

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY 3 MAY 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

• **YOUTH MINISTRY REVIEW OPEN MEETINGS**

In response to the Area 5 of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan (becoming a Church where young people and young adults flourish) we held two open meetings for anyone in the archdiocese to come and share thoughts about youth ministry. Over 70 people came and discussed ideas such as our hopes for young people, what the Church does that helps young people, where we are failing, and how we can work together to improve our provision. There were many suggestions made and all of these ideas have been recorded and will be fed into the report.

• **MISSION DAY**

In response to the Area 2 of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan (becoming a Church that honours the vocation of all the baptised), two Mission Day events were organised on 23rd and 25th April, at St Mary's church, Leyland, and St Margaret Clitherow Centre respectively. We had a good time with the fantastic keynote presentation on 'Exploring the Baptismal Priesthood' from Fr Peter McGrail, followed by four different lay ministry workshops (i.e. catechist, reader, evangelisation and Catholic social action). A big thank you to everybody who attended the two events. We hope you all had a good reflection on your own calling from God. One attendee said: 'The keynote speaker presented ideas that helped to underpin the exploration of mission'. 'A realisation that I have been called by God to walk alongside others,' said another.

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




Pastoral Development Department:

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pd@rcaol.org.uk

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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

- **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 covenant 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](#)



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The evening was led by Deirdre & Russ Fairman, Leaders of Marriage Encounter England & Wales wwwme.org.uk. For enquiry, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

- **LIGHT OF TRUTH: ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS (Online Formation)**

Three Saturday sessions, beginning Saturday 16 May from 9am-12 noon, covering the basic principles of catechesis. Suitable as an introduction for beginners or as a refresher for experienced catechists. For more information [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#)

Session 1: What is Catechesis?

Session 2: Using the Bible and the Catechism

Session 3: Practicalities

- **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.

RETREATS & PILGRIMAGES

- **ANNUAL PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS**

Two Cathedrals May 2026 - All Welcome! 'Many Voices - One Faith'

Sunday 24th May 2026, 3-5pm

As the Feast of Pentecost approaches and we remember the moment when the early Christians were flooded with the Holy Spirit and carried the Gospel out into the crowds, Christians across the Archdiocese region are preparing to come together in celebration at this year's Two Cathedrals Pentecost Walk. Inspired by Pope John Paul II's journey down Hope Street in 1982, the Two Cathedrals Pentecost Walk is... denominations to come together in celebration.

The Two Cathedrals Walk will take place on Sunday 24th May at 3pm. All are warmly welcome to join us in gathering at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King for a walk down Hope Street to Liverpool Cathedral in a time celebration. For more information, visit: <https://www.ctmr.org.uk/Groups/341586/Pentecost.aspx>

- **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



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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

- **PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI FOR YOUNG ADULTS (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.

For the first 15 people from Liverpool Archdiocese to book, there is a discount price of £799 (the full price is £990). The cost of the trip includes flights, accommodation, transport, and all meals (except one dinner), with shared rooms provided. We strongly encourage early booking to take advantage of the discount and secure your place.

[View here for information and to book your space](#)

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

- **DILEXI TE READING GROUP**

Bon Secours Young Adults Great Britain and Million Minutes is running a Dilexi Te Reading Group for those in their 20's and 30's who are particularly interested in the Church's love for the poor, you can find out more and register at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bonsecoursyoungadultsgb/2138220>

If you have any questions, contact Chris Knowles at chris.knowles@cbsparis.org

- **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. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May. As usual, light refreshment will be served at 6.30pm, followed by a faith-based talk. This time, we will have Fr Peter McGrail to talk about the doctrine of transubstantiation. If you're interested, please register online here [link](#). 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](#).



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- **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](#).

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

- **SAVE THE DATE: CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE – 10TH JULY**

We invite you to save the date for the upcoming Catholic Social Action Conference on 10th July 2026.

Whether you're involved in parish outreach, working for a faith-based charity, volunteering in your local community, or simply drawn to Catholic Social Teaching and Justice & Peace, you are very welcome!

This annual Archdiocesan event brings together people committed to living out Catholic Social Teaching. It offers a welcoming space to meet others working towards social justice, learn and share experiences from the ground, and reflect on the key issues affecting social action today. This year, we will be exploring the risks and challenges to human flourishing for those working in social action.

Further details and registration information are soon to follow.

OTHER EVENTS

- **FILM: People's Emergency Briefing screening**
Friday 15th May, 7.30pm

Invitation to attend a local screening of the *People's Emergency Briefing* film about the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate. The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing of MPs, bringing together leading UK experts. **Friday 15th May, Winsford Academy, Grange Lane, Winsford, CW7 2BT, Film starts at 7.30pm.** Doors open from 7pm, Film is 50 minutes, Conversation & Discussion afterwards
Book your free ticket here: <https://buytickets.at/winsfordsustainabilitypartners/2152124>

- **BBC'S SONGS OF PRAISE SING GOSPEL**

Tuesday 19th May 2026 - recording at 7pm (doors open from 5.30pm) – Free event

Invitation to come and join BBC Songs of Praise at Liverpool Olympia celebrating the joy and power of Gospel music with very special guests and plenty of opportunity to lift your voice and your spirits! There is no minimum age for entry, all ages are warmly welcomed but children aged 17 and under must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Venue: Liverpool Olympia, West Derby Road, Liverpool, L6 9BY. Tickets can be obtained at no cost by following this [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 safe-guarding@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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