

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 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).

NEW UPDATES THIS WEEK

• **SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the 'Sunday of the Word of God' - a day, instituted by Pope Francis on the Feast of Saint Jerome in 2019, devoted to the celebration and study of Sacred Scripture.

"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." Pope Francis, *Aperuit illis*

The Archdiocese has produced a resource intended for those who are readers in church. Please print them and distribute at Mass this Sunday. There are two versions of the document – one is as an A3 booklet (needs to be printed on A3 paper and folded, the other is as individual A4 pages that can be printed and stapled. Please see the attachments in the email.

If you would like to gather your readers for a time of formation and reflection, either as a parish, family of parishes or deanery, please contact Chris: c.higgins@rcaol.org. The department can offer sessions for you.

• **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION 2026**

The idea behind this competition is to celebrate children making their First Holy Communion across the whole archdiocese and provide them an opportunity to celebrate with one another. The winning designs will be made into a badge to be given out to all First Communicants and shared across our parish communities, website and social media. We will then be providing every child making their Holy Communion with a badge showing the winning design for free. If you are a teacher or a catechist or a parent, please [click here](#) for more details or email badges@rcaol.org.uk.

GOOD NEWS

• **OUR DSC CHAIRS MET WITH ARCHBISHOP SHERRINGTON**

On Saturday, at one of their quarterly meetings, the Chairs of our 13 Deanery Synodal Councils met with Archbishop Sherrington. It was a wonderful opportunity for Archbishop Sherrington to hear from each deanery about the work that is taking place across the Archdiocese and about



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some of the challenges too. The Archbishop said that this was not only a useful learning experience but also a great encouragement. Our Chairs appreciated this time with the Archbishop and felt renewed in their continuing work. We offer our thanks to all our Chairs!

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS - FORMATION

• ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP

Are you interested in accompanying people in the church, or taking up a particular role such as a DSC member, ASC member, a chaplain, or a catechist, a member of clergy? And have you ever thought about how you can increase your awareness and confidence towards becoming an accompanier? If so, this Adventurous Accompaniment programme is definitely for you.

Through the journey of a 6-week programme including 3 full-day workshops, you will not only explore the core principles of accompaniment but also go in-depth to embed those principles in practice.

All costs of the programme will be covered by the Archdiocese. Please register online if you are interested. Sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/bE7TndtW9p?origin=lprLink>

For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

You will choose either one workshop for each weekend when you sign up

First Workshop

Saturday 7 February or Sunday 8 February

Second Workshop

Saturday 28 February or Sunday 1 March

Third Workshop

Saturday 21 March or Sunday 22 March

**All Saturday workshops will take place at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool, L17 1AA (10:00-14:00)*

All Sunday workshops will take place at St Joseph's Church, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BB (12:00-16:00)



• LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE ONLINE ALPHA COURSE

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is hosting an 11-week online Alpha course for anyone curious about life, faith, and meaning. It's a chance to meet new people and explore the Catholic faith in a friendly, open environment - no pressure, no judgement. Sessions run every Thursday at **18:45**, from **15 January to 26 March**. Each week we tackle big questions about life and faith, sparking great conversations.

Sign up today!

Scan the QR code or follow the [link](#) to sign up. For more information, please email pd@rcaol.org.uk.

REGISTRATION FOR ONLINE ALPHA COURSE



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• FCJ ONLINE DISCERNMENT WORKSHOPS

The FCJ Young Adult Network and the FCJ Centre St Hugh's invite you to a series of online Thursday workshops (12 March-26 March) exploring how to recognise the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and make choices rooted in faith. Workshops begin at **19:30**. You are welcome to attend any session or the full series.

Workshop themes:

- Principles of Ignatian Discernment
- Becoming Free
- Making Value-Based Choices

To register please sign up using the [link](#) provided. For more information, please contact FCJ Centre St Hugh's on Facebook or email fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com

• MARY'S MEALS EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

Month	Event	Brief
May 2026	Pray in May	Annual appeal for faith schools and churches. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org .
June 2026	Volunteer Thank You Picnic	Annual picnic. More details to follow. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org .
July 2026	Stall at new Brighton Summer Festival	Hoping to have a stall at New Brighton Summer Festival (24-26 July). For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org .
November 2026	Regional Christmas Fundraising Event	Taking place on Saturday 21 November in St Helens. More details to follow. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton anna.houghton@marysmeals.org .

• MARY'S MEALS SPEAKER TRAINING

An online public speaking training session will be taking place either 21 or 28 February for anyone who would like to learn or brush up their skills. Date TBC. This is a fantastic opportunity, led by two professionals as a gift to Mary's Meals which has received positive feedback from volunteers. These sessions will take place again throughout the year so if you can't make February please don't worry as there will be further opportunities. **Please let me**



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know if you would like to be added to the list for the February training and I will send you the Zoom link as soon as I have it. For more information, please contact Anna Houghton. anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

- **'OLD AND NEW' REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Hosted by the Irenaeus Project (Great George's Road, L22 1RD), reflections will be **Wednesday mornings (10:30-12:00) on 14, 21, 28 January and 4 February.** Zoom links are available from jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

- **COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART: A SILENT RETREAT**

Led by Sr Moira Meeghan at the Irenaeus Centre (Great Georges Road, L22 1RD) from **18:00 Friday 20 February – 13:00 Sunday 22 February**. Those interested are advised to book early: residential places are £95, non-residential with meals is £70, non-residential (self-catering) is £30. To book and for more information please contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 01519491199.

- **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](#)

- **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

- **FCJ: FORMATION IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

This online programme is designed for young adults who wish to use their gifts and talents in the service of others. Beginning on **Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 18:00**, the programme will run over three months and include three online workshops, reflective activities, personal accompaniment, and practical experience. Participants will be encouraged to cultivate an attitude of generosity and gratitude for their gifts, be actively involved in their local parish or faith setting and commit to attending all sessions. If you would like to learn more about the programme or have a conversation about whether this is for you, please email Sr Lynne FCJ at fcjcentresthughs@gmail.com

- **FCJ PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE**

Beginning on **Wednesday 8 April (17:00) and concluding Sunday 12 April (14:00)**, the FCJ's are inviting all young adults (20's and 30's) to a walking retreat to the [Holy Island of Lindisfarne](#), a tidal island off the coast of Northeast England. Walking in the footsteps of the Northern saints, the trail will include a two-day walk on [St Cuthbert's Way](#), crossing the pilgrim route to the island. One day in Lindisfarne and the final day will include Mass and a visit to St Cuthbert's Shrine at Durham Cathedral. Accommodation is a [Bunkhouse](#) on the



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mainland with simple facilities, bunkbeds, an open fire and some storage heating. Each day the group will drive to the start of the walk and arrange to be collected from the end. The terrain is open countryside so good walking shoes, a backpack and waterproof jacket are essential. The group will pray together every day with some opportunities for Mass.

[Complete the form to register](#)

• **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2026**

Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. For more information, please follow the [link](#)

• **MARRIAGE WEEK**

Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is celebrated from **7-14 February**. For more information, please follow this [link](#)

• **CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

We encourage all young people who wish to be confirmed next year to visit the [Liverpool Called website](#) with their parents/guardians. The details you provide the online form will be shared with the Dean of the area of which you have applied, your local parish, and the Diocesan administration team. It may be shared with other parties associated with Diocesan sacramental preparation and relevant and appropriate Diocesan bodies and authorities.

Your local parish will be in touch after registration period ends on the **13 February** (you will not be contacted beforehand) with details about meetings in your local area. You will likely be contacted after Easter. **Please do not worry if you are not contacted immediately.** If you have any queries, please contact your parish priest.

The information you provide will be held for the sacramental year (which ends on the day new application forms go online for the succeeding sacramental preparation year) and your contact information may be used to contact you by email, text, letter or phone. For more information on how your data may be used and our retention policy please see <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy>

• **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>

For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk



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- **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

- **EUCARISTIC 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

- **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.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

- **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at the Pauline Book Centre (Church Street, L1 3AY) in Liverpool City Centre. Anyone aged 18-35 is most welcome. For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk. On **Tuesday 3 February (18:30-20:00)**,



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the group will be having a faith-based talk with Fr Peter McGrail. We will talk about our shared priesthood through baptism. Please register here if you are interested
<https://forms.office.com/e/vDKWdNWKLm?origin=lprLink>

- **PORTUGESE-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

- [Young people in the ecumenical movement](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Rite of Election Mass

Sunday 22 February

Mission Days

Tuesday 21 April / Thursday 23 April / Saturday 25 April

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

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