ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL
PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 8 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

- **ADVENTUROUS ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME**

  We carried on the journey of the 6-week formation programme with the second workshops taken place in St Margaret Clitherow Centre and St Joseph Penketh last weekend. The workshops led by Kate Wilkinson from Million Minutes were well received. It was good to see attendees from across the archdiocese delving into how the concept of accompaniment can be put into practice in the life of church.

- **ALPHA COURSE**

  We're entering the half-way stage of our Alpha course that has been running since January and our group has been entering into some fascinating and explorative conversations. Our group also includes people who are interested in joining RCIA next year. Thank you to all of those who have contributed to these wonderful conversations.

- **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.

SACRAMENT - CATECHESIS – FORMATION

- **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

Pastoral Development Department:
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pd@rcaol.org.uk
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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 (CBCEW)**
  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**

ONINE 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
https://forms.office.com/e/n926SQRKva?origin=lprLink
For enquiry, please contact Moses at **m.mui@rcaol.org.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 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**

- **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**.

- **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**

- **EUCHARISTIC 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**

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 Chrisi at the Quaker Meeting House (22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT) from 18:30-20:00 with lite refreshments available 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=lprLink** For enquiries, please contact Moses at **m.mui@rcaol.org.uk**.

- **PORTUGESE-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**.

SAVE THE DATE!

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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CONTACTS: PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (PD) TEAM

pd@rcaol.org.uk **https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoral-development**

Director of Pastoral Development	Liz Parsons	e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1023
Pastoral Development Administrator	Jonathan McGuirk	j.mcguirk@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1040
Pastoral Plan Administrator	Ian Parrott	i.parrott@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1044
Training Coordinator	Moses Mui	m.mui@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1047
Catholic Social Action Coordinator	Lucy Rauer	l.rauer@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1042
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Sarah McGeehan	s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1041
Parish & Deanery Development Adviser	Chris Higgins	c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk	0151 522 1046

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/

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