

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 21st 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).

A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON

Archbishop John Sherrington was shocked to hear of the terrible shootings, injury and loss of life at the Bondi Beach Hanukkah event. He offers prayers and condolences on behalf of the Catholic community to our Jewish brothers and sisters in Liverpool. Please pray for peace between all people.

GOOD NEWS

• **ST JOHN RIGBY COLLEGE – CAFOD CAROL SERVICE**

Wednesday 10th December saw a packed church for this year's wonderful CAFOD carol service at St Teresa's church, Upholland organised by St John Rigby College. The long-running annual event brings together not only the talents of the college's singers, musicians and technical team, but also an array of local schools. With huge thanks from CAFOD for such an uplifting evening to Fr Philip and all at St Teresa's; St John Rigby College; St Edmund Arrowsmith, St John Fisher and St Peter's High Schools; and St Mary & St John, St Patrick and St Teresa's Primary Schools.

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS - FORMATION

• **ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT WORKSHOP**

Are you a DSC member, a chaplain or a catechist? Have you ever thought about how can you increase the awareness and confidence towards becoming an Adventurous Accompanier? 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 going 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



Pastoral Development Department:

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pd@rcaol.org.uk

Subscribe: <https://mailchi.mp/e8bb057375db/sign-up-form>

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
<i>*All Saturday workshops will take place at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Liverpool, L17 1AA (10am-2pm) All Sunday workshops will take place at St Joseph's Church, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BB (12pm-4pm)</i>

- **CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

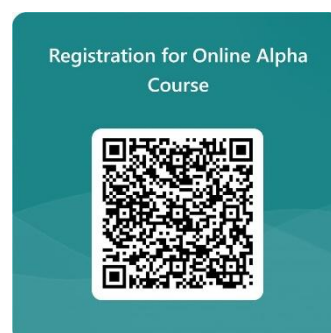
We encourage all young people who wish to be confirmed next year to visit the [Liverpool Called website](#) with their parents/guardians. The details you provide the online form will be shared with the Dean of the area of which you have applied, your local parish, and the Diocesan administration team. 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 own 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>

- **LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE ONLINE ALPHA COURSE**

Beginning on Thursday 15th January for 11 weeks at 6.45pm, we're offering an Online Alpha Course for anyone wishing to explore life, faith and meaning. If you, or someone you know is looking to meet new people and explore the Catholic faith together, Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith and purpose and is designed to spark conversation. If you'd like to find out more, please use the QR code to fill out a contact form, or email pd@rcaol.org.uk <https://forms.office.com/e/dKrKG8Qg04>



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- **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



- **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

- **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



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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=lprLink>

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.

- **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

- **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 fcjcentresthughes@gmail.com.



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CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

- **A MESSAGE FROM CARJ MERSEYSIDE**

The Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) is an independent charity and Agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales committed to promoting equality and inclusion. Through education and advocacy, CARJ empowers Black and minority ethnic Catholics, ensuring they have a strong and effective voice within the Church and across wider society. Read on to see CARJ Merseyside's review of the new BBC series: Empire with David Olusoga.



CARJ Merseyside Review: Empire by David Olusoga

If you haven't yet seen Empire by David Olusoga, make it a priority - watch it however you can. This gripping series offers a clear, honest, and accessible look at what really happened during the era of empire - revealing stories often left out of traditional history lessons. David Olusoga brings these forgotten stories to light, helping us understand the forces that shaped the world we live in today. Watching Empire isn't just about learning history - it's about gaining perspective. It highlights experiences we must never forget, lessons that should be shared, and truths that can guide us toward a fairer, more inclusive society. Encourage your children and grandchildren to watch too, so these stories and lessons are passed on to the next generation. You can watch Empire anytime on BBC iPlayer if you're in the UK. Don't just watch it - share it, talk about it, and pass it on. This is history that matters, for all of us.

If you are interested in finding out more about CARJ Merseyside or would like to get involved, you can get in touch at: carjmerseyside@gmail.com

- **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



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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>

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

• ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

After the Christmas break, the Archdiocesan Young Adult Group will return, beginning with a **Young Adult Mass on Tuesday 6 January 2026, 18:30-20:00**. The Mass will be held at the **Pauline Book Centre (Church Street, L1 3AY) in Liverpool City Centre**. Anyone aged 18-35 is most welcome. There is no registration required. For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui 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/H7vBayJ4Jlm2spPNI9d2DT> If you want more information please contact James: djmoroney@cantab.net or 07546667394

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



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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/departments/pastoral-development>

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Episcopal Vicar for Parish Development Rev Gerard Callacher g.callacher@rcaol.org.uk

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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