

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL 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

• LORD IS RISEN, ALLELUIA

May the miracle of Easter bring you peace and joy! We're delighted to tell you that around 300 adults were baptised or received into the Catholic church on the holiest day of Easter Vigil across the archdiocese. We warmly welcome them to be part of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them through their journey of faith.

• NEW MARRIAGE PREPARATION CATECHISTS ON BOARD

We are so delighted to welcome those 9 new catechists who had completed the training on marriage preparation catechists on Monday 23 March. Now they will start their ministry of accompanying engaged couples for their marriage preparation. As a team, they will deliver marriage courses in different regions across the archdiocese. May God bless their ministry. For more information about marriage preparation please contact Moses.

NEW UPDATES

• UPDATE ON THE YOUNG ADULT ASSISI PILGRIMAGE (DISCOUNT AVAILABLE)

Young adults aged 18-35 are warmly reminded to secure their place on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's pilgrimage to Assisi, taking place from 29 November to 2 December 2026. Organised in partnership with McCabe Travel, this special journey offers the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of St Francis during the 800th anniversary year. Pilgrims will visit key sites associated with St Francis and St Clare and learn more about the life of St Carlo Acutis. The cost of the trip includes flights, accommodation, transport, and all meals (except one dinner), with shared rooms provided.

A limited-time advance booking offer is currently available until Friday 17 April 2026. The first 15 people to book will pay £799 per person (£849 after this) with a reduced deposit of £200 (normally £500). For more information and booking please search:

<https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/BookAssisi>

You can also register for an online information evening at 7pm on Tuesday 7 April:

<https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/MoreInfoAssisi>

We strongly encourage early booking to take advantage of the discount and secure your place.



Pastoral Development Department:

St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA T: 0151 522 1040


pd@rcaol.org.uk

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SACRAMENT – CATECHESIS – FORMATION

• 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 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

• 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



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- **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE IN LIVERPOOL**

The Marriage Encounter Experience offers the opportunity to refresh, enrich, deepen and bring love, joy and sparkle back into marital relationships. The experience is priest led with laity couple presenters, and offers precious quality time to support lifelong marriage, personal growth and spiritual growth in a Catholic faith context. The experience is also open to couples in long term relationships, who are often drawn into marriage as a consequence through the sessions on the power of the sacrament and convent love.

In partnership with the Archdiocese, a Marriage Encounter experience will be taking place at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre on Saturday 27th and 28th June 2026.

The full details can be found on the website <https://wwme.org.uk>. For enquiry and booking please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/me-weekend-27th-28th-june-2026-liverpool-st-margaret-clitherow-centre-tickets-1109462846239?aff=oddtcreator>

Top Tips for a Happier Marriage ~ Celebrating Couples in the Archdiocese

Come and join us for a fun evening, discovering ways to grow deeper in love for a happier marriage and a happier life! The evening draws on Marriage Encounters' 50 years of wisdom and experience, based on scriptural truths, and might just be the gear change you didn't know you needed or thought possible.

Tuesday 19 May 19.30-20.30pm, ONLINE ZOOM [click here to register and attend](#)

The evening was led by Deirdre & Russ Fairman, Leaders of Marriage Encounter England & Wales wwme.org.uk. For enquiry, please contact Moses 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](#)

- **MISSION WORKSHOP**

Have you ever thought about your gift and call? Come and explore your ministry in the Church. The Archdiocese of Liverpool is going to organise a Mission Workshop which will be taking place in April 2026. During the event, there will be a keynote presentation on 'Exploring Baptismal Priesthood' by Rev Dr 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, PR25 1PD	St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA



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If you're interested in joining us, please register online here

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

- **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](#)

- **LIGHT OF TRUTH: DISCOVER THE ROSARY (Online Formation)**

A session to understand the Rosary and discover how to pray it. Held Friday 15 May 19:00-20:00. [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#)

- **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](#)

- **OUR COMMON HOME: ENGAGING POLITICIANS – MONDAY 13 APRIL, 6:30pm (Online Meeting)**

With the May local elections fast approaching, now is an important time to let politicians know your views on climate and justice. Following a meeting with the Catholic Diocesan Environment Leads of England and Wales, an alliance of organisations has come together to offer parishioners guidance on key environmental issues and to help them engage local politicians in dialogue about defending our common home and safeguarding the dignity of all our brothers and sisters. Register here to attend the online meeting with Bishop John Arnold and the Diocesan Environmental Leads Network & Friends: <https://tinyurl.com/delpolitics>

[RETREATS & PILGRIMAGES](#)

- **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



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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/>

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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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/

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