the family together for prayer and tactile fun!

Here is how it works:

- **PRAY:** Read the Stations of the Cross together, reimagined through the eyes of Saint Veronica.
- **MOLD:** Get out the play dough or plasticine and sculpt your own characters for a Bible story.
- **CREATE:** Talk about the story while you sculpt, then write a poem and prayer to go with your creations.
- **GET STARTED NOW:** Scan the QR Code or Click the Link to open your free flipbook! <https://malewezi.com/flipbook/pray-and-play-veronicas-stations-by-deacon-justin/>

- **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

- **LIGHT OF TRUTH: WHAT IS THE CHURCH? (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 17 April 19:00-20:00. [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#)



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- **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.

- **LEADERSHIP COURSES FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS**

Join the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst for 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12, 10-15 August) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13, 5-10 July). Meet new friends, discuss and share with peers, tutors and academics, learn new skills, develop your relationship with Christ, build your character. For more information please visit: www.christianleadershipformation.com.

RETREATS & PILGRIMAGES

- **PILGRIMAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS TO ASSISI (NOVEMBER 2026)**

To celebrate the special jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, the Archdiocese has organised a pilgrimage for young adults (aged 18-35) to visit Assisi from 29 November to 2 December 2026. Walking in the footsteps of St Francis during the 800th anniversary year, we will visit some of the key sites involving St Francis and St Clare as well as St Carlo Acutis. For booking received by 10 April, an advance booking price of £940 per person will be offered, saving £50 from the full tour price of £990. You are invited to an online information evening at 6.30pm on Tuesday 24 March. Click tinyurl.com/Young-Adult-Assisi-Trip to register for the info evening or to receive updates about this trip, even if you can't make the 24th. For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

- **FCJ PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE, WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL – SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026**

The FCJ Sisters invite young adults in their 20s and 30s to a walking retreat to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The pilgrimage includes two days on St Cuthbert's Way, the traditional pilgrim crossing to the island, a day on Lindisfarne, and a visit to St Cuthbert's Shrine at Durham Cathedral. Accommodation is in a simple bunkhouse on the mainland. Good walking shoes, a backpack, and waterproofs are essential. Daily prayer and opportunities for Mass are included. For more information, please visit [FCJ Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne - Faithful Companions of Jesus](#). To register, please [complete this form](#)

- **CALLED TO LOVE, SATURDAY 2 - SUNDAY 3 MAY 2026**

The Christian Heritage Centre is offering a retreat for singles, dating, and engaged couples who want to think more deeply about their relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded people! This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. Runs from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night. For more information please visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>



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YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

- **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

Anyone aged 18-35 is welcome to join the Archdiocesan Young Adult Group. The group meets fortnightly at the Pauline Book Centre in Liverpool City Centre. On Tuesday 14 April (18:30-20:00), the group will be holding a faith-based talk with Fr Peter Murphy. For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

- **FCJ: VOCAT [Voc(ations) + (Ch)at]**

The FCJ Centre St Hugh's is offering an opportunity for discerning or curious young adults to meet with a small group of religious and priests from different forms of religious life. This Q&A will be held Tuesday 21 April, 7:30pm. There will be opportunity for input and a chance to meet other young adults. For more information, please email Sr Lynne: fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org/who-we-are/our-mission/events/vocat/.

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

All Portuguese-speaking young adults are welcome to join a monthly gathering for prayer, friendship, and faith at St Michael and All Angels Church, Kirkby, L32. For enquiries, please get in touch by [email](#).

- **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 [link](#).



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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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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/

Do you know someone who would like to receive to our bulletin? Please forward this bulletin to them, or send them this hyperlink to subscribe: <https://mailchi.mp/e8bb057375db/sign-up-form>



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