



Newsletter for
week
commencing
15 February
2026

Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

<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>Saint 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>
<p>Liverpool RC Archdiocesan Trustees Inc : A Registered Charity No: 1199714</p>	

Gospel Reflection - The Heart of the Matter

How often do we hear solicitors wrangling over the law, looking for a loop hole to suit their own agenda? Those seeking loopholes seem perfectly happy to ignore the spirit of the law in their quest to win.



In today's gospel reading Jesus invites us to consider that it is not just laws in themselves that are important but our attitude towards those laws. Perhaps we haven't committed murder, but have we harboured hatred? We might not have committed adultery, but have we failed to live up to the love we once promised our spouse? We might not have committed theft, but are our hearts set on the wealth our neighbours have earned? Laws might seem to fence our lives with rods of uncompromising iron, but most laws are simply expressions of how we should behave towards each other. The unwritten laws of love bind us in promises that we wouldn't dream of compromising let alone riddling with loopholes. When it comes to those we love, we don't need a statute book, our hearts tell us what to do. The written law should be no different. Laws are written down in books of statute and commandments are written in the Bible, but the spirit of the law must exist in our hearts.

What exists in our hearts is as important if not more important than our actions because it's what written in our hearts that defines us.

Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart & Saint Alban – Safeguarding

We have recently received updated safeguarding information from the Archdiocese of Liverpool which means some changes have been made to the way children's liturgy operates.

- Children's liturgy groups are founded for primary aged school children from 5 years of age to 11 years of age only. This means that children outside these ages cannot attend.
- Parents cannot attend children's liturgy. If the child is new to the group, a parent can attend the first two sessions to help settle the child in.
- All children's liturgy catechists are DBS checked to the same level as a schoolteacher.
- All parents must complete a parental consent form. A child cannot attend unless this form is completed. These forms are available at Church. These should be completed and handed in as soon as possible to one of our Parish Safeguarding Representatives (Margaret McGrath or Irene Crowder at St Alban and Paul Towey at Sacred Heart). Alternatively the forms can be handed into the parish office.
- This information will be held securely and destroyed 5 years after the child leaves the group.

Further information can be found at
<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/safeguarding>

Sacrament of Confirmation or 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. 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!

St Joseph's Pantomime Group

We thank everybody who came along to our Pantomime this year. We are so grateful for the generous comments and reviews that we received. We played to record-equalling audiences from our parish, the West Warrington Family and the wider community joining in the enjoyment.

Because of your attendance at the panto, during the 33 years of performing our shows, we have been able to direct the limited residual funds towards local vulnerable and needy groups and individuals - in addition to our own parish groups.

We once again invite bids from such groups and worthy causes. Bids should be made in writing outlining the reason for the request and presented to the St Joseph's Parish Office for the attention of the Pantomime Committee. Funds are limited and bids need to reflect this. The deadline for bids is **Monday, 2 March**. Once again, thank you for your support.

Reminder for St Joseph's Parish

Next Sunday (22nd) Archbishop John Sherrington will be presiding at the 8.30 am Mass.

There will also be a Cafod Talk at the 8.30am and 4.00pm Masses that day.

West Warrington Churches Together

WWCT includes St Joseph's, Bethany, St. Mary's, Penketh Methodist, St. Pauls and Jireh churches.

Next Event : Good Friday Service in Honiton Square at noon on 3 April plus refreshments.

Please join us.

"Christians are meant to be actively engaged and participate in the concerns of the church worldwide" Vatican II

Please note that the office at St Joseph's will be closed on Monday, 16 February and will reopen on Tuesday, 17 February

The St Joseph's Church Grounds & Maintenance Team will meet again next Saturday (21st anytime from 8.00 am. New volunteers wishing to join us will be especially welcome. Stuart

Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police.

If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services or the archdiocesan safeguarding team direct at



You may also contact Mark Robson on 0151 522 1013/07585761965 or Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or email safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

SVP and CAFOD Work Experience - The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21st - 26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Applications close on the 6 April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk Guild of St Stephen

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen will do their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in October. It is open to everybody - prices start at £650 per person, and £750 for solo travellers. For more information, please contact Rose Curry 07932 729896

Lost Property : As you can imagine all our churches have accumulated a number of lost items (gloves, scarves, specs, toys, etc). Please check to see if any of these items belong to you. It would be a shame to have to bin them.

Sacred Heart & St Alban Cafod Update : (December to January). Your continuing support and generosity has enabled us to send a cheque to Cafod for £370. This is intended for our Hands On Project Madhapur and brings our total to date to £3555.00.

'The Big Lent Walk' - please see the notice at the back of Church. Cafod Family Fast Day : 27 February.

Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor : 27-29 March £160-230 per family- For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick.

May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor - In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more information visit www.castleriggmanor.com

Come & See Day (7 March 10am to 4 pm) at the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road, Liverpool L22 1RD. Keynote Speakers : Ronan & Joanne Johnston. 'Lord Teach Us to Pray'. Bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £10. Contact jenny@ireneaus.co.uk Tel : 01519491199

Saints of the Week

17 February : The seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (c 13-44). These seven men were born at Florence and led lives as hermits on Monte Scenario, especially venerating the Blessed Virgin Mary. They then preached through the length and breadth of Tuscany and founded the Order of Servites, which in 1304 received the approval of the Holy See. They are venerated on this day which is said to be the day on which St Alexis Falconieri, one of the seven, died in the year 1310

21 February : Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (1007-1072), Born at Ravenna, Peter completed his studies and taught for a short while but then gave it up and became a hermit at Fonte Avellana. He was elected Prior of the community and strenuously promoted religious observance both there and in other parts of Italy. In the difficult times in which he lived, he helped the Roman Pontiffs by his writings and acted as legate to reform the Church. He was created a cardinal and Bishop of Ostia by Stephen IX. Upon his death he was immediately venerated as a saint.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball : 11/2/26 No 52 - Unsold

St Joseph's UCM
Next meeting : Thursday, 19 February at 1.00 pm
The speaker will be talking about Trinity Safe Space
Please make every effort to attend. Thank you.

Thank You Message
Tony Higginson would like to thank Fr Dave most sincerely for his consoling Requiem Mass for Sheila (RIP).

Thank you also to those present at the Mass and all who sent Mass cards and condolences. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

St Joseph's Scouts are holding a **Race Night** on Friday, 6 March in the Club.
First race at 7.00 pm
£2 entry.
Everyone welcome.

Canon Christopher reflects This week we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday and during this season we will notice a difference in our churches. The liturgical colour is once again changed to purple, no flowers are on display and during the liturgy music must be used only to support the singing. The season is marked by omission – the absence of the Gloria at Mass as well as the word 'Alleluia'.

The mark of the ashes that is put on our forehead on Wednesday reminds us that "we are dust and to dust we shall return". Alternative words are: "Turn away from sin and believe the good news". The imposition of ashes dates from the early church and has become a most significant practice for Christians in the western world. The readings, prayers, gestures and symbols on this day orient us to the journey ahead: the road to true contrition of heart and mind. The prayer at the Mass on Ash Wednesday describes Lent as the forty days of spiritual warfare enabling us to celebrate for a further fifty days at Easter.

Very often during this season our bishops give us a pastoral letter, and this year Archbishop John has chosen to write to us in anticipation of Lent to help us to be prepared for a good start to the penitential season. It is also the time to suspend normal activities in order to focus on the key themes of the season. He alerts us to the need to turn away from the noisy world to enable us to hear what the Lord is saying to us as we journey with Him in the forty days in the desert. We are invited to do penance through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is an ideal time to make changes that will refocus our lives and bring us closer to the Lord.

We are encouraged to pray more and as usual Mass is celebrated each day in one of the churches. We can extend our prayer by staying for a few minutes in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Another good form of prayer is to make the Stations of the Cross either privately, even at home, or with others in the churches where times are published in the newsletter (on Tuesdays at Saint Alban's and Fridays at Saint Joseph's).

Archbishop John stresses the importance of making a good confession in the sacrament of reconciliation especially if we have not done so for some time. Though there may be fewer priests nowadays, the opportunities for reconciliation are always available but people are afraid to put their trust in God in this sacrament and we must not reject this opportunity if we want to be at peace.

The Fasting aspect of Lenten penance is applied not just to food but to lots of activities e.g. spending less time in front of screens (big or small) and extending moments of quiet and even silence. If you do miss important things there is always a catch-up system. It may be difficult, but penance is not meant to be easy. At least, there is no harm in trying.

With the help of God let us make a good start to Lent by making a special effort this week in the many aspects of our busy lives. Amen

Carlo Acutis : First Class Relic and Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles - Our Lady and All Saints Church, Parbold (Lancaster Lane, WN8 7HS) are privileged to be able to host a First Class Relic of **Saint Carlo Acutis** for nine days in February.

At the same time, they will hold an exhibition of 30 Eucharistic miracles he curated. Each miracle will be displayed alongside historical details and scientific analysis. The Exhibition will be in the adjacent **Our Lady and All Saints** school (Brandreth Drive, Parbold WN8 7HB) – a short walk from the church.

Both events will run from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February and opening times are : Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30am to 3:00pm. Monday to Friday: 11:30am to 3:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:00pm. There is parking and accessibility at both locations and exhibition notes, prayer cards and children's activities will be available at the exhibition. (All children must be accompanied by an adult). Contact details are (01257) 463248, email: parbold@hotmail.com, or via the parish website: www.ourladyparbold.org.uk

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Programme) continues on Thursday at 6 pm in St Joseph's presbytery. A further session will take place on 26 February.

Baptism Preparation

If you are hoping to have your child baptised at Sacred Heart or St Alban's Church in the near future you will need to attend a preparation session. Please contact the Parish office or Anne Preston (07913003537) for more details. Thank you

Stations of the Cross During Lent

- ✠ At St Joseph's on Fridays at 6.30 pm and will be led by different parish groups
- ✠ At St Alban's on Tuesdays at 7.00 pm



Everyone welcome

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, where there is hatred, let me show charity.

where there is injury, pardon. where there is error, the truth. where there is doubt, the faith. where there is despair, hope. where there is darkness, light. and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console. to be understood as to understand.

to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive.

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Stop Assisted Suicide... Further Action Needed!

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right to Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords.

Please visit

www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

Right to Life UK

We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds. Lord hear us

Class Masses

Fr Raymond has arranged class Masses to take place at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School. If you would like to attend, please call the school on 01925 726544.

Dates are as follows :

- 24 March at 2.00 pm
- 22 May at 2.00 pm
- 17 June at 2.00 pm

St Gregory's Catholic High School

The next event will be held on 27 February - Celebration of the Word for the 21st week of Lent.

Theme : Temptation

If you would like to be part of these events, please email our school chaplain at swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com Do remember that spaces are limited.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 15 February 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 15 February	11.00 am Margaret Riding (RoS)	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am Maria Herrick (RoS) 4.00 pm Tony Carter (Belated Birthday Wishes)	10.00 am
Monday 16 February			9.30 am Margaret Larkin (RoS)	
Tuesday 17 February		9.30 am Special Intention		9.00 am
Ash Wednesday 18 February	6.00 pm Syromalabar Mass	9.30 am Maria Maguire & Marie Spencer	9.30 am Fr James' Birthday Wishes 6.00 pm Bridget Carr & Family	9.00 am
Thursday 19 February		9.30 am People of the Parish	7.00 am* Davey Grant (RoS)	9.00 am
Friday 20 February	9.30 am Holy Souls		9.30 am Merina Babu Mamphilly (RoS)	
Saturday 21 February	5.15 pm Denis Fletcher			6.00 pm
Sunday 22 February	11.00 am Donor's Intentions	9.30 am Doris Cleary (3 rd Anniversary Remembrance)	8.30 am Theresa Reid (RoS) 4.00 pm June Alderson (RoS)	10.00 am

Confession	Saturday from 4.30 pm	Saturday from 9.30 am	Wednesday 5.15 pm-5.45 pm	Saturday 5.15-5.45 pm
Adoration [Exposition]		After the Mass on Tuesday and Thursday	Monday & Friday 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**.
- On Thursdays during Lent, Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's at 7.00 am. This will be followed by a Lenten breakfast in the Loreto room. All welcome.

Penketh Support Group Food Hub
Meefing 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

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
Do take a look ... you may find
something of interest

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

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. Thank you.

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

St Alban
Josie Clifton (Poorly)

Sacred Heart
Gerard Bannon
Birthday & Anniversary
Remembrance

St Joseph - Tony Newton
(7th Anniversary)

St Joseph's Marian Candle
Sarah Anne Buckley-Cook
(RoS)

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

Mary Taylor, John Burke,
Teresa Cadman, Austin
Dickenson, Mary Kelly, Vicky
Evans, Alex Baxendale, Dom
Marshall and Gay Jinks

May they rest in peace

FUNERALS

Week commencing 16 February

Requiem Mass for Mary Taylor on Friday,
20 February at 2.15 pm at St Oswald's, Padgate

Week commencing 23 February

Requiem Mass for John Burke on Tuesday,
24 February at 10.00 am at Sacred Heart

Week commencing 2 March

Funeral Service for Teresa Cadman on Wednesday,
4 March at 11.00 am at St Alban's

Funeral Service for Paul Anthony Baines on
Thursday, 5 March at 1.00 pm at Sacred Heart

May they rest in peace

World Day of Prayer - Friday, 6 March
St Joseph's parish is hosting this year's World Day
of Prayer. An ecumenical service will take place at
7.30 pm and members of local churches will be in
attendance. The prayers and the stories that
accompany them have been prepared by women
from Nigeria. The service will be followed by light
refreshments. All welcome.

Coffee After Mass at St Joseph's
Please join us for coffee & refreshments after the
8.30 am Mass on Sunday. This week's hosts are
members of the Legion of Mary. All welcome