

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER 2025

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).

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS - FORMATION

• 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: fcjcentresthughes@gmail.com

• 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

• 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>



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>

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

- **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 **April 2026**:

Date: 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 21 May (all Thursdays)

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Venue: St Agnes & St Aidan Church, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 5SQ



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/hgy2JbUpY3?origin=IprLink>

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.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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- **SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED**

The Restored Lives course is run over six weeks, one evening per week. The talks cover the key issues to help you to move on and highlight the practical steps and tools to enable you to tackle the issues that arise from separation and divorce. For more information contact Maureen 07967 753471 or Jacqui Sellek 07938 25815.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

- **NUGENT: LIGHT UP A LIFE, FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 2025, LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL, 12:00**

Nugent welcomes us to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for their annual Light Up a Life service- a space to connect with our families, friends and neighbours, remembering those who have touched our lives and left us with cherished memories.

Led by Bishop Tom Williams, this tradition offers the chance to pause, reflect, and honour loved ones while supporting Nugent's vital work in the local community.

At the service you can write a dedication to honour your loved ones with a personalised message or memory, which will be displayed on a remembrance tree over the Christmas period. Dedications will be displayed on the remembrance tree throughout Christmas, bringing comfort and connection during the festive season.

For more information and details on how to make a dedication, visit:

<https://wearenugent.org/event/light-up-a-life-2025/>

- **CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL - ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL'S JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION**

The Archdiocese of Liverpool's Justice & Peace Commission is once again inviting parishes, schools, and individuals to take part in the cherished tradition of sending Christmas cards to Christians in the Holy Land. Archbishop John Sherrington has welcomed this initiative, encouraging parishes, schools, individuals, and justice and peace groups to take part once again this year.

"Receiving a Christmas card will bring hope and joy to a family, especially where the Christian community is small and fragile, and remind them they are not forgotten. I know that your prayers for them at this holy time will be a source of comfort and consolation"
Archbishop John Sherrington

In addition to the card campaign, this year's crib offerings in the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be securely transmitted to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem; a diocese of the Catholic Church whose territory includes Cyprus, Jordan, Israel and Palestine. This ensures your generosity directly supports Christians living in these areas. To find out more and for instructions on how to get involved, you can visit:

<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/news/justice-peace-commission-supporting-peace-holy-land-this-advent>



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YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

- **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY). From 18:30-20:00 on Tuesday 16 December, Fr Hugh Donleavy will deliver a faith-based talk about 'Is Scripture Outdated?'. There will also a social time with food and refreshment. Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. Please sign up online if you are interested to join us <https://forms.office.com/e/3A8CKHijnD?origin=lprLink> For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.



- **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.

- **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

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

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



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