



Newsletter for week commencing  
15 March 2026  
**LENT**  
Fourth Sunday of  
Lent (Year A)  
Laetare Sunday

<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 : stalbanspriors@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>	

### CHRISM MASS

**Wednesday, 1 April at 7.30 pm**

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. Please sign the list at the back of Church if you would like to attend. Transport will be arranged.

Altar servers aged 8 and over are also welcome. Please speak to one of the priests or deacons if you would like to attend.

### Stations of the Cross During Lent

- ✦ St Joseph's on Fridays at 6.30 pm led by different parish groups
- ✦ St Alban's on Tuesdays at 7.00 pm led by volunteers. Confession is available afterwards.

### St Joseph's Parish Feast Day Mass

You are warmly invited to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph on Thursday, 19 March. Mass will take place at 9.30 am and will be attended by the pupils of St Joseph's school.

Please note that the Lenten breakfast Mass will still take place at 7.00am as usual.

### 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

### Morning Prayers at St Joseph's

During Lent Morning prayers will be said prior to Mass (9.10 am) on Mondays and Fridays. Please join us. All welcome

### Gospel Reflection - Insights

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him.

The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently, they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus chose to cure the blind man, not simply because he felt a sympathy for him but because he wanted to display how God can work through any one of us. Jesus could see that the blind man would make a persuasive evangelist, and he was right. The cured blind man, unlike his frightened parents, spoke out boldly and persistently first proclaiming Jesus as a prophet, and then as he gained more insight, that this man was the Son of God. Even so, the short-sighted Pharisees were not convinced. Their belief that only Moses could act as spokesperson for God, rendered them totally myopic when it came to Jesus. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us. Are we so blinkered in what we believe and how we worship, that we are unable to see the broader picture that would allow our faith to move forwards?

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject, teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives, we can show others how God works. In our skills and talents, we too can be evangelists, we just need the vision and a little bit of lateral thinking.



Over the last few weeks, Archbishop John has been visiting all the churches of the Deanery in Widnes and Warrington. His last visit will be next weekend when we warmly welcome him to this parish.

Archbishop John will be celebrating the 9.30 am Mass at Saint 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**

**Canon Christopher reflects ....** This weekend is sometimes referred to as mid-Lent Sunday though we have already passed the midway mark during this week. The fourth Sunday of Lent, sometimes called Mothering Sunday, is a day when we might relax a little bit from our penance to take a break before we progress through the last three weeks of this holy season to journey toward Easter.

As we reflect, we might well ask ourselves whether we have made any progress so far in our growth of the spiritual life. Spirituality is a personal pursuit in our lives that involves a sense of God's presence among us. I regularly repeat and reflect on the last words of Jesus before he left the earth ... "I will be with you always until the end of time". Spirituality is identifying with His presence among us during Lent when we journey with Christ in the desert. If we have followed the suggestions of prayer, penance and almsgiving we will hopefully by now have achieved something.

Last week there was a good response to the 'Confessathon' when people examined their consciences and confessed their sins, following it up with the resolution to make a firm purpose in amending their lives in the future.

Following my spiritual reading recently I came across the idea that just as there is so much anxiety in the world today because of what is going on it also comes from people not knowing how to live in the present. How many of us procrastinate, that is put things off until tomorrow and yet know that 'tomorrow never comes'. We live in a place called the future and put the present behind us.

At the beginning of every year, and even at the start of Lent I often make a resolution that I will not procrastinate since it is harmful and a bad habit. Sadly, I do sometimes fail and fell into the trap of putting this off until later. When I was working as chaplain in the hospital, as well as at other times, people would ask me to visit them to give the Sacrament of the Sick. I would always consider it important but sometimes, though rarely, had to delay my response to the request for a few hours and regretted it afterwards. However, I did generally tend to use my instinct and followed it up as soon as possible as well as thanking the Holy Spirit for the prompt to go and find that patient who needed the sacraments.

Each day let us pray that our eyes will be opened to the gifts before, trying to see who and what is in front of us and enjoying these gifts. One of the best ways to 'turn back time' in a positive way is not to waste energy on regret and nostalgia but to use the past to help us focus on the sacred, wonderful moment right now. In this moment Christ is with us so may we be open to the new things the Spirit of God is teaching us today. Amen.

**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.

**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 on Sunday, 22 March at both Masses.

Please support our local charities. Thank You.

**St Joseph's UCM**

Monday, 16 March 1.30 pm start  
Bingo at St John Fisher

Sunday, 22 March at 1.00 pm  
UCM Lenten Stations of the Cross in Church

**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. The next Mass takes place on 24 March at 2.00pm.

**Right to Life UK** : As we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph on Thursday, let us pray for all fathers, that, through their example, they may demonstrate the loving provision and compassion of Almighty God to their children. Lord hear us

**Friends of the Metropolitan Cathedral Update – Treasurer Wanted**

The Friends of the Metropolitan Cathedral are looking for a Treasurer for the Committee. If you might be interested, contact the Secretary Ultan Russell on [u.russell@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:u.russell@rcaol.org.uk)

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

The latest events from across the archdiocese can be found here: [Events - What's on \(liverpoolcatholic.org.uk\)](http://Events - What's on (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)

**St Gregory's Catholic High School**

The next event will be held on 19 March (2pm) : Mass with Class 8T  
20 March : Celebration of the Word  
Theme : 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – **Cleansing**  
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

**"Love your neighbour as yourself"**

(Mark 12:31)

As we continue our Lenten journey, we kindly remind our parishes and parishioners that Nugent Collection Sunday takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (15 March)

This year's appeal invites us to put into action Jesus' call to *love our neighbour* by supporting those within our communities who are most in need. Through your generosity, Nugent is able to continue offering practical support to people facing homelessness, young care leavers, families experiencing poverty, and those escaping domestic violence.

Every prayer, every donation, and every act of kindness helps us continue the mission begun by Fr James Nugent, serving our neighbours across the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

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

St Joseph Bonus Ball – 11/3/26 No 14  
Winner : Cathy Latham.  
37 numbers sold

## 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.*

### Free Children's Choirs Open to All Children in Years 2-8

Exciting opportunities for young singers to join a Catholic children's choir in your area! Open to all children in school years 2 to 8, our choirs offer free musical training led by DBS-certified musicians from the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

#### Local Rehearsal Information:

- **Widnes Catholic Children's Choir** - Mondays, 4-5pm  
St John Fisher Parish Centre, 55 Moorfield Rd, Widnes, WA8 3JA

Choir members will have the chance to perform locally and further afield, developing their musical skills while enjoying a fun, supportive environment.

**Sign up here** : <https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7578a4f8bc41ae198517aea33&iid=34918afeaf>

**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)**

**Quiz Night**  
Saint Joseph's Club  
Sunday, 15 March  
Start : 8,00 pm  
Jackpot £120  
Play your cards right 65+  
Come along, bring a team and support the club.

### 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. This promises to be a fun afternoon catching up with friends.

There will be free hot drinks and biscuits and lots of Easter Eggs and chocolate to be won.

Email [heritage@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk](mailto:heritage@haltonsthelensvca.org.uk) or call 01928 592405 to let us know you, your family or friends will be attending.

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

### Refreshments after Mass on Sundays

- **St Joseph's** – after the 8.30 am Mass. This week's hosts are members of the Indian Community.
  - **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.**

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

### With Thanks

A big thank you to our Indian Community at St Joseph's who voluntarily sourced the material, funded and mended the car park potholes.

### St Joseph's Church Grounds and Maintenance Team

The next meeting is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 8am weather permitting. New members are always welcome.

St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council – The Chairperson will give a brief update on PPC activity at both Masses today

As Dementia Prayer Week begins, we come together in prayer for all those living with dementia and for their families, friends and carers.

We hold before God those whose memories fade, but who are never forgotten, praying for peace, dignity and comfort. We also give thanks for carers and healthcare workers whose compassion reflects God's faithful love.

May our share prayers be a sign of hope and solidarity throughout this week. Let us pray.

### A Prayer for Dementia Prayer Week

God of compassion and faithful love,  
we place before you all who live with dementia,  
Those whose memories fade, whose words come slowly,  
whose sense of self feels fragile or lost.  
Be close to them, Lord, in moments of confusion and fear;  
surround them with your peace when the world feels unfamiliar.

Remind them, even when they cannot remember,  
that they are known, cherished and held in your heart.  
We pray for families, friends and carers who walk this demanding path every day.

Give them patience when strength is low, tenderness when weariness takes hold and hope when the journey feels overwhelming.

May they sense your presence in small graces and quite moments of love.

Bless all who work in care homes, hospitals and communities. May their hands bring comfort, their words bring reassurance and their service reflect your dignity and mercy.

God of life, you remember us always, even when memory fails. Hold us all in your abiding love, today and always.

**Amen**

## Mass Intentions for week commencing 15 March 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
<b>Sunday</b> 15 March	<b>11.00 am</b> Child's Dedication (Eldad)	<b>9.30 am</b> Scotland Family	<b>8.30 am</b> A Sick Girl <b>4.00 pm</b> Terry Holland (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b> 16 March			<b>9.30 am</b> Alex Baxendale (RoS)	
<b>Tuesday</b> 17 March <b>St Patrick</b>		<b>9.30 am*</b> Samantha Williams (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) <b>2.00 pm Requiem Mass</b> Angela O'Brien		<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 18 March			<b>6.00 pm</b> John McGrath	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 19 March <b>Feast of St Joseph</b>		<b>9.00 am*</b> Thanksgiving (Birthday)	<b>7.00 am</b> Kevan Boyd (RoS) <b>9.30 am</b> St Joseph's Feast Day	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Friday</b> 20 March	<b>9.30 am</b> People of the Parish		<b>9.30 am</b> Margaret Foster	
<b>Saturday</b> 21 March	<b>5.15 pm</b> Lanigan Family			<b>6.00 pm</b>
<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>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 the Mass on Tuesday and Thursday	Monday & Friday 10.00-11.00 am	

✚ Please note the times of Masses and venues for the coming week as there are a number of changes.

**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**  
An end to war and violence

**Sacred Heart**  
Stuart Morrison  
(Birthday Remembrance)

**St Joseph – Angela**  
**St Joseph's Marian Candle**  
Alf & Norma Pester  
(Wedding Anniversary)

Please remember in your  
prayers the following who  
have died recently :  
Angela O'Brien, Danuta  
Herman, Anthony Terence  
Taylor, Jean Greaves, Derek  
Greaves, Bernadette Day  
(nee Alexander), Kevan Boyd  
and Gianluca Furlanetto  
**May they rest in peace.**

### FUNERALS

#### Week commencing 16 March

Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 17 March at 2 pm at  
**St Alban's Church** for Angela O'Brien  
Funeral Service on Tuesday, 17 March at  
12 noon at St Joseph's for Kevan Boyd

#### Week commencing 23 March

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

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

#### Week commencing 30 March

The funerals of Derek and Jean Greaves will  
take place on Tuesday, 31 March as follows :  
Requiem Mass for Derek will take place at  
11.15 am at St Joseph's  
Funeral Service for Jean will take place at  
12.40 pm at Walton Lea Crematorium

**May they rest in peace**

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