



Newsletter for week
commencing
11 January 2026



The Baptism of the
Lord (Year A)

<p>Sacred Heart and Saint Alban Parish Priest : Canon Christopher Cunningham Deacon : Rev Terry Dolan: 01925 492857 Prison Chaplain : Fr James Fasakin C.S.Sp</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>St Joseph Parish Priest : Fr Raymond Anyanwu C.S.Sp Deacon : Rev John McClure (Retired) 01925 723146</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Saint Paul of the Cross Parish Priest : Fr John Schofield</p>	<p>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</p>

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Church Action on Poverty

No matter how hard we tried to spend sensibly over Christmas, there is no doubt that the pressure of Christmas makes most of spend more than intended. For many, January is a very difficult month with parents wondering how to feed their children or buy bits of school uniform, and the elderly wondering how they will afford their heating bills.

To do:-

- Donate used school uniform to your school uniform shop or the local charity shop.
- Don't forget to add something, however small, to the food banks every time you visit the supermarket. The foodbanks struggle to stay stocked up at this time of year.
- Challenge misconceptions around poverty. We are all struggling more than we were.
- Top up to the nearest pound at self-service tills if you are given the option.
- Donate online to Church Action on Poverty at www.church-poverty.org.uk/

Campaign in 2026

In 2026, with the renewal brought about by the Jubilee, CAFOD will continue to look at the big issues of debt, food and climate. The debt that lower-income countries are struggling with, the dysfunction of the global food system and the devastating impact of climate change are huge drivers of poverty, and they are interconnected.

If you've never campaigned before, it's just using your voice to call for something better. Signing a petition in church is campaigning. It's all about having a vision of how things could be, and despite all the challenges, it is still a beautiful thing to be part of.

You can begin by urging the Foreign Secretary to act on Sudan. Please sign the online petition at www.action.cafod.org.uk/page/183860/petition

Are You Interested in Becoming a Deacon? - Online

Event : Join us for an online event organised by the Archdiocese of Liverpool for men discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate. The event will be held on 14 January between 7.00 & 8:30pm and you can sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/are-you-interested-in-becoming-a-deacon-tickets-1979860549199>

Gospel Reflection - All God's Children

Has anyone ever told you that they're proud of you? It's a good feeling it's a feeling that empowers ... a feeling that makes you believe you can do anything. Imagine for a moment that day on the River Jordan at Jesus' baptism. Consider how Jesus must have felt when the heavens opened and the Spirit of God spoke the words, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Remember that this significant event took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry before he had gone out into the world to teach or to heal. Before Jesus had done anything at all, God was already well pleased with him. As baptism identified Jesus, so too are we identified in our baptism as children of God. So what significance does baptism have in our lives? Do we feel proud at God's affirmation? Do we feel empowered to carry out God's plan? In truth most of us would be confounded if we had to provide an answer to these questions. To most of us, our baptism is an old photo in a forgotten album of childhood memories, or a neglected christening mug collecting dust on a high up shelf. In our own baptism we do not have the obvious benefit of God speaking directly to us from the heavens. Nevertheless, we have made promises in baptism and confirmation, and like any other promise we have to work at keeping them. Baptism isn't a one off event. Baptism is a sacrament that we have to work at daily setting aside time to think about what we are meant to be doing and having the faith that God is supporting us in our efforts.

Jesus said of his baptism. "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus didn't explain what he meant by this, but in biblical context, the word 'righteousness' is often used to express a good relationship with God. By this, we understand that our own baptism sends us off on the road to building a good relationship with God and with others, and by believing in God's backing, we are empowered to do more than we can imagine.

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.

New Funeral Directors in Penketh

At Honiton Way Penketh you'll find new funeral directors namely Hankinson and Molyneux.

Independently run by Greg Hankinson and Anthony Molyneux together they have worked in the industry and in the community for over thirty years.

For more details see www.hankinson-molyneux-funeraldirectors.co.uk, email info@hankinson-molyneux-funeraldirectors.co.uk or call 01925 988033.

Right to Life UK : As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we pray that, like Christ who entered fully into our humanity, we may show compassion and care for all who are elderly, suffering, or nearing the end of life. Lord hear us.

Irenaeus Centre - Reflections on the Gospel of Matthew - The next Scripture mornings led by Fr Chris Thomas, at the Irenaeus Centre, begin on Wednesday 14th January at 10.30 am. At these sessions Fr Chris is reflecting on Matthew's Gospel. All are welcome. Zoom also available from jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

Coffee After Mass
Please join us for coffee and refreshments after the 8.30 Mass on Sunday which is being hosted by St Joseph's readers. All welcome

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.

Today marks 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 take a leaflet this weekend to learn more and know that we will keep you regularly updated on how you, your parish, and our whole community can be actively involved.

Peace Sunday Memorial Lecture

Sunday 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 on Peace Sunday (18 January) 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

Messages from Fr Raymond

World Leprosy Day – Sunday, 25 January is World Leprosy Day. There will be a special collection 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. Venue St. Joseph's.

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!

A Message from Bernie Doyle

At last I have received notice from Macmillan Coffee Morning team (it arrived in December).

The final total from St Joseph's coffee morning raised a fabulous £612.85. So to you all a great big Thank You for your help and support.

I'm looking forward to our next Coffee Morning so watch this space. Thanks once again, Bernadette Doyle.

World Religion Day [16 January]

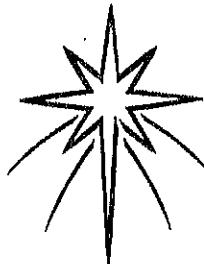
Conflict arises from fear of the unknown. Different clothes, language, customs and beliefs tend to make us feel alienated.

On this day we are invited to learn something about someone else's religion.

This isn't about a watering down of our own beliefs, but a respect for somebody else's, and the discovery that we are not worlds apart.

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. Thank you



Piety Shop Sale at St Joseph's

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

Marriage Guidance

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. The next course will take place on 12 February. Search www.retrouvaille.org.uk or call 07887296983.

Canon Christopher reflects The Christmas season ends this weekend with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This follows the great feast of the Epiphany when we recalled the 'manifestation' of Christ to the Gentile world after the visit of the Shepherds. In our prayers and hymns at this time we recall how this manifestation is displayed in other events in the life of Our Lord's ... His baptism in the river Jordan, the first miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana, the widespread miracles of healing for the sick, the Scriptures that display his presence among us and finally, His message to look forward to the final manifestation when all will be fulfilled at the end of time. As one hymn concludes ... "May we praise you ever blest, God in flesh made manifest".

Last week I commented that we begin a new year looking towards the future and what it might bring. It many ways it is going to be a different and somewhat stressful year. After the Masses this weekend, leaflets will be distributed as we launch the *Pastoral Development Strategy*. You have already been introduced to it but now it is the real thing that is going ahead and our Deanery is involved in a pilot plan. It is clear that changes will need to be made and the strategy is to prepare for them. It affects all of us in different ways, but we cannot ignore it as though it is not our concern.

The first stage of the process will involve drawing together an audit of the parish and churches especially in relation to our family of parishes. This needs to be completed by 1 April. After we have together worked through the whole process following further steps, we will present it to the Archbishop for his consideration and proposals for the future of the whole Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan. As you can see from the leaflet 'prayer' is a pivotal part of each stage of the process. Help and support from everyone in running our parishes is essential!

One immediate effect is that each of our church properties will be surveyed for what is called the 'Quinquennial Report' (that is a five-year inspection to make sure everything is in order). We have already received the report for Sacred Heart that has already been completed because of the dry-rot problem that we faced recently. There is still much to be done at that church and parish centre and we now have a date for the survey that must take place at Saint Alban's. This corrects the false impression that priests only work on Sundays and simply minister the sacraments!

Another event among others that we can look forward to is the formal Visitation of the Archbishop to the parishes of the Deanery. He will be presiding at Saint Joseph's on 22 February and Sacred Heart & Saint Alban's on 22 March. These are dates for your diaries for when the Archbishop gets an impression of how we are fulfilling our roles as priests and people. Its purpose is to help and encourage us in our ministry as part of the Archdiocese and we cannot just assume that others will be doing this for us.

We look forward to this new year with faith and hope as it is God's work that we are all involved in. Let us continue to pray for one another. Amen

Volunteers Required at Sacred Heart & Saint Alban

In the interest of Health & Safety it would be helpful if our more able parishioners could volunteer!. We would appreciate help with clearing snow and ice and gritting the pathways outside the churches in an effort to keep us all safe!

If you can assist please contact Margaret at the Parish office on 01925 630928.

Thank you in anticipation.

Prayer for Christian Unity

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey his will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world: for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. Amen.

(Swanwick Declaration 1987)

In keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church we announce the moveable feasts for 2026 (usually sung by a Deacon!).

Know, dear brothers and sisters that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, who is Our Saviour.

- ✓ On the 18th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the Feast of the Most Sacred Lenten season.
- ✓ On the 5th day of April we will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ On the 14th day of May will be the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✓ On the 24th day of May, the feast of Pentecost.
- ✓ On the 7th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
- ✓ On the 29th day of November, the first Sunday of the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever amen.

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 at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk See notice board

B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor - Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic retreat centre in the Lake District owned and operated by the Diocese of Lancaster. They work with more than 3,000 young people a year from around the north and beyond. When the building is empty, they offer B&B stays to individuals, families and small private groups and the money this raises supports their mission with young people. Some B&B dates have opened up this January and February. Specifically, January 5-7th, February 9-11th, and February 16-18th. It's very affordable to book and a nice chance to spend a few days in the Lakes - head to <https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/>

Saints for the Week

12 January : St Aelred of Rievaulx (Abbot). (110-1167). Remembered for his gift for friendship, for his gentle and sensitive rule and for his enduring popular spiritual writings especially that on friendship.

13 January : St Hilary - Bishop and Doctor of the Church. (310-367). He combatted Arianism relentlessly for which reason he was exiled by the Emperor Constantine. For the purpose of strengthening the Catholic faith and interpreting sacred scripture, he published works which are outstanding in their wisdom and learning.

14 January : St Kentigern – Bishop. Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese (516-603). Kentigern (is also called 'Mungo') was a missionary to Britains and was consecrated as Bishop of Strathclyde where he vigorously defended the Church against Pelagianism. Driven out by persecution, he preached in North West England and Wales and eventually returned to Scotland and was buried in Glasgow.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 11 January 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 11 January	11.00 am People of the Parish	9.30 am Concecaõ Antao	8.30 am Ruby & Charlie Mehan and Family 4.00 pm John Cummins (RoS)	10.00 am
Monday 12 January			9.30 am Tony Leonard	
Tuesday 13 January		9.30 am Maureen Park (Sick)	12 noon Requiem Mass Annette Parker	9.00 am
Wednesday 14 January	6.00 pm Syromalabar Mass		10.45 am Funeral Service Margaret Hopson 6.00 pm Kevin & Margaret O'Neil	9.00 am
Thursday 15 January		No Mass		9.00 am
Friday 16 January	9.30 am Jacqueline Simpson (1 st Anniversary)		No Mass	
Saturday 17 January	5.15 pm Thomas Verdon			6.00 pm
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
Confession	Saturday from 4.30 pm	Saturday from 9.30 am		Saturday 5.15-5.45 pm
Adoration [Exposition]		After the 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**.
- There will be no Mass at St Alban's on Thursday as Canon Christopher will be attending the Chapter Mass at the Cathedral.

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 or follow us on Facebook @ Parish of Sacred Heart and St Alban Warrington.

Please visit St Joseph's website for all its news, Mass times, newsletter and much more! www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk

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

Sanctuary Lamps

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

St Alban

The Future of Our Parishes

Sacred Heart

Peace in Our World

St Joseph – Eileen Locke

St Joseph's Marian Candle
Parishioners

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently :

David Bowden, Annette Parker, Margaret Riding, Margaret Hopson and Lesley Marshall

May they rest in peace.

Bitesize - There is no need to reach high for the stars. They are already within you - just reach deep into yourself!

Terri Guillemet

FUNERALS

Week commencing 12 January 2026

Requiem Mass for Annette Parker will take place on Tuesday, 13 January at 12 noon at St Joseph's

Funeral Service for Margaret Hopson on Wednesday, 14 January at 10.45 am at St Joseph's

May they rest in peace

Dry January - Many people around the world choose to observe 'Dry January' for health reasons, to manage their drinking habits, reset their drinking, and feel more in control of their alcohol intake.

As Christians we can take this further and pledge to control our drinking if it is presenting a barrier to God's plans. If we have a plan to make the world a better place but are always too tired and brain-fogged to make those plans a reality, it is time to take a good long look at how we can begin, maybe in small ways to begin with, to remove the barriers that are preventing us from reaching our potential.

Care for Our Common Home - Dedicate a Tree

Christmas will have been hard for those who have lost a loved one. It's important to think of ways to remember that person and to mark their life. It's a lovely idea to plant a tree in your garden and design a plaque for it in memory. If you don't have a garden you can dedicate a single tree or an acre of woodland with a personalised bench, your dedication will provide a long-lasting tribute that can be visited time after time – and support local wildlife too. To find out more visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/dedications/