

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY 17 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

• **WELCOME TO THE TEAM, JOHN!**

The Pastoral Development Department has welcomed John Sargent as a new team member under a job share arrangement of the Catholic Social Action Coordinator role. We are thrilled to have John and Lucy now working together on Social Action, and we offer John a warm welcome!

A little more about John:

Hello, my name is John Sargent. I am a deacon of the Archdiocese, based up in Penwortham within the South Ribble Family of Parishes and the Lancashire Deanery. I am currently serving in a job-share as Catholic Social Action Coordinator 2-days per week within the Pastoral Development Department of the Archdiocese of Liverpool; and as a prison chaplain 3-days per week.

I spent over 36 years with L'Arche, an international movement of intentional faith communities of people with and without intellectual disabilities. My original degree is in law, and I have also undertaken studies in philosophy, theology, counselling, management, and organisational development. I am a trained spiritual accompanier and a guest director at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales.

SACRAMENT – CATECHESIS – FORMATION

• **DAY FOR CATECHISTS 4 JULY 2026**

More information coming soon, save the date

• **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.



Pastoral Development Department:

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pd@rcaol.org.uk

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

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](#)

The evening was led by Deirdre & Russ Fairman, Leaders of Marriage Encounter England & Wales wwme.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

- **PILGRIM WALK FOR YOUNG ADULTS – SATURDAY 6 JUNE**

We are going to organise a Pilgrim Walk for young adults who are aged 18-35 on **Saturday 6 June**. We will gather at **Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Portico L34 2QT** and begin the walk at **10am**. Then we will come back to the church for mid-day Mass, followed by lunch and fellowship time.

If you are interested, please book online here <https://forms.office.com/e/7H3PMpcuQS?origin=lprLink>

For enquiry, please contact Chris at c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk



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- **ANNUAL PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS**

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

Sunday 24 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 24 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>

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.

- **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 26 May. As usual, light refreshment will be served at 6.30pm. For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

- **PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING YOUNG ADULTS PRAYER GROUP**



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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](#).

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION

- **CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE 2026 – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

The Archdiocese of Liverpool invites you to register your place for this year's **Catholic Social Action Conference**, due to place at **Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Friday 10 July 2026**.

The social action conference is an annual event in the life of the Archdiocese, bringing together people working in the faith-based charity sector, volunteers, and anyone with a particular interest in social justice advocacy and Catholic Social Teaching. It's a chance to meet others working towards similar goals, learn and share experiences from the ground, and explore current issues shaping social action today.

In line with current emphases in developing Catholic Social Teaching, this year's conference theme is **'Humanitas: Flourishing in Action'**. We'll be reflecting on the emerging risks and challenges associated with prioritising human flourishing in Catholic Social Action.

We're delighted to have an excellent line-up of speakers and workshop hosts, including a keynote from **Jenny Sinclair**, Director of Together for the Common Good and host of the Leaving Egypt podcast.

More details will be announced soon. To register your place ahead of the curve, please complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/ePUXSkjrCj?origin=lprLink>



We look forward to welcoming you at the conference soon!

OTHER EVENTS

- **WEBELIEVE FESTIVAL – 24 TO 27 JULY**

WeBelieve festival brings thousands together to encounter Jesus Christ in His Church. It's an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to grow in authentic community, and to encounter the transforming love of God.



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Join us from **24-27 July, 2026** at the historic and beautiful setting of **St Mary's College, Oscott** for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful.

<https://www.webelievewithfestival.com/tickets>



- **FILM: People's Emergency Briefing screening**

Friday 15 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 15 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 19 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 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 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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