



PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent 2024

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/

St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor 7th December

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan lived in the 4th century. Ambrose, a great theologian, is also credited with various hymns and spiritual poems. St Augustine once wrote of Ambrose: "Blessed Ambrose has sung ... beautifully in the hymn ... speaking about the Lord Christ, he speaks as follows: 'His departure from the Father, his return to the Father; his journey down to hell, his journey back to the seat of God.'"

*O COME, Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth.
Let every age in wonder fall: such birth befits the God of all.*

*Begotten of no human will but of the Spirit, Thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.*

*The Virgin's womb that burden gained, its virgin honour still unstained.
The banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below.*

*Proceeding from His chamber free that royal home of purity
a giant in twofold substance one, rejoicing now His course to run.*

*O equal to the Father, Thou! gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.*

*Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light
where endless faith shall shine serene and twilight never intervene.*

*All praise, eternal Son, to Thee, whose advent sets Thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.*

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9th December (*transferred*)

*God from all eternity
Made thee, Mary, fair and free;
Stains of sin are not in thee.*

*Fairest woman, thou'rt alone
White as snow on Lebanon ;
And thy face is like the sun.*

*Virgin, hear the ages tell
All thy praise in Israel ;
Hear thy people praise thee well.*

*God thy maker knows thy worth;
He has blessed thee from thy birth;
Blessed thee more than all on earth*

*Where thy fragrant beauty leads
One among the lilies feeds.
Draw us to the dewy meads*

By John Gray

This dogma is not to be confused with the Virgin Birth (conception of Jesus).



Pastoral Development Department:

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UPDATE FROM THE LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

• **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 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**
- **Monday 3 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**
- **Monday 10 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**
- **Monday 17 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)**
- **Saturday 1 March 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)**

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.

"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).

• **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The next Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meeting at **Pauline Book Centre** (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY) on **Tuesday 10 December**. We will start at **6.30pm** and refreshment will be provided. Anyone aged 18-35 is welcome to attend. The theme is praying with Our Lady of Loreto. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

• **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.

• **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.

- **Bach and Handel**, Sunday 8 December, 3.00pm
- **A Celebration of Christmas**, Saturday 14 December, 7.00pm
- **A Ceremony of Carols**, Sunday 15 December, 3.00pm
- **Festival Carol Service and La Nativite du Seigneur**, Sunday 22 December, 5.00pm

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>

• **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS**

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King (L3 5TQ) on **Sunday 9 February 2025** at **11.00am**. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.



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- **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 mpmmurphy@aol.com.

RESOURCES & EVENTS

- **COME & SEE DAY: THE WONDER OF MUSIC**

On **Sunday 7 December 2024**, Jo Boyce of CJM will lead the next Come & See Day on 'the Wonder of Music' at the **Irenaeus Centre** (32 Great Georges Road) from **10.00am-4.00pm**. Everyone is 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.

- **PAX CHRISTI ADVENT SERVICE FOR PEACE, Sunday 8 December 2024, 4pm, 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.

- **PAX CHRISTI ADVENT SERVICE FOR PEACE, Sunday 8 December 2024, 6.30pm, St John's Church, Standishgate, Wigan. WN1 1XD**

An Ecumenical Advent Service for Peace and Justice in Palestine, Lebanon and Israel. A time of prayer and reflection with visual presentation and talk by Karen Whyte, who has worked in Jenin refugee camp. All are welcome.

- **ADVENT TALK 'A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS THROUGH ART AND SCRIPTURE', St Anne, Ormskirk Parish Centre, Tuesday 17 December 2024, 7.00pm**

Fleur Dorrell is speaking at St Anne, Ormskirk Parish Centre on **17 December** from **7.00pm** in a meditative style talk, which illustrates how artists show us the truth of Christ's birth. Through some beautiful paintings, Fleur will explore how Scripture and art shed light and colour on our Advent journey. Fleur is an author, Biblical Apostolate Manager for the Bishops' Conference for England and Wales and hosts the 'God who speaks' website encouraging greater engagement with the Scriptures: www.godwhospeaks.uk All are welcome.

- **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 to those 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.

- **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://www.evangelisationandculture.org.uk)



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

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