

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT SUNDAY 22 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

• RCIA RETREAT DAY FOR CATECHUMENS

On Saturday we held a retreat day for the RCIA Catechumens, Candidates and Catechists. Blessed with our highest attendance in 3 years, feedback on the day being overwhelmingly positive. Praying with Lectio Divina, and adoration at the Carmelite Monastery, the Holy Spirit was certainly present and allowed us to take time from our busy days to simply be with the Lord. Thank you to Bishop Tom Neylon for his accompaniment and guidance as well as the RCIA Core Team for organising the day. For questions about RCIA, email rcia@rcaol.org.uk

• WINNER OF THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION

We are delighted to announce that Abigail Bibby, aged 9, from St Laurence's Catholic Primary School has won the First Holy Communion Badge Competition. The winning design will be made into a badge to be given out to all First Communicants this year. Well done and congratulations to Abigail for her nice work. We would also like to express our appreciation to all children who have submitted their entries.

NEW UPDATES THIS WEEK

• 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



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

To celebrate the special jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, the Archdiocese has organised a pilgrimage for young adults (aged 18-35) to visit Assisi from **29 November to 2 December 2026**. Walking in the footsteps of St Francis during the 800th anniversary year, we will visit some of the key sites involving St Francis and St Clare as well as St Carlo Acutis. For booking received by **10 April**, an advance booking price of £940 per person will be offered, saving £50 from the full tour price of £990. You are invited to an online information evening at 6.30pm on **Tuesday 24 March**. Click tinyurl.com/Young-Adult-Assisi-Trip to register for the info evening or to receive updates about this trip, even if you can't make the 24th. 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 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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- **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 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

- **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**

Enrich your "Domestic Church" this Lent with Veronica's Stations by Deacon Justin Malewezi. This free interactive flipbook brings the family together for prayer and tactile fun!

Here is how it works:

- **PRAY:** Read the Stations of the Cross together, reimagined through the eyes of Saint Veronica.
- **MOLD:** Get out the play dough or plasticine and sculpt your own characters for a Bible story.



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- **CREATE:** Talk about the story while you sculpt, then write a poem and prayer to go with your creations.
- **GET STARTED NOW:** Scan the QR Code or Click the Link to open your free flipbook!
<https://malewezi.com/flipbook/pray-and-play-veronicas-stations-by-deacon-justin/>

- **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](#)

- **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.

- **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/>



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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 Chrsi 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.

- **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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