

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT SUNDAY 15 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).

GOOD NEWS

• YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

On Saturday 7 March, 25 young adults aged 18-35 gathered at the Carmelite Monastery for a day's Lenten Retreat organised by Pastoral Development Department. The day began participating in Mass with the Sisters and presided over by Fr Peter McGrail, who also led the sessions throughout the day. The theme of the day was 'Baptised into Christ: Prophet, Priest, King'. Fr Peter led us in a thought-provoking day – he made us think, challenged us, made us laugh. The day ended with Adoration and time for Reconciliation. A fabulous time together during which our hearts were converted, becoming closer to Christ. We look forward to our next Retreat Day!

NEW UPDATES THIS WEEK

• HELP US SHAPE A VISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH

We are currently reviewing youth ministry across our archdiocese, and we need your insight, enthusiasm, and ideas to help us live out the pastoral plan and become a Church where young people and young adults flourish. Everyone is welcome and has a valued voice. Whether you are young or old, lay or ordained, a parent, carer or grandparent, have experience of working with young people or not. If you bring creativity, faith, enthusiasm, or simply a desire to help guide and shape the future of your local Church, then please join us and share your thoughts.

We especially want to hear from young people.

If you are in **Year Seven or above**, please come along-

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Come along to ONE of our open meetings

MONDAY 20 APRIL 7 - 9.30pm St Joseph's Crow Orchard Rd, Wrightington, Wigan WN6 9PA

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 7 - 9.30pm St Monica's Fernhill Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 9GA

For more information, contact Sarah McGeehan
on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or **07415099048**



Pastoral Development Department:

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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

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

To celebrate the special jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, the Archdiocese is going to organise a pilgrimage for young adults (aged 18-35) to Assisi from **29 November to 2 December 2026**. The four-day pilgrimage will offer you the opportunity to spend time in the hometown of St Francis and resting place of St Carlo. For booking received by **10 April**, an advance booking price of £940 per person will be offered. This saves you £50 of the full tour price of £990. To learn more, you are invited to an online information evening at 6.30pm on **Tuesday 24 March**. Click [here](#) to register for the info evening. For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS – FORMATION

- **ONLINE DISCERNMENT WORKSHOPS**

An online discernment workshop series on Ignatian discernment, will be organised in partnership with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). The three online sessions will run on Wednesday 11, 18, and 25 March at 7:30pm. The principles of Ignatian Discernment, how to be attentive to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives; and how we can make good choices which are consistent with our faith will be explored. Participants may attend individual workshops or the full series. If you're interested, please [register online](#). For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.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



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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

- **WE DARE TO ASK – LENTEN RESOURCES**

Designed for use by individuals or small groups, *We Dare to Ask* is comprised of five sessions which reflect on the Baptismal promises we make or renew at Easter. Our 2026 Lenten resource seeks to encourage an appreciation of what is given in Christian Baptism. God desires what is best for each of us while respecting our freedom to choose. To express our acceptance of the wonderful gift that God offers us, with open hearts and a willingness to change for the better, all we need to do is ask. To download resources, please follow the link:

[We Dare to Ask - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

- **VERONICA'S STATIONS IN THE TABLET**

Deacon Justin Malewezi Jnr, of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, has been featured in The Tablet for his free online Lenten flip-book, Veronica's Stations. The resource helps parents pray the Stations of the Cross with their children and offers simple, creative ideas to bring the Bible to life for young families. Click [here](#) to read the article and click [here](#) to view the free resource.

- **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

- **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



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- **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](#)

- **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS**

The Irenaeus Centre will be leading a Eucharistic ministry training day on **14 March 2026**. For more information, parishes are invited to book by emailing jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

- **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>

- **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.

- **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](#)

- **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.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

- **NONVIOLENCE: A RADICAL RESPONSE TO OUR VIOLENT WORLD**

Director of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, Nicolas Paz will be leading an open evening in Liverpool on Monday 16 March. The event is hosted by Pax Chrii at the Quaker Meeting House (22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT) from 18:30-20:00 with lite refreshments available



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from 18:00. All are welcome to attend. Local contact is Jan Harper 07591082195 / janharper20211@outlook.com.

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 17 March (18:30-20:00)**, the group will be having a Catholic social action activity entitled '*Room at the Inn: Living the Spirituality of Hospitality*'. If you're interested in joining us, please register here <https://forms.office.com/e/YCCGsmfYga?origin=IprLink> For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

• **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](mailto:).

• **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](https://).

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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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/

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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