



Newsletter for
week commencing
8 March 2026
LENT
Third Sunday of
Lent (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>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>	

Stations of the Cross During Lent

✠ At St Joseph's on Fridays at 6.30 pm led by different parish groups

✠ At St Alban's on Tuesdays at 7.00 pm led by volunteers. Confession is available afterwards.



Gospel Reflection - Fountain of Life

Unlucky in love, lonely, broken and marginalised, the Samaritan woman in today's gospel represents all those in our society who live lonely and unloved lives. She represents everyone who has been forgotten or who lives on the edges of society.



She represents all those who thirst for more from life. Since Jesus and the Samaritan woman are standing by a well, Jesus uses 'water' to describe God's love to her. Love is like water. Without water we live with a yearning. Without water we wither like plants and die. Jesus tells us that he gives the water of eternal life. The 'water of life' satisfies all of our longings and yearnings and is offered to us all whoever we might be. God's love makes us whole.

So how do we make 'the water of life' a reality? Start close to home. Decide to bring Jesus' love into the life of someone in your family or neighbourhood. It's difficult to stand next to a fountain and not get wet! It's difficult to witness God's love and not become immersed. Once we get into the habit of spreading God's love without judgement and without prejudice others will start to adopt that habit too.

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.

Right to Life UK

...we pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death. Lord hear us

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.

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

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 using the QR code below



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

Careers & Events - The latest vacancies from the archdiocese can be found at 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) If you have an event you would like to add to the website, please email communications@rcaol.org.uk

Canon Christopher reflects In a recent news broadcast one of the graphics showed the large concentration of aircraft coming and going around Dubai airport under normal circumstances. It illustrated that all that had ceased due to the war situation. Many people had travelled in the hope of having a lovely holiday but became stranded and are now in emergency are being airlifted back home. I must confess that this is the sort of thing that puts me off travelling to some foreign countries. In general, I find travelling very stressful and so feel more comfortable staying at home.

In the course of giving eulogies at funerals, I sometimes make a point of referring to life as a journey from the cradle to the grave. When preparing to celebrate a funeral, discussions take place with the family and recently I have heard some wonderful stories about the faithfulness of people who have come to the end of the journey of life. Such people with strong faith will be aware that they are not alone but always have the Lord by their side as he said he would be.

Our daily life consists of lots of brief journeys. It may be to go shopping and better still to go to church. They are all short steps as part of the longer one. For some these may be easy but others prove very difficult such as when sudden illness occurs that can be very incapacitating. The words of Jesus may help us. He suggested that we take up our crosses daily to follow him.

Jesus' life journey eventually led him to Jerusalem and in particular he referred to the conclusion when he expected to suffer and die. The apostles were not keen on that, but he did warn that they too would be expected to follow in his footsteps, sharing his cross to Calvary.

We all have some form of crosses, big or small but sometimes we would like to have a different one. Yet the cross we have been given fits us perfectly and we should be grateful for the opportunity to live our lives well by carrying it.

As we make our journey through Lent with Christ in the desert taking up prayer, penance and almsgiving we should be pleased to respond to our Lord's invitation to follow him no matter what the cost. It would be a good penance to follow the Way of the Cross together with others during Lent in one of our churches. During that time we reflect on the various aspects of Jesus' journey to Calvary, leading to his death on the cross his burial in the tomb but most of all looking forward to the Resurrection.

As we reflect on the Stations of the Cross we can put ourselves in the place of Simon of Cyrene who was forced to carry the cross behind Our Lord. Then, be like Veronica who wiped the face of Jesus as an example of care and charity that we could show to others and thence to Jesus himself. We could place ourselves among the women of Jerusalem who were encouraged by Jesus to weep for themselves and not for him.

We can picture ourselves standing with John the apostle on Calvary, and witness the terrible pain endured by Jesus in the crucifixion. We can unite ourselves with Mary his mother who suffered such terrible pain and whose soul endured a sword of sorrow as prophesied by Simeon in the Temple, thirty-three years earlier.

At the end of the meditation we look forward with confidence and hope to the joyful conclusion of the Resurrection which is promised to us if we have taken up the invitation to join Jesus in our journey of life. Walk on with hope in your heart since you never walk alone with Jesus by your side. Amen.

St Gregory's Catholic High School

The next event will be held on
13 March : Celebration of the Word.

Theme : Third Week of Lent
'Teachings of Jesus'.

If you would like to be part of these events, please email the school chaplain swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com
Please note that spaces are limited.

Quote of the Week

"They will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation; no longer will they learn how to make war." (Isaiah 2:4)

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 12th, 19th and 26th March.

The 'Grand Final' will take place on Sunday, 12th 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 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.

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 Bonus Ball : 4/3/26
No 45 Unsold

St Joseph's Church Cleaning

Thursday 12th March from 9.00am.
Help always appreciated.

Messages of Thanks

Sue, Jane & Paul Burke & family wish to thank Canon Christopher for his heartfelt Requiem Mass after the sad loss of John.

Thanks to all for the Mass and sympathy cards received and thanks also to the people who joined us from the sports that John loved.

Thank you to Anne for her help with the hymns and the choir.

A special thanks to Father Hugh who called in to see John the night before his surgery.

A Mass will be said for your intentions

The Sacred Heart & St Alban Parish Health & Safety and Security Committee would like to thank Andy Smith of Peel Solutions, Warrington, for his kind donation to their recent security review. This is very much appreciated.

The March edition of the Catholic Pic is available to view at :
https://issuu.com/catholic_pic/docs/catholic_pic_march_2026

Cheltenham Festival Gold Cup Day Friday, 13 March St Joseph's Parish Club

The Club will be open from midday. Please come along, watch the races, have a bet, bring some food for shared table if you wish. Have a good day and support the club. Everyone welcome

St Joseph's UCM

Wednesday, 11 March

Bi-Monthly Mass

Car will leave car park 6.30 pm prompt.

EASTER BINGO

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 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 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

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.

Rehearsal Information:

- **Knowsley Catholic Children's Choir** - Wednesdays, 4–5pm
Space Centre, St Columba's Catholic Primary School, Hillside Road, Huyton, L36 8BL
- **Widnes Catholic Children's Choir** - Mondays, 4–5pm
St John Fisher Parish Centre, 55 Moorfield Rd, Widnes, WA8 3JA
- **Liverpool Catholic Children's Choir (Central)** – *New from March 2026!* - Mondays, 4:30–5:30pm
Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ
- **Liverpool Catholic Children's Choir (South)** – *New from March 2026!* - Tuesdays, 5–6pm
St Mary's Church – Parish Hall, Church Rd, Liverpool, L25 5JF
- 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&id=34918afeaf>

Basic Life Support with AED Course Tuesday, 10 March 6.00-9.00pm in St Joseph's Parish Club

Course includes recognising cardiac arrest, effective CPR, how to use a defibrillator, what to do in an emergency including how to help someone who is choking. To book please leave your name and number at the bar or text Ade on 07557343713. Cost is £20 per person. All welcome.

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.

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.

Sacred Heart and Saint Alban Parish Safeguarding Reps

Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath and Paul Towey

Pilgrimage to Rome

A small group of parishioners from St Paul of the Cross would like to invite interested parishioners in our Family of Parishes to join them on a Pilgrimage to Rome with Northern Star Travel.

Monday, 5 October to Friday, 9 October 2026 Return flight from Manchester to Rome. Transfers to hotel. Half board, tour leader/guide throughout. Excursions including ticket for weekly Papal audience included. Cost per person is £1195 (sharing) and £1415 (single room). For more information please contact Teresa Dumencic **07810432906**

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**

SVP & 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 21-26 June in London. Candidates must be aged between 18 and 25, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Apply to [CAFOD/ SVP Work Experience Application Form- 2026 - Intellistack](#)

Applications close on 6 April. For any queries, please contact Kezia at KeziaH@svp.org.uk

Mass Intentions for week commencing 9 March 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 8 March	8.00 am Syromalabar Mass 11.00 am – Cliff Lean (21 st Anniversary)	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am Marion James (RoS) 4.00 pm Clare McKenna (RoS)	10.00 am
Monday 9 March			9.30 am Brian Thompson and Marie Sumner	
Tuesday 10 March		9.30 am Mary Taylor (RoS)		9.00 am
Wednesday 11 March			6.00 pm Margaret Hopson (RoS)	9.00 am
Thursday 12 March	1.00 pm Requiem Mass Max Wordsworth	9.30 am Caron Rooney	7.00 am Jean Greaves (RoS)	9.00 am
Friday 13 March	9.30 am Dylan Birchall (Anniversary)		9.30 am Owen Gallagher	
Saturday 14 March	5.15 pm People of the Parish			6.00 pm
Sunday 15 March	11.00 am Child's Dedication (Eldad)	9.30 am Scotland Family	8.30 am A Sick Girl 4.00 pm Terry Holland (2 nd Anniversary)	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 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.

FUNERALS

Week commencing 9 March

Requiem Mass for Max Wordsworth on
Thursday, 12 March at 1.00 pm at Sacred Heart

Week commencing 16 March

Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 17 March at 2.00 pm
at Sacred Heart for Angela O'Brien

Week commencing 23 March

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

May they rest in peace

Refreshments after Mass on Sundays

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

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

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**
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

**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

Peace in the Middle East

Sacred Heart

Those whose anniversaries
occur at this time

St Joseph – Residents of Green
Park Nursing Home

St Joseph's Marian Candle

Thanks for petition granted by St
Jude Thaddeus

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

Max Wordsworth, Angela
O'Brien, Danuta Harman, Jean
Greaves, Bernadette Day (nee
Alexander)

May they rest in peace.