



PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Lent – 9th March 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).

"And as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

When Jesus went into the desert, he went with the baptismal waters of the Jordan still clinging to him, and with the name Beloved ringing in his ears. How else to enter into the forty-day place that lay ahead of him? How else to cross into the wilderness where he would have no food, no community, nothing that was familiar to him – and, to top it off, would have to wrestle with the devil? How else, but to go into that landscape with the knowledge of his own name: Beloved. In this first week of Lent, we would do well to have that name echoing in our own ears – to enter into this season with the knowledge that we, too, are the beloved of God. As we cross with Christ into the landscape of Lent and into the mystery that lies ahead of us, may we know at least this about ourselves: that our name, too, is Beloved. *Jan Richardson The Painted Prayerbook*

IMPORTANT ARCHDIOCESAN DATES – SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 9 March	Rite of Election 2025
Monday 10 March and Thursday 13 March	Preparing for Confirmation – For organisers
Tuesday 11 March	Young Adult Mass
Wednesdays, from 12 March to Wednesday 2 July	Catechist Course 2025
Thursday 20 March	Archdiocese of Liverpool Romero Mass
Monday 31 March	Animate Confirmation – Non-Catholic Schools
Saturday 12 April	Retreat day for Catechumens
Saturday 26 April	Catholic Spirituality Network Conference 2025
Thursday 1 May and Thursday 15 May	Animate Confirmation – Catholic Schools
Saturday 17 th May	Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Walk and Mass – St Anne & Blessed Dominic, St Helen's
Sunday 8 th June	'Pilgrims of Hope' Pentecost Walk - Cathedrals
Sunday 24 th August	Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Walk and Mass – St Oswald & St Edmund Arrowsmith, Ashton
Saturday 20 th September	Care for Creation Walk and Mass – St Mary's, Aughton

THIS WEEK

• PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION – CLERGY, CATECHISTS, TEACHERS, CHAPLAINS

If you are helping our teenagers prepare for Confirmation this year and would like to have a discussion about some resources and the Archdiocesan process. Please click on the link to attend one of the following information evenings:

- **10 March** – [Our Lady of the Assumption](#), Hedgefield Road, L25 2RW at 18.30 to 20.30
- **13 March** – [St Joseph's Church](#), Harpers Lane, Chorley, PR6 0HR at 18.30 to 20.30

Please note this is **NOT** an evening for our teenagers or their families – this is for people in our schools and parishes who help to facilitate the formation process.



Pastoral Development Department:

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- **PSALM SETTINGS**

Several composers have come together to create **Music for Liturgy**, an online shop offering psalm settings for the new Lectionary in a variety of styles. Here you will find music from John Ainslie, Nick Baty, Teresa Brown, Philip Jakob, Alan Johnson, Chris Olding and Alan Smith.

This is not a new publisher but a group of small imprints who have come together to make settings of the psalms available for instant download. The site is live, and more settings are being added each week. This is an ideal resource to sample different styles of psalm settings by a range of composers. More information can be found at MusicforLiturgy.online. Each psalm setting is priced individually.

ONGOING INFORMATION

- **RCIA – RITE OF ELECTION 2025**

The Rite of Election is taking place on Sunday 9 March at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 15.00. This event is for people who are to be received into the Catholic Church this Easter and are to be elected and called forward. For those attending with their families, please arrive at the Cathedral no later than **14.45** as you will need to register your attendance to sign the book of the elect. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis.

- **YOUNG ADULT MASS**

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meets fortnightly at **Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY)**. This year we are exploring different types of prayer. On **Tuesday 11 March**, we will celebrate Young Adult Mass at **18.45**. It will be followed by pizza and refreshment. Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. For enquiries, please contact m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

- **GENERAL CATECHIST COURSE 2025**

Beginning on **Wednesday 12 March until Wednesday 2 July**, a series of catechist training course will be provided by the Archdiocese. The course will cover **3 modules over 14 weeks**, and it is for those who are considering being catechists or are existing catechists looking to refresh their knowledge.

The first module, on Encountering Catechesis will explore key principles of Catechesis to build confidence. The second module, on Discipleship Catechesis will explore key elements of the Catholic Faith and how they can be explored through Catechesis. The third module will help identify key principles to develop a culture of ongoing catechesis, formation and discipleship.

First module: Encountering Catechesis	Second module: Discipleship Catechesis	Third module: Missionary Catechesis
12 March	9 April	4 June
19 March	23 April	11 June
26 March	30 April	18 June
2 April	7 May	25 June
	14 May	
	21 May	

Venue: St Mary's church, Broadfield Walk, Leyland (PR25 1PD)

Time: 19.00 – 20.30

If you are interested, please sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/efjAZbJUrZ?origin=lprLink>

For more information, please refer to the attached poster or contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk



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- **CONFIRMATION 2025 (ANIMATE)**

If your child is in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation, please register at liverpoolcalled.co.uk. Registration is open from **Monday 13 January** to **Monday 17 March 2025**. Join the Animate team and special guests live for the **Sacrament of Confirmation Online Preparation Sessions** on **Thursday 1 May** and **Thursday 15 May** from **16.30-18.00** on the Animate Youth YouTube channel. No log in required. This session will offer a reminder of some of the work done in schools on Gifts of the Spirit, Saints, Rite of Confirmation. You will also hear how Confirmation has affected different people in the Archdiocese. **This is to run alongside your Local Parish/Deanery preparation.**

Animate will also be offering a special session on **Monday 31 March (16.30-18.00)** for those who attend non-Catholic schools or schools outside the Archdiocese on YouTube. Please register as normal at liverpoolcalled.co.uk; you will be contacted after **Monday 17 March** with login details. Please save the date!

- **ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL ROMERO MASS**

This year's Mass for St Oscar Romero will be celebrated at **St Edmund of Canterbury** (62 Oxford Rd, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QF) on **Thursday 20 March** at **19.00**. For more information, please contact the parish office on 01519282338 or email stoscarromero@rcaol.org.uk. Please note, office hours are:
Monday & Tuesday - 9.00 to 15.00
Wednesday - 11.00 to 14.30
Saturday - 11.00 to 13.30

- **RETREAT DAY FOR RCIA CATECHUMENS, CANDIDATES AND CATECHISTS BOOKING FORM:**

<https://forms.office.com/e/72sZGdurw3>

RESOURCES & EVENTS

- **JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS: SILENT RETREAT, Friday 7 – Sunday 9 March 2025**

Led by Sr Moria Meeghan at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. Residential places are available. £95 Residential, Non-Residential with meals £70 and Non-Residential (self-catering) £30. To book and for more information contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 9491199

- **THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF JESUS: EASTER RETREAT, Wednesday 16 – Sunday 20 April**

Led by Fr Chris Thomas and the Irenaeus team, following the Easter Triduum services, beginning with a Passover meal on the Wednesday. Limited residential places available. To book and for more information contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 9491199

- **CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK CONFERENCE 2025, Saturday 26 April**

Led by Rev Lister Tonge at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. 10:30-16:00 **Conference Fees:** £30 / CSN members £25 - £5 early bird discount until **14th March 2025**. Bookings: Margaret Palladino catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com , www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php

- **THE NATIONAL JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE, Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 September 2025**

The Pilgrimage of Hope is a national walking pilgrimage with four main Ways converging at the Cathedral of St Barnabas, Nottingham, on Saturday 13th September 2025, for shared prayer and celebration. The Pilgrimage will culminate with Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at 11.15 am on 14th September 2025 at St Barnabas' Cathedral. The Pilgrimage will embody the values of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of compassion, faith, prayer and community.

[Pilgrimage Walk | The Pilgrimage of Hope](#) – registration opens April 2025



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• THE LIGHT OF TRUTH SHORT COURSES

The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph / Light of Truth are running several online courses and retreats over the coming months

- **Lenten Retreat: The Sacrament of Hope** – 6 sessions during Lent, to mark the 2025 Jubilee, to prayerfully reflect on our personal journey with God, Thursday 6 March, 19:30-20:30.
- **The Happy Life of Virtue** – 7 sessions to discover the virtues of faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, keys to a holy and happy life, in communion with God, Friday 14 March, 21:00.
- **Essential Training for Catechists** – 6 sessions to introduce the fundamental aspects of catechesis, Thursday 1 May, 19:30-21:00.

Further information and booking at [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#) Suggested donation: £5 per session per person

• FCJ YOUNG ADULT NETWORK – UPCOMING EVENTS

- o Wednesday 12 March: Why Hope? Hope for Creation Sign up: <https://bit.ly/WhyHope>
- o Tuesday 11 & Tuesday 18 March: Exploring Lent Scriptures <https://bit.ly/LentScriptures>
- o Saturday 15 March: Flame Congress <https://bit.ly/FlameUnstoppable2025>
- o Sunday 23 – Sunday 30 March: FCJ Sisters in Malta
- o Wednesday 23 – Sunday 27 April: Lindisfarne Pilgrimage <https://bit.ly/FCJLindisfarne2025>
- o Friday 23 – Sunday 25 May: FCJ Vocations Weekend <https://bit.ly/FCJVocationWeekend>
- o Sunday 8 – Sunday 15 June Volunteering Catholic Social Action – Liverpool fjcentresthughs@gmail.com
- o Monday 23 – Sunday 29 June: Urban Gardening & Ecology – London info@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk
- o Monday 28 July – Sunday 3 August: MAGIS Pilgrimage to Rome <https://bit.ly/MAGIS-Rome2025>

More information from [Young Adults - Faithful Companions of Jesus](#)

CONTACTS: PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) DEPARTMENT TEAM

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Bishops' Delegate for CSA	Sr Lynne Baron, FCJ	
The Irenaeus Project		https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/
Youth Ministry: Animate		https://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/66a35fdcea58/pd-bulletin>



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