



Newsletter for week commencing  
22 March 2026

**LENT**

Fifth Sunday of  
Lent (Year A)

<p><b>Sacred Heart and Saint Alban</b> Parish Priest : Canon Christopher Cunningham Deacon : Rev Terry Dolan: 01925 492857 Prison Chaplain : Fr James Fasakin C.S.Sp</p>	<p>Tel: <b>01925 630928</b> (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><b>Saint Joseph</b> Parish Priest : Fr Raymond Anyanwu C.S.Sp Deacon : Rev John McClure (Retired) 01925 723146</p>	<p>Tel: <b>01925 722105</b> Office hours : Monday-Friday (9.00am-12 noon) Alternative Tel : <b>01925 631086</b> Email: stjoseph.warrington@rcaol.org.uk Website : stjosephpenketh.co.uk Twitter : @StJosephs_RCC Facebook : www.facebook.com/groups/stjorc</p>
<p><b>Saint Paul of the Cross</b> Parish Priest : Fr John Schofield</p>	<p>Tel : <b>01925 226184</b> (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>	

**MASS OF CHRISM**

(Metropolitan Cathedral)  
Wednesday at 7.30 pm.

We need to be seated by 7.00 pm.

The bus will leave from Sacred Heart (Milner Street) at 5.45 pm and from St Joseph's at 6.00 pm

Please let us know in advance if you booked a place but can no longer attend.

The cost will be £5 per adult

**Stations of the Cross This Week**

- ✚ St Alban on Tuesday at 7.00 pm led by volunteers. Confession is available afterwards.
- ✚ St Joseph's on Friday at 6.30 pm led by different parish groups

Today we welcome Archbishop John Sherrington who will be celebrating the 9.30 am Mass at St Alban's followed by the 11.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart.

After each Mass he will greet the people in church as usual and after the 11.00 am Mass will meet others in Sacred Heart Parish Centre when I hope you will come along to share this special time with him.

Thank you. **Canon Christopher**

**Gospel Reflection - Life Changing**

The most unsettling parts of the Bible are the bits where Jesus doesn't do exactly what we expect. Today Jesus' good friends Mary and Martha send him a message to come quickly because their brother Lazarus is dying.



We would expect Jesus to drop everything and go quickly to their house. Instead, he hangs around for a couple of days and does nothing. What can he be thinking of? In truth, the delay is an essential part of the story. If Jesus had simply raised Lazarus from feeling unwell the story would have lacked poignancy, and no one would have had their faith significantly deepened that day. That Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead has a dramatic and profound impact on all .... not least Lazarus himself.

We might have expected Lazarus to have more to say on the matter. We might wish that he had shared a couple of life after death experiences with us, but it seems that Lazarus and his experiences are not really the point of the story. The main point of the story is Jesus' ability to transform the meaning of life and death for those who trust in him. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." In bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus shows the crowds that death need hold no fear for those who place their trust in him.

It is truly life changing to know that we are invited to place this much faith in God. It is life changing to know that God can handle any situation in which we find ourselves, and that he knows how to lead us through it. All we have to do is focus our faith on God rather than our own imagined solutions. Expect surprises. Expect delays. Expect a God who can guide us through life with all its challenges.

**Morning Prayers at St Joseph's**

This week Morning prayers will be said prior to Mass (9.10 am) on Monday and Friday. Please join us. All welcome

**Class Masses** - Fr Raymond will celebrate a Class Mass on Tuesday (24 March) at 2.00pm at St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School. If you would like to attend, please call the school on 01925 726544.

**St Joseph's Easter Church Clean** - Wednesday, 3 April from 9.00 am. Help would be appreciated. Thanks

**Canon Christopher reflects ....** Many years ago during training in the seminary some of the courses under the heading of Ethics lectures gave us guidance on what is known as Catholic Social Teaching. This study considered the principles that are our guide in the way we think and act and try to guide others in what is the right thing to do so in relation to moral issues. These principles provide a moral framework for living faith in the world which is based on Scripture and Tradition. At about 7.45 am on every weekday, Radio 4 broadcasts someone expressing their thought for the day lasting for about three or four minutes. The speakers, though not necessarily Christian, come from all walks of life, even without faith but who very often refer to Scripture which has universal value. Every week there is usually a Catholic commentator who is whose way of life is involved in teaching and writing on the faith. Last week special reference was made to Catholic Social Teaching which is not surprising as several issues are in the news where people are looking for guidance. Wars are certainly at the top of the agenda at present and the question is being raised as to whether particular conflicts can be justified. Can there ever be a Just War? Some leaders in the world are trying to justify destruction and killings that cannot possibly bring about peace, leading only to pain and suffering at all levels of society.

Individual members of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have the responsibility for particular areas of concern. This week our own archbishop, John Sherrington who is the lead bishop for Life issues has published official statements that we should be aware of. Before and after a vote in the House of Lords yesterday he expressed his distress at the decision to keep a clause in a Bill to decriminalise abortion up to birth in some circumstances. This will lead to great challenges for women, and he encourages us to support them in practical ways including through prayer. "Inspired by the example of the Holy Family, let us continue to defend the dignity of both the child in the womb and the mother."

Another life issue that is in the hands of the government is the Bill on Assisted Suicide. We had the good news this week that Scotland has voted against it but It is still being considered by the House of Lords. We must continue to fight against this terrible proposal that people will be able to choose to take their own lives. We must do all we can to oppose this becoming an act of Parliament and continue to pray for respect for the dignity of life.

Let us join with the Bishops of England and Wales to pray a Holy Hour for the dignity of all human life as peers in the House of Lords continue to debate whether to make Assisted Suicide law. This will take place on Sunday, 19 April at 4:30 pm (UK time), when we join with them to pray for the promotion of a culture of life in our lands. The opportunity to join them in our parishes on the same day will be made available.

Lord, giver of life, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

### Holy Week Service Times at Sacred Heart, Saint Alban & Saint Joseph

<b>Tuesday 31 March</b>	<b>St Alban</b>	9.30 am	Morning Mass
<b>Wednesday 1 April</b>	<b>St Joseph's</b>	9.30 am	Passion Play by St Vincent's School
	<b>St Gregory's</b>	2.00 pm	Mass in School
	<b>Cathedral</b>	7.30 pm	Mass of Chrism
<b>Maundy Thursday 2 April</b>	<b>St Alban</b>	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
		7.30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	<b>St Joseph</b>	7.00 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
		10.00 pm	Night Prayer
<b>Good Friday 3 April</b>	<b>St Alban</b>	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
		12 noon	Stations of the Cross
	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	3.00 pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
	<b>St Joseph</b>	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
	<b>Honiton Square</b>	12 noon	Ecumenical Prayers
<b>Holy Saturday, 4 April</b>	<b>St Alban</b>	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
		8.30 pm	Solemn Vigil of Easter
	<b>St Joseph</b>	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
		8.00 pm	Solemn Vigil of Easter
<b>Easter Sunday, 5 April</b>	<b>St Alban</b>	9.30 am	Easter Sunday Mass
	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	11.00 am	Easter Sunday Mass
	<b>St Joseph</b>	8.30 am	Easter Sunday Mass
		4.00 pm	Easter Sunday Mass

### The Legion of Mary

Members of the Legion of Mary will renew their promise to Our Lady during the 6.00pm Mass on 25 March (the feast of the Annunciation). The Rosary and Legion prayers will start at 5.30pm. There will be light refreshments after Mass in the Loreto Room. All are welcome to join us including our auxiliary members.

### Right to Life UK

As we look forward to the Solemnity of the Annunciation on Wednesday and celebrate Our Lord taking on human flesh and Our Lady saying 'Yes' to God, we pray for pregnant women who feel they are facing a difficult decision.

We ask that they may be given hope, filled with the love of God, and guided away from a course of despair and onto one of love and acceptance of the gift of life. Lord hear us

### Refreshments after Mass on Sundays

- **St Joseph's** – after the 8.30 am Mass. This week's hosts are members of the Panto Group.
- **St Alban** – after the 9.30 am Mass. Hosted by members of the Parish.
- **Sacred Heart** (in the Parish Centre) – after the 11.00 am Mass. Hosted by members of the Parish.

*Please feel free to stay for a cuppa and a chat. Everyone most welcome.*

### Quote of the Week

"...they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine."

(Ezekiel 47:12)

**St Marie's (Widnes) Easter Bingo : 2.00 to 4.00pm Saturday, 28 March**

Adults and children are welcome to join us for our Easter Prize Bingo.

Email [heritage@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk](mailto:heritage@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk) or call 01928 592405

to let us know you will be attending. If you can't let us know in advance just come along anyway. We look forward to seeing you

**St Gregory's Catholic High School**

The next event will be held on 27 March Theme : 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – **New Life**

If you would like to be part of these events, please email the school chaplain

[swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com](mailto:swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com)

Please note that spaces are limited

**West Warrington Churches Together**

WWCT comprises St Joseph's, Bethany, St. Mary's, Penketh Methodist, St. Paul's and Jireh churches.

**Next Event - Good Friday Service** : Honiton Square at 12 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

**EASTER BINGO**

**St Joseph's Parish Club**

Monday, 23 March

Doors open at 1.00 for a 1.30pm start. Please join us and try your luck

Raffle tickets for hampers will be on sale at both Masses. today (Sunday).

Please support our local charities. Thank You.

The latest Archdiocese of Liverpool Pastoral Development Bulletin can be found on the notice boards at Sacred Heart & St Alban. Copies are available from the back of Church should you wish to take one home with you.

**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 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)

**St Joseph's Events Team Proudly Presents ...its Community Youth Talent Show!**

A joyful event celebrating the wonderful gifts and abilities of the young people from all schools in our community.

This special showcase is an opportunity for our young people aged 5-16, to share their talents. Auditions will be held over three evenings in St Joseph's Parish Centre from 6.00-8.00 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The 'Grand Final' will take place on Sunday, 12 April from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm where students will showcase their talents in a Celebratory Community Event. Everyone is welcome to attend!

For those wishing to apply please contact the Events Team via email at [stjosephseventsteam@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephseventsteam@outlook.com) and ask for a registration form.

We look forward to coming together as a community to support and celebrate our students and all they can do.

*Thank you for your continued support of the parish and community*

**Discerning Your Gifts ... Embracing Your Call**

An opportunity to reflect on our unique calling and gifting so that we can be fruitful in our mission.

Come and enjoy a peaceful and illuminating weekend with Michelle and Peter Moran in the tranquil settings of Freshfield close to the coast and in the wonderful 'Red Squirrel' territory ideal for reflection and peaceful walks. Costs for weekend – Full Board / Residential £190

The retreat starts on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 4.00pm with Holy Mass followed by supper and first session. Followed on Saturday with Discerning Our Gifts, Adoration, Walks, Free Time and Healing Mass at 7.00pm.

To book or for further information please call Kathy on 01704 875850

Email – [theprayercentre.stj@psmsg.org.uk](mailto:theprayercentre.stj@psmsg.org.uk)  
St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Formby, Liverpool L37 1PH

Visit our website at [www.stjosephsprayercentre.com/](http://www.stjosephsprayercentre.com/)

**Careers & Events**

The latest vacancies from the archdiocese can be found at Careers - Join the team ([liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)).

The latest events from across the archdiocese can be found here: Events - What's on ([liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)) If you have an event you would like to add to the website, please email [communications@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcaol.org.uk)

**Help us shape youth ministry for the future**

We want all young people to flourish and to know that they are cherished by God and are a vital part of the Church. So, as an Archdiocese, we are committed to explore how we can best accompany young people. Your voice is crucial.

**What will happen:** You will meet others and have your chance to share your experiences and ideas about how the Church might best respond to the needs of young people today. All feedback will be carefully listened to as part of a diocesan wide process planning youth ministry for the years ahead.

**Who's invited :** We want to hear from adults, young adults and 11-18 year olds. Please join us. (Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.)

Come to **ONE** of our open meetings.

- Monday, 20 April (7.00- 9.30pm).  
St Joseph's Crow Orchard Road, Warrington, Wigan WN6 9PA
- Tuesday, 21 April (7.00- 9.30pm).  
St Monica's Fernhill Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 9GA

The process is being facilitated by Danny Curtin, who worked in youth ministry and youth work in the Church for many years.

For more information, contact Sarah McGeehan on 07415099048 or email : [s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk)

**Bitesize** - If someone were to pay you ten cents for every kind word you said about people and collect five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?  
*Author unknown, quoted by Jacob M. Braude*

St Joseph Bonus Ball – 18/3/26 No 54. Winner : Carmel Anderson  
38 numbers sold

You will notice in the churches that the statues and crucifixes are covered in violet veils. In Catholic tradition this is done in the final two weeks of Lent and serves as a 'fast for the eyes', creating a sense of longing and mourning.

This practice minimalises distractions, to focus on Christ's passion, symbolising his hidden glory and his departure from the Temple. Perhaps the practice stems from the Gospel of John 8:59 where Jesus hid himself from the Temple crowd.

## Mass Intentions for week commencing 22 March 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
<b>Sunday</b> 22 March	<b>11.00 am</b> Dave Griffiths (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)	<b>9.30 am</b> Steven Messenger (10th Anniversary)	<b>8.30 am</b> Nan Kenny <b>4.00 pm</b> Nicky Hayes	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b> 23 March			<b>9.30 am</b> Lisa Jane Rowley	
<b>Tuesday</b> 24 March	<b>6.00 pm</b> Syromalabar Mass	<b>9.30 am</b> Agnes McHugh (Sick)		<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 25 March			<b>6.00 pm</b> Maria Wilson	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 26 March		<b>9.15 am*</b> Private Intention	<b>7.00 am</b> Brian Street	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Friday</b> 27 March	<b>12 noon – Deanery Mass at St John Fisher, Widnes</b> Thanksgiving			
<b>Saturday</b> 28 March	<b>5.15 pm</b> People of the Parish			<b>6.00 pm</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 29 March	<b>11.00 am</b> Samantha Williams (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)	<b>9.30 am</b> Soul of Amelia Baylen	<b>8.30 am</b> Paddy, Pat and Philip Cullen <b>4.00 pm</b> Joanne Brownlow-Heath (Health, Happiness and Birthday Greetings)	<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**.
- Please make special note of Mass times and venues for the coming week as there are a couple of changes. Thank you.

**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**  
People of the Parish

**Sacred Heart**  
Fr Barry McAllister  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)

**St Joseph – Des Ord**

**St Joseph's Marian Candle**  
Des Ord  
(10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently : Anthony Taylor, David Donlon, Danuta Herman, Kevin Thompson, Jean Greaves, Derek Greaves, Bernadette Day (nee Alexander), Kevan Boyd, Gianluca Furnaletto, Barbara Bartko and Joseph Thirunilam.  
**May they rest in peace.**

### FUNERALS

#### Week commencing 23 March

Requiem Mass for Gianluca Furlanetto will take place at St Joseph's on Tuesday, 24 March at **10.30 am**

Funeral Service on Tuesday, 24 March at 11.30 am at St Alban's for Danuta Herman

Funeral Service on Thursday, 26 March at 10.15 am at St Alban's for Anthony Taylor

#### Week commencing 30 March

Requiem Mass for Derek Greaves at 11.15 am on Tuesday, 31 March at St Joseph's

#### Week commencing 12 April

Requiem Mass for Patrick Kevin Thompson at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 14 April at St Joseph's

**May they rest in peace**

**Sacred Heart and Saint Alban Parish Safeguarding Reps**  
Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath & Paul Towey

On Thursday, Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's at 7.00 am. This will be followed by a Lenten breakfast in the Loreto room