



Newsletter for
week
commencing
18 January 2026

Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
(Year A)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Unity : 18-25 January

Let us pray this week for good ecumenical relations and unity within our Town.

Much progress has been made over the years but there is still a need for prayer and work to bring us together.



Today is Peace Sunday

(First Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

A collection will be taken to support Pax Christi's work which includes promoting nonviolence as a way of resolving conflict, advocacy and campaigning for peace and peace education in schools.

If you are unable to give on the day then you can also donate via their website

www.paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/peace-sunday-appeal/

Thank you in advance.

Peace Sunday Memorial Lecture (18 January)

The Archdiocese of Liverpool's Justice & Peace Commission invites you to this year's Peace Sunday Memorial Lecture. In light of Pope Leo XIV's recent World Peace Day Message, Dr Joanna Frew will speak on 'Towards an Unarmed and Disarming Peace : Seeking Sustainable Security for an Unstable World'.

This will take place today (Sunday) at 2.00 pm at St Vincent de Paul, L1 5JN.

All those who wish to deepen their understanding of Pope Leo's message, and reflect on what it means for us today, are warmly welcome to join us for this lecture.

Please sign-up using the following link:

Peace Sunday Lecture: Peace be with you all- Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace. Fill in form

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: Monday-Friday (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 : Monday-Friday (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: Monday-Friday (9.30am-2.00pm)
Email : stpaulofthecross@rcaol.org.uk
Facebook : St Paul of the Cross UK

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Gospel Reflection - Cast in Stone

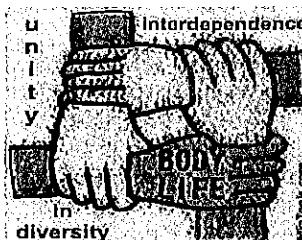


Our identity is shaped by the people we live and work with. Our identity is shaped by how we deal with family and workplace relationships over a space of many years. As a child, loved and cherished, we become strong confident and assertive. As a child who is not loved, we become insecure, secretive and even delinquent. As a spouse or parent, we can become caring supportive and strong, or we can become embittered, devious, angry or fearful.. As an employer or an employee we can become cooperative or competitive, kind or ruthless, sharing or greedy. Before we know it our identity is cast in stone, and others routinely refer to us as a nag, a bully, bossy, henpecked, stubborn or spineless. If we are very lucky people might label us as 'the salt of the earth' or 'a rock'.

Today Jesus looks at Peter and says, "You will be called Cephas". Jesus sees him as a 'rock'. How his friends must have rolled round laughing. Peter? A rock? Peter was impetuous, naïve and not always the most trusting of Jesus' disciples. If Peter was a rock he was a very crumbly one! Interestingly, slowly but surely, Peter grows into the rock Jesus believes him to be. We are being taught something very important. Peter's identity is very much rooted in his relationship with Jesus.

We might look at our own identity and not like what we have become. We might wish we could be different but feel trapped by circumstance, or expectation. The good news is that by working on our relationship with God; we can become the people we always knew we could be.

Meet your Archbishop on
Wednesday, 28 January at
5.00pm in the Blessed
Sacrament Chapel. £30 per
person including a hot pot
supper & wine. Interested ...
email Claire
c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk
See notice board



Our Parishes Need More Volunteers

Volunteering is highly rewarding work, and we need people of all ages - from helping maintain gardens and altar serving to welcoming and ushering people into the church. There are so many options.

Volunteering is great for people of all ages to feel part of your community, make a difference and make new friends. It's particularly good for young people who might be doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award or needing something interesting and relevant to include when you're applying for work with your CV. So please get in touch, it helps us all.

Recently some people came forward for St Joseph's but unfortunately didn't leave their details. If you'd like to volunteer leave your name and number with :

- Anne-Marie for St Joseph's.
email stjoseph.warrington@rcaol.org.uk
Tel 01925 722105
- Margaret for Sacred Heart & St Alban. email : stalbanspriory@rcaol.org.uk
Tel : 01926 630928

Right to Life UK

We are immensely grateful to you for your prayers and support over the past year. In this new year, we have intensified our efforts to stop the assisted suicide Bill, as well as stopping attempts to introduce abortion up to birth into the UK. We will continue to keep you informed of opportunities to engage with MPs and Peers. Thank you for your continued support.

Prayer for this week ... *As we just enter a week of prayer for Christian unity, let us pray that all Christians might express our shared love of Christ in charity towards the most vulnerable, including the sick, the poor, and the unborn. Lord hear us.*

World Leprosy Day

Next Sunday(25 January) is World Leprosy Day. There will be a special collection at St Joseph's to support those affected by this health condition.

Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers (Spiritans)

The Spiritans in our region will be celebrating this year's World Day for Consecrated Life (2 February) in St Joseph's, Penketh.

We are all invited to be part of this celebration which is also the anniversary of one their founder Francis Mary Paul Libermann. Mass 11:00 am. Venue St. Joseph's.

Civic Mass

(Sunday 15 February)

The Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, Monsignor Anthony O'Brien, has pleasure in inviting you to attend the Annual Civic Mass, celebrated by Archbishop John Sherrington.

Light refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after Mass. We hope very much that you will be able to attend, and we look forward to welcoming you and your guest to the Civic Mass to celebrate all that is good in our City.

If you are able to attend,
please RSVP to :
c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk.

St. Joseph's Pantomime 2026

Tickets are now on sale for this year's production....

SLEEPING BEAUTY!

Tickets – Adults : £10.
children of school age : £5.
Be quick, tickets sell out fast!

Show dates and times:

- Sunday 25th January at 1.30pm
- Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th & Friday 30th January at 7.15pm
- Saturday 31st January at 2.00pm and at 7.15pm.

How can I purchase my tickets?

- From St. Joseph's Parish Centre during opening hours.
- From St. Joseph's Parish Office (9.30-11.30am).
- From the Function Room before rehearsals (7.00-7.20pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays) and Saturdays (1.00 –1.30pm).
- After the 8.30am and 4.00pm Sunday Masses at St. Joseph's.

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.

Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice a year. For more information, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

Parish Development Strategy

As we step into 2026, our Archdiocese is blessed with exciting opportunities to reflect Christ's presence and respond with hope to the challenges of our modern world here in Liverpool. These times invite us to embrace renewed faith, vibrant mission, creative action, and deep trust in God's guidance.

We are at the beginning of an inspiring Archdiocesan-wide discernment process within our deanery—centred on mission and shared responsibility—where every voice and every prayer truly matters. This journey builds on the grace of our Synod 2020 and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, calling us forward together.

Please reflect on the leaflets issued last weekend and learn more and know that we will keep you regularly updated on how you, your parish, and our whole community can be actively involved. Leaflets are still available – pick one up today.

Piety Shop Sale at St Joseph's

All Christmas things are now half price in the piety shop so get yourself a bargain

Coffee After Mass

Please join us for coffee & refreshments after the 8.30 Mass on Sunday. This week's hosts are members of the Hospitality Group.
All welcome

The next meeting of St Joseph's UCM will take place on Thursday, 5 February (12.30-3.30 pm)

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball 14/1/26

No 23 – Patsy Beaumont
(38 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

St Oscar Romero – "In Mary we are always referred to Christ. Mary is the sign of Christ's presence. That is why, sisters and brothers, when we say that Mary is the mother of the Church, we are also saying that the Church and Mary are a sign of Christ's presence. If the Church saves, it is because she prolongs the saving mission of Christ. If Mary is the source of inspiration and love in our prayers, it is because she makes visible the power, the tenderness, the redemption of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Mary is the sign of Christ's presence. Let us not forget it". (Homily : 1 January 1978).

Canon Christopher reflects This weekend, in England and Wales, we celebrate Peace Sunday. There are other days too when it is only right that peace in the world is drawn to our attention. On New Year's Day, for example, we look forward with prayer and hope for Peace throughout the world for the months ahead. It is clear from the present world situation that prayer for peace should be foremost in our minds.

I have been reading a book recently about Saint Oscar Romero. You may have seen the picture of this saint in our churches and in the Cathedral. He was an Archbishop in South America at the time of great conflict in El Salvador. He was a humble gentleman who was called upon to lead the people in that country during a time of national crisis during the last century. In spite of threats and opposition from the powers that be in that country, he was willing to die for what he believed. He had great devotion to the rosary and our Blessed Lady where he found his great strength.

On 24 March 1980 while celebrating holy Mass, Bishop Romero was assassinated aged 62. He was a marked man in hatred of the faith, not as a soldier or a politician but a prophetic shepherd. In faithfulness to Christ and his gospel Romero could not remain silent while his own people faced repression, torture and murder. His death provoked outrage and condemnation around the world. He was canonised by Pope Francis in 2018 as a champion of God-given human dignity.

In relation to that my own thoughts turn to a young man from this parish who, for fifteen years, served as a priest in El Salvador not long after this event. When on holiday, Fr Gerard Postlethwaite who was visiting his mother, Josie, used to supply for me as I took the opportunity to have a few days away. As a Benedictine, he had the name of Basil as member of the community of Ampleforth. Sadly, Fr Gerard died suddenly in 2017 whilst walking the Camino to Santiago de Compostella leading a pilgrimage of young people.

There are many others who have stories to relate about their experiences of injustice in our troubled world, but who have had the courage to face up to it as did Oscar Romero. What was happening before their eyes, to the weakest and the poorest, was happening to Christ and to his afflicted body, the Church.

Let us continue to pray for them. Amen. *Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.*

Sacred Heart First Holy Communion

Children in Year 4 who do not attend Sacred Heart school, but would like to celebrate First Holy communion this year, are asked to contact the parish office as soon as possible (01925 630928)

Preparation will commence on Sunday, 8 February.

Thank you

Irenaeus Centre Liverpool

Do you fancy a weekend of silence? Why not book into the Silent Retreat being held at the Irenaeus Project on 20–22 February.

To book contact Jenny at jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

Marriage Guidance

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

The date of the next course is 12 February 2026.

See www.retrouvaille.org.uk or call 07887296983.

Minutes of St Joseph's Pastoral Council meeting can be found at the back of Church. Please take a copy.

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 January 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 Thank you!

Saints for the Week

19 January : St Wulstan, Bishop (1008-1095). Born in Warwickshire he became a Benedictine monk. In 1062 he was appointed Bishop and was one of the few Anglo-Saxons in high office to survive the Norman Conquest. He was renowned as a 'confessor' for his care of the poor and sick and for the high standards he demanded of his clergy.

20 January : St Fabian, Pope (c3). A noble Roman by birth he was chosen to be Bishop of Rome in the year 250. He was crowned with martyrdom (as St Cyprian testified). Buried in the Catacombs of Callixtus (which he worked to develop) and later reinterred in San Sebastian.

20 January : St Sebastian, Martyr (c255-288). Sebastian was a Roman soldier who secretly encouraged imprisoned Christians and attracted converts for which he suffered martyrdom.

21 January : St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr (c291-304). Suffered martyrdom at the age of 13 as a noble Roman girl who refused to deny her Christian faith. Lambs are traditionally blessed in her honour on this day in Rome and their wool is used to make the pallia for new archbishops.

22 January : St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr (c3-304). A deacon of the church of Zaragoza and the protomartyr of Spain. He suffered terrible torture and died the death of a martyr at Valencia. He was roasted on a gridiron for refusing the Roman governor's command to burn the scriptures. His veneration quickly spread throughout the Western and Eastern church.

24 January : St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) : Francis de Sales took seriously the words of Christ, "Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart." As he said himself, it took him 20 years to conquer his quick temper, but no one ever suspected he had such a problem, so overflowing with good nature and kindness was his usual manner of acting. His perennial meekness and sunny disposition won for him the title of "Gentleman Saint."

Mass Intentions for week commencing 18 January 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 18 January	11.00 am People of the Parish	9.30 am Sarah Anne Buckley-Cook	8.30 am Brendan Fortune (RoS) 4.00 pm Eric Baker (RoS)	10.00 am
Monday 19 January			9.30 am Kathleen Scanlon (Get Well)	
Tuesday 20 January		9.30 am Holy Souls		9.00 am
Wednesday 21 January			6.00 pm May Donovan (RoS)	9.00 am
Thursday 22 January		9.30 am Mavis Hoarty		9.00 am
Friday 23 January	9.30 am Dave Bowden		No Mass	
Saturday 24 January	5.15 pm John Scotland (18 th Anniversary)			6.00 pm
Sunday 25 January	11.00 am People of the Parish	9.30 am Carol Messenger (5 th Anniversary)	8.30 am Phil Topham (Anniversary) 4.00 pm John Cummins (RoS)	10.00 am

Confession	Saturday from 4.30 pm	Saturday from 9.30 am		Saturday 5.15-5.45 pm
Adoration [Exposition]		After Mass on Tuesday & Thursday	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.

<p>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</p> <p>The Legion of Mary meets on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm in the Loreto Room [behind St Joseph's Church]. All welcome</p> <p>Why not visit our website and keep up-to-date on all the news at 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</p> <p>Please visit St Joseph's website for all its news, Mass times, newsletter and much more! www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk</p> <p>Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in Church. Thank you.</p>	<p>Sanctuary Lamps The Sanctuary Lamps will burn this week for the following intentions :</p> <p>St Alban Christian Unity</p> <p>Sacred Heart Parishioners' Intentions</p> <p>St Joseph For peace in all countries at war</p> <p>St Joseph's Marian Candle Peace in our homes and communities</p> <p>Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently : Bernard Franchetti, Mark Woolley, Jose Antonio & Laurencio Costa and Jean Dickeson May they rest in peace.</p>	<p>Invitation from Ed McGlinchey to St Gregory's Catholic High School The headteacher (Ed McGlinchey) from St Gregory's would like to welcome parishioners from across the parishes to attend its Masses and Services held in school and share in the faith journey of the school's young people. Every week the children attend and contribute to the 'Celebration of the Word' events for that week and you are welcome to join them and share the experience. We also have 'class Masses' in the school chapel (subject to the availability of priests). These events are on a 'first come, first served' basis in order to manage numbers. There is space for around six guests. If you would like to be part of these events, please email the school chaplain (Suzie Whitlow) at swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com who will arrange to meet you in the school reception and take you into the service as an audience member. You will be provided with a red visitors pass when in school.</p> <p>The first of these events starts this coming Friday (23/1/26) with a 'Celebration of the Word' for Year 7. Theme : Positive Attitudes</p>	<p>Visitors & 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 who would benefit from a friendly visit from the parish and/or Holy Communion. Requests may be forwarded to the parish offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Heart & St Alban (01925 630928) • St Joseph's (01925 722105) <p>Congratulations are sent to the children from Saint Alban's who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday.</p> <p>Please keep them and their families in your prayers.</p>
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