



PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

The Presentation of the Lord & 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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). You can find additional Saints' information on https://www.catholicireland.net/saints_category/saints/

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (2nd February)

The Presentation' happens on the Sunday 40 days after Christmas Day. It was 40 days after the events in Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus that his parents presented Him to God the Father in Jerusalem at the Temple. Scripture tells us that whilst at the Temple two people recognised Jesus for who He was. Simeon and Anna, wise in years, spent their time devoted to God at the Temple. Now they meet Him face to face – God in their midst.

Simeon's words, in response to recognising the Lord, are said throughout the world, each night, in what is known as the 'Nunc Dimittis' during compline (or night prayer):

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Luke 2: 29-32 ESV-CE

This feast day is also known as 'Candlemas' as candles are often blest and lit on this day in reference to Jesus being a 'light to the Gentiles'.

St Paul Miki (SJ) St Paul Miki (SJ) and Companions (6th February)

Nagasaki is a word, for most people outside of Japan, synonymous with the atomic bomb dropped there at the end of WWII. However, Holy Mountain overlooking Nagasaki is the site of crucifixion for 26 Christian martyrs in 1597.

Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among these martyrs. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution:

"The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

Missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. At first, there seemed no evidence of Christianity until they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith.



Pastoral Development Department:

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UPDATE FROM THE LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

- **REVIEW OF OUR PASTORAL BULLETIN**

Thank you for those who have submitted their opinions about the bulletin and its review. It will remain open for another two weeks. The digital form attached here is available for any additional honest opinions and suggestions of how we may make it more useful. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PM621XT32U21f8Y1zmskboZvNJ3BIBhLgOk8GH0YLptURTBOV1ZISzcyVFMwT1g1VUg4NU5QQ0JEVi4u>

- **ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group will meet again on **Tuesday 11th February**. The meetings are held fortnightly at **Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY)**. As usual, we will start at **18.30** where pizza and refreshment will be provided. Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. This year we are exploring different types of prayer. The theme of next meeting will be 'Praying with the Examen' and on **25 February**, we will be 'Praying with Ven Elizabeth Prout'. For enquiries, please contact m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

- **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 **1 May** and **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!

- **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. The Application for Admission form is attached to this email. The deadline for sending registration forms is **Friday 7 February**. Please send them to **Aaron Kiely** at the Liverpool Archdiocese, Croxteth Drive, L17 1AA and put **"The Rite of Election"** on the envelope for an ease of processing. If you wish to submit an admission form electronically, please type in the email subject **"RCIA Admission 2025"**, attach the form, and send to Aaron Kiely: a.kiely@rcaol.org.uk.

- **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS**

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on **Sunday 9 February 2025** at **11.00**. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those married in a Jubilee year.



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Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room. For those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate through this link

<https://forms.office.com/e/LLbcUJpL85?origin=lprLink>

For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

- **GENERAL CATECHIST COURSE, 12 March to 2 July 2025**

Beginning on **12 March until 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 contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

RESOURCES & EVENTS

- **'THE UPSIDE DOWN' reflections at the Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD, 10.30-12.00**

Reflections on Luke's Gospel begin Wednesday 15 January at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome. The sessions are also available on Zoom. For Zoom details contact Jenny at jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

- Wednesday 5 February

- **WORD ON FIRE: EVANGELISATION CULTURE CONFERENCE: THE BIBLE, 21 – 22 February 2025**

This conference is for those who are seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the beauty of the Catholic faith while growing in your evangelisation efforts. It will be at Excel London, right in the heart of London's historic Royal Docks. Please follow this link for more details and to book your place: [Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible](#)

- **DIVORCE MONTH: MARRIAGE HELP PROGRAM, February 2025**

January is the highest month for divorce proceedings as many couples want help but don't know where to turn when they have difficulties. Book now on February MARRIAGE HELP

program. www.retrouville.org.uk +44 7887 296 983 James and Sharon Westby, Coordinators

Retrouville England and Wales



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- **JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS: Silent Retreat, 7-9 March 2025**

Led by 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

- **COME AND SEE DAY: The Wonder of Death and Dying, 10.30-16.00, 1 Feb 2025**

We welcome Dr Karen Groves, (MBE for Services to Palliative Care), who will be leading our next 'Come & See' day. Everyone is invited to come and experience an interesting day. At Irenaeus Centre, L22 1RD. To book and for more information contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 9491199. Bring a lunch, Suggested donation £10.

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The Irenaeus Project		https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/
Youth Ministry: Animate		https://www.animateyouth.org/

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