



PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent 2024, The Nativity of the Lord, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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/

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday 28th December

"How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths...First, we learn from its silence...The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers...Second, we learn about family life...May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings, in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.

Pope Paul VI, Address from Nazareth

It is amazing that God chose to enter our fallen human condition by becoming Incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He was born of her, raised by her and Saint Joseph, acquired human knowledge through their teaching, worked with His hands, experienced the fullness of human society, and did so within the context of an earthly family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph made up a sacred family, the Holy Family.

Today's feast continues our Christmas Day celebration. This feast falls within the octave of Christmas that culminates January 1 with the Solemnity of the Mother of God.

My Catholic Life

In the face of the Gospel,
Let us ask God for a good Christmas:

...that no powerful nation
should tax the poor
or uproot them;

...that no unmarried mother
should be put away in disgrace;

...that no door will be shut
on those who need to find it open;

...that shepherds and sheep - all of nature
need not be afraid;

...that barbed wire and angry soldiers
may not be found in Bethlehem;

...that wise men and wise women
might appear in Gaza,
in Lebanon,
in Ukraine;

...that children may be preserved
from those who would abuse them;

...that this Christmas.
worship may become a manger
and the church a stable,
and the rumour become a reality
that Christ has come among us.

And this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen
Intercession 2 – Wild Goose Worship



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 or sign up on the online enrolment form <https://forms.office.com/e/M4jmd139PV?origin=lprLink>

"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).

• **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.

• **"A MOTHER'S FORGIVENESS": Peace Sunday Mass followed by Gee Walker talk**

19th January 2025, 11am (talk at 1.15pm) Metropolitan Cathedral

After Mass at the Cathedral, join Gee Walker who will talk about the murder of her son Anthony, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice. This is a partnership event by Pax Christi and the Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission.

• **LIVE SIMPLY GROUPS – NETWORK EVENT: How to influence decision makers: Advocacy Training**

25th January 2025, St Anne's Parish Centre, Ormskirk

This is an in-person training event being run by Hope for the Future and CAFOD about how to make systemic change by influencing political decision makers. It is also a chance for Live Simply groups to come together and share their experiences and plans for the new year. Please contact p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk to register.

• **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

- **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](#)

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

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