



**Newsletter for  
Week  
Commencing  
30 November 2025**

**First Sunday  
of Advent (A)**

### **Sacred Heart and Saint Alban**

**Parish Priest:**  
**Canon Christopher Cunningham**  
**Deacon:**  
**Rev Terry Dolan: 01925 492857**  
**Prison Chaplain:**  
**Fr James Fasakin C.S.Sp**

**Tel: 01925 630928** (Parish Office)  
**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri : 8.30am-1.00pm  
**Email:** stalbanspriory@rcaol.org.uk  
**Website:** www.sacredheartandstalban.org  
**Facebook:**  
Parish of Sacred Heart and St Alban  
Warrington

### **St Joseph**

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr Raymond Anyanwu C.S.Sp**  
**Deacon:**  
**Rev John McClure (Retired)**  
**01925 723146**

**Tel: 01925 722105**  
**Office hours:** Mon-Fri : 9.00am-12 noon  
**Alternative Tel: 01925 631086**  
**Email:** stjoseph.warrington@rcaol.org.uk  
**Website:** stjosephpenketh.co.uk  
**Twitter:** @StJosephs\_RCC  
**Facebook:**  
www.facebook.com/groups/stjorc

### **Saint Paul of the Cross**

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr John Schofield**

**Tel: 01925 226184** (Parish Office)  
**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri : 9.30am-2.00pm  
**Email:** stpaulofthecross@rcaol.org.uk  
**Facebook:** St Paul of the Cross UK

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### **Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Lord our God, we praise you for  
your Son, Jesus Christ.  
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples.  
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us.  
He is the Saviour of every nation.  
Lord God, let your blessing come down upon  
us, as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light be a sign of  
Christ's promise to bring us salvation.  
May he come and not delay.



### **Papal Prayer Intentions for December**

Pope Leo's prayer intention for December is for  
Christians living amidst war or conflict, especially in  
the Middle East: This prayer is a way of saying to the  
Christians of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and so  
many other countries that they are not forgotten, that  
the universal Church walks with them; but also to  
remind us all that faith grows even in the midst of  
trials, and that seeds of reconciliation and peace can  
be born from wounded communities.

This month we are invited to join in Pope Leo's  
prayer intention

**"... that Christians living in areas of war or  
conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be  
seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope."**

### **The Advent Wreath**

Today we light the first of our Advent candles.  
Traditionally we will be lighting three purple  
candles and one pink candle. The purple  
candles represent the royalty of the coming  
King. The pink candle is the third candle to be  
lit on Gaudete Sunday and represents 'joy'. The  
gradual lighting of the four candles symbolises  
the coming light into the world. The wreath  
itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen  
in which the candles are placed represent  
everlasting life.

### **Gospel Reflection - In the Days of Noah**

Does Christmas seem to come round faster every  
year? Do you ever feel that the sand of time is  
running fast though your fingers and that life is  
passing you by?



The hardest thing about living our lives is finding time to live our  
lives! Our days are ruled by the clock. Few of us can wake up  
and choose what to do. Our time is dictated by routine and before  
we know it life has passed us by before we've had time to live it.  
The biggest theme of Advent is 'change' but in the busy run up  
to Christmas, changing the way we live our lives is probably the  
last thing on our minds. We are much more likely to be comparing  
prices of the latest iPhone!

Today we are given the biggest life changing piece of advice that  
we could ever have. Preparation! Preparation is essential  
whether we are setting out to buy a new washing machine or  
setting out to change the world. Without preparation we will end  
up wasting years of our time and missing all those heaven-sent  
opportunities. We might not think that we have the time to live our  
lives any differently from the way we do now, but with the right  
kind of planning we can transform who we are and what we do  
and still manage to fit in the day job.

We hear a lot in the news of disasters around the world. Men  
women and children across the globe have lost their lives  
unexpectedly and prematurely. Death comes like a thief in the  
night just as it did in the days of Noah, and just as in the days of  
Noah, we must keep focussed and live in perpetual readiness.  
Jesus doesn't tell us this to frighten us but to encourage us to  
take responsibility for the here and now.

### **CAFOD's Online Advent Calendar**

CAFOD's online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer  
an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action, as we prepare for  
Christmas. The Advent calendar emails offer daily prayers and  
reflections through our Advent journey, alongside information about  
ways in which you and the wider CAFOD family can support our ongoing  
activities.

The daily emails start on the first day of Advent and end on Christmas  
Day. This email subscription also auto-renews for succeeding Advent  
seasons, but you can unsubscribe at any time. You can sign up for daily  
reflections straight to your inbox at <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

The West Warrington Family of Parishes warmly invites you to the following events :

**'Advent Through the Scriptures'**

**TODAY (Sunday) 1.30-3.30pm**

**Followed by Mass at 4.00pm**

**St Joseph's RC Church, Meeting Lane, Penketh**

The West Warrington Family of Parishes invites you to an afternoon of prayer, reflection and music for Advent led by Fr Michael Winstanley SDB. Fr Michael is a Salesian priest. He has studied in London and Rome and taught for many years at Ushaw College. He has led many retreats across the world and is the author of several books about the Scriptures. This is an excellent opportunity to hear Fr Michael speak and a wonderful way to begin the season of Advent. *All welcome.*

**International Carol Service - Saint Alban's Church  
Sunday, 14 December (2.00pm)**

An invitation is extended to all our parishes to contribute and get together with family and friends to share Christmas songs and stories from your home countries. If you would like to be involved or have any questions please contact Anne Preston on 07913 006537 or [anne.preston@ntlworld.com](mailto:anne.preston@ntlworld.com) or give your name and details to any of the musicians in our churches for more information. Thank you

**A West Warrington Family of Parishes Event  
'Carols Around Bethlehem'**

**Thursday, 18 December 7.00 pm**

Once again, we invite all parishioners from the West Warrington Family of Parishes to join together around the Bethlehem scene built in St. Joseph's grounds. We will pray and sing for "Togetherness", we will pray and sing for "Peace." *This year In Jubilee year, we will especially focus on 'HOPE'.*

We will then move into the warmth of the Parish Centre for seasonal hospitality! Please join us for this very special, unique event.

You are warmly invited to the  
**Sacred Heart School  
Community Christmas  
Market** on Monday,  
15 December (3.30-5.00 pm)  
Free entry.

**Refreshments after Mass  
hosted by the Indian  
Community** - Please join  
us for refreshments today  
(Sunday) at 8.30 am.  
Please pop in for a chat, a  
cuppa and a warm welcome

**Right to Life UK** : In this Season of Advent, as we expectantly wait for the Christ child to enter our hearts, let us pray for all expecting mothers, that they would have all they need to joyfully welcome their new child into the world. Lord hear us

**Marriage Preparation Catechists Needed**

Would you like to help engaged couples to prepare for marriage? The archdiocese is now recruiting catechists to join the marriage preparation team. The catechist training will be provided at St Monica's Church, Bootle, Liverpool, L20 9GA and consists of five sessions (23 February, 2, 9 & 16 March (all 6.30-8.00 pm) and 28 March (10.00 am to 2.00 pm). Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice a year. Interested then please sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/JGbP8AtZwn?origin=lpLink>

For more information, please contact Moses  
at [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk)

Joanne Dale and Pauline Mortimer from Sacred Heart school will be retiring at the end of term.

To celebrate the many years of dedicated service to the school, you are all invited to their **Retirement Mass** on **Friday, 19 December at 9.30 am in church.**

The school and church community would like to wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

**St Joseph's Events Team proudly presents ...**

**Tuesday, 9 December** – St. Joseph's Community Tea Party. 1:00-4:30pm. Join us in our social club at 1pm for an afternoon of live entertainment, including festive performances from the children's choirs of St Joseph's and St Vincent's. Singer Ken will perform classic hits while you are treated to delicious cakes, biscuits tea and coffee. **No ticket required.**

**Thursday, 11 December - Christingle Service** at 6.00pm. Inviting all shepherds, kings, angels and donkeys...come and join us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and share the light of Jesus. Christingle kits are available to purchase for £1 from St Joseph's and St. Vincent's schools and the piety shop in church. After our service please join us for mulled wine and mince pies in our social club. **No ticket required.**

**Sunday, 14 December** – The Strictly Christmas Swing Party. You are invited to a night of live music featuring the incredible Wychcraft Big Band! The swing performers will play music from all eras including some of our festive favourites. Enjoy a hotpot supper with crusty bread and take part in the raffle to win some fantastic prizes. Tickets (**available now**) are £10 for adults and £5 for school-age children. Raffle tickets are available on the night. Door open 5pm after Mass.

**PS : We are in need of raffle prizes for the Strictly Christmas Swing Party. Please give generously and leave you donations with Anne-Marie at the Presbytery. Thank you.**

These events promise to spread some Christmas cheer as we gather as a community sharing Gods love and reflecting on Jesus's message of hope love and charity. We can't wait to see you there!

**St Alban's & Warrington  
Funeralcare  
Christmas Memorial Service**

**Tuesday, 2 December**

6.30 pm in St Alban's Church

You are welcome to join us for  
a moment of remembrance  
For more information contact  
Co-op Funeral Care, Bewsey  
Road on 01925 445555

**St Joseph's School  
Tea & Cake**

St Joseph's school children would like to welcome you for tea, cake and a chat at 1.45pm on 4 December.

If you or anyone you know such as an elderly relative or neighbour would like to come please call Tina on 07944 336902.

**Peace Actions for December**

- Make a special prayer for those who suffer abuse of their human rights (Human Rights Day is on 10 December).
- At this time of year we remember vulnerable children around the world and hour homeless. Consider supporting a charity this Christmas that cares for the homeless or one that supports children
- Remember in a season that sees huge amounts of indulgence and waste to have a 'green' Christmas.

**Autumn Formation Sessions:  
Have you thought about...  
becoming a Religious  
Education Teacher?**

The Archdiocese of Liverpool's Education Department is hosting an online information sessions via Microsoft Teams between 7.00 and 8.00pm on Tuesday, 2 December. This is a chance to hear from people currently in the role, find out what the role entails and the routes into teaching, and ask questions. To join email [J.Ball@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:J.Ball@rcaol.org.uk) for the Teams link.

**In the Footsteps of St Bede  
Pilgrimage to the North East  
of England  
Northern Saints & Martyrs  
(25-28 May 2026)**

Father Mark Drew and the Parish of Saint Peter and Saint Michael extends an invitation to our Family of Parishes to join them on a Pilgrimage to the North-East and follow in the footsteps of some of our Northern Saints to understand the historical impact they had on our faith. For more information please see the posters at the back of our churches. Thankyou

**Saint Nicholas (6 December)**

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Saint Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. Taking to heart Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

**Canon Christopher reflects ....** several programmes on antiques and auctions have been broadcast on television in recent months. The value of the objects cover a wide range. Recently, it was reported that a gold watch owned by a victim of the Titanic sea disaster at the beginning of the last century raised well over 1 million pounds. Antique shops often display very small items such as pendants showing pictures that were treasures to the owners and no-one else. Some time ago I was given a framed photograph of pupils and staff that was taken at Upholland College. I was told it was found in an antiques shop, and I was in the photograph. It meant something to another person whom I knew but in clearing his house it had been thrown away. It is now hanging on the wall in my room for me to remember.

About two or three years ago my sister and I (as executors for two elderly relatives who had no immediate family) had the thankless task of emptying and then selling their house. There was an accumulation of possessions spanning ninety years. Many things were distributed to charities but there are still items that needed to be somehow disposed of. They give evidence of memories which do not necessarily mean anything to us such as photographs of people not known to us who, we pray, have now been joined by this elderly couple in the next life. What do we do with their wedding photographs and historic events meaningful only to the couple? Sometimes when I have visited homes, usually on sick calls, I have expressed my envy of the ability of people to have perfectly tidy rooms with nothing out of place. Have they hidden everything away or do they not keep anything? One of my weaknesses is the unwillingness to throw things away because "they may be useful". It is hard to destroy one's memories especially of happy times. Items include letters and cards from people who are now long-gone.

Some memories are always with us. I trust that above all else, at the centre of our lives is the memory of what Jesus means to us and does for us now. Every day I use His words ... "Do this in memory of me". We welcome Him into our presence, remember him and learn from Him

### **Sacrament of Confirmation for Young People In Year 8 (or older)**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for young people in Warrington in June/July 2026. If you would like to be Confirmed, please complete an application form by 31 December 2026.

Application forms are available from your school chaplain or from your parish (you can either pick up a form from the back of church or download a form from your parish website).

Application forms should be returned to the school chaplain or to the Dean (Fr Dave Heywood) at St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE or [frdave@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:frdave@rcaol.org.uk) Thank you!

**St Joseph's Scouts** - This year we now have an exciting new group for 4-6 year olds called Squirrels to add to our Beavers (age 6-8), Cubs (age 8-10 and a half) and Scouts (age 10½ to 14). All our groups welcome all children and meet weekly in the Loreto Centre. Most of our sections still have places left so if you know someone who's interested please contact Ian Baker [ian.baker@15thStJosephsscouts.org.uk](mailto:ian.baker@15thStJosephsscouts.org.uk). Squirrels (Mon 5.15 to 6pm). Beavers (Thurs 6.15 to 7.15pm), Cubs (Mon 6.30 to 8.00pm) Scouts (Fri 7.30 to 9.30pm).

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir presents '**A Celebration of Christmas**' on Saturday, 13 December. Tickets £10 pp or £18 for a family. Available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

**CAFOD Christmas Fun Run – 27 December**  
Signup is open for CAFOD's annual Fun Run! The run will take place at Wavertree Sports Park and is open to all. Run, walk, or wheel with family and friends to share the joy of Christmas and raise money for those in need! Scan the QR code at on the poster at the back of church to sign up, or search CAFOD Fun Run.

**Have you thought of getting involved in Catholic education?** The Archdiocesan Education department is hosting more online information sessions. Each session runs between 7.00 & 8.00 pm. Email : [Joanne.Ball@J.ball@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:Joanne.Ball@J.ball@rcaol.org.uk)

### **Care for Our Common Planet**

This is a last shout for those wanting to play the Woodland Trust UK Christmas Raffle. Every £2 ticket you buy supports the Trust's vital work protecting, restoring and creating woodland across the UK. The closing date is 10th December 2025  
You can play online at [www.woodlandtrust.raffleentry.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.raffleentry.org.uk)

### **Support the Spiritan Missions**

On Sunday (14 December) there will be a special collection at St Joseph's to support the work of the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers. Kindly be generous to them.

### **Archbishop Malcolm McMahon Silver Jubilee**

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP will celebrate his Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination in the coming weeks. He will celebrate Holy Mass at 12 noon on Saturday, 6 December at the Metropolitan Cathedral

**Visitors and Eucharistic Ministry for the Sick and Housebound or Those in Long Term Care** - Please let us know of a friend or a member of your family would benefit from a friendly visit from the parish and/or Holy Communion. Requests may be forwarded to the parish offices :

- Sacred Heart & St Alban (01925 630928)
- St Joseph's (01925 722105)

**Marriage Preparation Weekend Course** (9-11 January 2026) For more information use this link of pop the details into your browser <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events>

### **St Joseph's Bonus Ball - 26/11/25**

No 40 Unsold (25 numbers sold)  
Proceeds from the Bonus Ball will be sent to St Joseph's partner parish in Jifna. Please help support this cause. Details can be found at the back of church.

### **Irenaeus Centre Events**

There are two events scheduled at the Irenaeus Centre Liverpool.  
9 December at 6.30 pm - Carol Service  
10 December at 2.00pm 'Frank Sinatra' Afternoon which is Dementia friendly.  
For any more information, contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or phone 0151 949 1199.  
Thank you for your continued support

Today (Sunday) St Joseph's UCM will be selling raffle tickets for Christmas Hampers at both their Masses

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Were you baptised in another Church and have been attending the Catholic Church but not fully integrated into the Catholic? Register now for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program. Contact the office and enjoy our forthcoming course.

### **Christmas Bingo at St Joseph's**

Monday, 1 December Doors open at 1.00 for a 1.30 start. All welcome

### **QUIZ NIGHT at St Joseph's**

**TODAY** (Sunday) – 8.30 pm start  
Jackpot now stands at £70.  
Do come along and have some fun

**Talk of the Parish** by Margaret Donnelly is a wonderful book of pre-war and post-war memories detailing parochial life in and around the inner city. Take a step back in time to recall the pomp and ceremony of lavish outdoor processions, celebrating jubilees, decorating the tenements. Magical times evoked by the photographs of yesteryear remind us of the gentler times we proudly shared around the local parishes of our beloved City of Liverpool.  
Talk of the Parish makes a great Christmas gift and right now it's for sale in the piety shop for just £5 with half the proceeds going to St. Joseph's. Pick your copy up today

### Mass Intentions for week commencing 30 November 2025

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
<b>Sunday</b> 30 November	<b>11.00 am</b> May Ventre	<b>9.30 am</b> Souls of Amelia Baylen and Sheila Arnold	<b>8.30 am</b> Thomas Morris (6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) <b>4.00 pm</b> Linda Sime	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b> 1 December			<b>9.30 am</b> Marion Hitchcock	
<b>Tuesday</b> 2 December		<b>9.30 am</b> (in Church) Advent Mass for Schoolchildren		<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 3 December			<b>6.00 pm</b> Barbara Wilson (Speedy Recovery)	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 4 December		<b>12 noon Requiem Mass</b> John Colduck		<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Friday</b> 5 December	<b>7.30 pm</b> Elvin & Devit Families (Remembrance)		<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday</b> 6 December	<b>5.15 pm</b> John Cummins	<b>12 noon at the Metropolitan Cathedral</b> Episcopal Silver Jubilee Mass for Archbishop Malcolm		<b>6.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 7 December	<b>11.00 am</b> Claire Gaffney (Sick)	<b>9.30 am</b> People of the Parish	<b>8.30 am</b> Kath Moore <b>4.00 pm</b> People of the Parish	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Confession</b>	<b>Saturday</b> from 4.30 pm	<b>Saturday</b> from 9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b> 5.15 pm-5.45 pm	<b>Saturday</b> 5.15-5.45 pm
<b>Adoration [Exposition]</b>		After Mass on Tuesday	Monday 10.00-11.00 am	

- **Holy Eucharist** - Please note that whilst we can receive the Holy Eucharist under both kinds, intinction (dipping the Body of Christ into the Chalice of His blood) **IS NOT PERMITTED**.
- **Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Safeguarding Reps** : Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath & Paul Towey

**Penketh Support Group Food Hub Meeting**  
Lane Community Centre WA5 2HB. Opening Hours Thursday, Friday & Saturday until 12:30pm. If you require a food parcel please contact Helen on 07415 939808 or email penketh2020@outlook.com

**The Legion of Mary** meets on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm in the Loreto Room [behind St Joseph's Church].  
**All welcome**

Why not visit our website and keep up-to-date on all the news at [www.sacredheartandstalban.org](http://www.sacredheartandstalban.org) or follow us on Facebook @ **Parish of Sacred Heart and St Alban Warrington**  
Why not take a moment to check in – you may find something of interest

Please visit St Joseph's website for all its news, Mass times, newsletter and much more!  
[www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk](http://www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk)

**Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in Church. Thank you.**

#### Sanctuary Lamps

The Sanctuary Lamps will burn this week for the following intentions :

**St Alban** – Tony Hilton (RoS)

**Sacred Heart**  
Michael Zadeh (RoS)

**St Joseph** – For peace in Nigeria and for the kidnapped children and their families

**St Joseph's Marian Candle**  
Those living in poverty in the UK

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently : Tony Hilton, Rita Cunliffe, Geoffrey Whitfield, Michael Zadeh, John Colduck, Cavan Clancy, Martin Jenkins, Peter McGreevy, Margaret Heavy, Kathleen Cann, Patricia Jones, Joan Williams, Sarah Anne Buckley-Cook, John Kiriaku and Norma Pester

**May they rest in peace**

#### FUNERALS

##### Week commencing 1 December

Requiem Mass for John Colduck on Thursday, 4 December at 12 noon at St Alban's

##### Week commencing 8 December

Funeral Service for Cavan Clancy on Tuesday, 9 December at 10.30 am at St Alban's

Funeral Service for Martin Jenkins on Friday, 12 December at 12 noon at St Alban's

##### Week commencing 15 December

Requiem Mass for Peter McGreevy on Tuesday, 16 December at 12.30 pm at Sacred Heart

Funeral Service for Margaret Heavy on Thursday, 18 December at 10.40 am at Walton Lea Crematorium

##### Week commencing 22 December

Funeral Service for Kathleen Cann on Monday, 22 December at 10.15 am at St Alban's

Funeral Service for Patricia Ellen Jones on Tuesday, 23 December at 10.15 am at St Alban's

**May they rest in peace**