



Newsletter for
week commencing
1 March 2026
LENT
Second Sunday of
Lent (Year A)

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Saint Joseph Parish Priest : Fr Raymond Anyanwu C.S.Sp Deacon : Rev John McClure (Retired) 01925 723146	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
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Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for March *For Disarmament and Peace*

Pope Leos' March intention invites us to pray for disarmament and lasting peace — and there's plenty we can do in our own quiet way. We can start by choosing peace in our daily conversations, refusing to fuel anger or division. We can write to our MPs encouraging support for diplomatic solutions, or back charities working with communities affected by conflict. Even small habits help e.g. learning about peacebuilding, supporting refugees locally, or simply praying the Rosary with this intention in mind. Each gentle act becomes a seed of peace — and together, they really do make a difference.

This month Pope Leo invites us to pray ***"... that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence."***

Peace Actions for March

- If you are 'giving up for Lent', aim to ensure that your 'giving up' is benefiting the poor and the vulnerable.
- **19 March : St Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Look to Saint Joseph on this day as a model of fatherhood in our own families.
- **22 March : World Water Day.** Use this day to focus on our care for God's creation.

Family Lenten Fasting, Fundraising and Giving

Persuade the family to give up fast foods and junk food for Lent and trade for a good bowl of soup instead. Donate the money you will save online to the Lenten appeals that CAFOD, Sciaf, Trocaire and Christian Aid are all running this Lent.

Bitesize

Some things
have to be
believed to
be seen.

Ralph Hodgson
The Skylark and
Other Poems

Gospel Reflection **Believing Jesus is the Son of God**



Jesus is the Son of God, but there are those who have other opinions. Perhaps, they say, he was just a very good man with a gift for teaching and healing. Perhaps he was just a prophet. Perhaps he was just a charismatic leader, a social worker, a philanthropist, a rebel or some kind of religious genius.

Today Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. And as Jesus was praying the appearance of his face is changed, and his clothes become a dazzling white. Suddenly they see two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They have appeared in glory and are speaking of his departure, which he is to accomplish at Jerusalem.

What the Bible is saying here is that Jesus of Nazareth was no ordinary human being. Jesus was no ordinary carpenter from Galilee. Jesus was not just a miracle worker, not just a teacher, not just a healer. In the 'Transfiguration' Jesus reveals his true identity. Jesus is the Son of God, the only Son of God'. It's no wonder that Peter wants to erect three tents to hold onto this truth. How privileged the early disciples were to have been given this vision. We have not been given first-hand experience of the Transfiguration, but what we do have is the evidence of how the disciples' lives were changed by the Knowledge of Jesus' identity. The disciples had the memory of the Transfiguration to motivate them through the difficult times ahead. We have the memory of Peter's commitment and influence to motivate us similarly.

There are those who think it is good enough simply to believe Jesus was a good man. For those of us who believe Jesus is the Son of God, we will never attend the funeral of a loved one with thoughts of never seeing them again. Believing in God, means believing that one day we will share in Jesus' glory.

Canon Christopher reflects You may recall recent reference to the important item that concerns us all, namely the Parish Development Strategy that is being prepared at this time. Plenty of work is involved but it is progressing with much effort. As part of that we published a Questionnaire to help us to assess the impressions that people have of our parishes and churches. Perhaps a better title might have been an 'Audit' which is part of an investigation that is much wider than activities and personnel. We are grateful for the responses received and this week a partial report or summary of some of the results is being made available to everyone. Please use this and let us know of further comments you may have.

Overall, the impression was quite positive. In this parish it is particularly difficult since there are two churches that are different in various ways. Some suggestions were made about changes that might be made that would be ideal to achieve but in both cases the churches are listed and so we are limited as to how much can be changed as we must make applications to the relevant authorities through legal procedures. It is not my intention to answer all the queries at this time except to say that there is the limit of imposing modern activity on historic buildings which is always difficult. I suspect that iconoclasts (destroyer of icons) would remove the altar rails and the altar table at the back of the sanctuary if they had the chance. Rearrangement of the body of the church would also be difficult on a regular basis since it would involve moving the heavy benches which are fastened to the floor.

Comments were also made for example about the cleanliness and tidiness of the premises. We are blessed with the support of several people who maintain the churches on a weekly basis for which we are very grateful, but as is usual in these cases, the average age of these helpers is in the upper age bracket and there are even some octogenarians, with women outnumbering men.

Changes have been suggested but they cannot be introduced overnight and it also very much relies on the support and ability of helpers. I recall years ago at a general meeting of the parish looking to the future, I was asked: "what am I going to do about the youth?" My reply to that person was: "What are *you* going to do about it?" Things cannot be done alone and as individuals, but there must be willing co-operation in every area.

Another concern that has been on my mind in recent days and weeks is what is known as the 'Quinquennial inspection'. Every five years surveyors (appointed by the archdiocese) undertake a thorough examination of the property and buildings and make recommendations. Some of the tasks named are for immediate attention whilst others can be postponed for a short while. One of the concerns is the heating at Sacred Heart but thankfully people have been very understanding and tolerant. Some of the items listed in the two reports, one for each church, are frightening and will be very costly whilst we are aware that less money is available these days when everyone is feeling the pinch. So many charities are calling out for help and suffering from the same difficulties. We have to look at the priorities. Let us continue to be patient and work together with prayer for the benefit of all for the Church of the future in our town.

'Confessathon!'

In his recent Pastoral Letter Archbishop John invited us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.

Although each church offers weekly Confessions and there will probably be Services of Reconciliation in the coming weeks, the priests have set aside **Saturday 7 March** to be available for Confessions at **St Alban's Church** between **10.00 am & 4.00 pm**. **During this time, there will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.**

We hope this opportunity will be helpful, especially if it's sometime since you last celebrated the sacrament.

In case you prefer to go to a particular priest a timetable is shown below :

10.00-11.00 am	Canon Christopher
11.00 am-12 noon	Fr Raymond Anyanwu
12 noon-1.30 pm	Fr Mark Drew
1.30-3.00 pm	Canon Dave Heywood
3.00-4.00 pm	Fr Matthew Goddard

Do think about taking up this opportunity as it will help you to prepare well for Easter.

Right to Life UK : *Let us pray for new parents and grandparents, that they may manifest the love and mercy of God to their children and grandchildren. Lord hear us.*

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 with Confession afterwards

Everyone welcome

World Day of Prayer This coming Friday (6th)

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.

St Joseph's Pantomime Group

Don't forget that the deadline for bids for funds from groups and worthy causes in this coming **Monday (2nd)**. Please present any requests addressed to the Pantomime Committee to the Parish Office outlining the reasons for your request. Thank you.

Thank You - A big thank you from St Joseph's to the anonymous donor who funded the restoration of our grotto. Your generosity is very much appreciated by all.

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



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**

Quote of the Week

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

Careers & Events

- The latest vacancies from the archdiocese can be found here: Careers - Join the team (liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)
 - 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

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 pm

Care for Our Common Home ... Carbon Fast For Lent

In his famous encyclical, Laudato Si, Pope Francis highlights how the lives of people in poor countries are affected for the worst by the changing climate. What we buy, what we eat, how we travel and how we heat our homes all contribute to our carbon footprints. Changing our lifestyles overnight is difficult but we can all begin to take small steps that can change our understanding and behaviour. Doing this during Lent, as part of our Lenten observances, can help us place our actions in the context of our faith and strive to be better stewards of God's creation.

Here are a few of ideas to get you started :

- Turn down the thermostat to 18 degrees C. Even one degree will save energy, and money! If you're feeling the cold, pull on a woolly jumper!
- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth. One source claims that doing this will save 25 gallons of water a month!
- Unplug mobile phone chargers, and anything else that has a transformer attached. 8% of electricity consumed at home is from appliances we aren't even using.

Guild of St Stephen Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen will doing 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**

Refreshments After Mass on Sundays

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

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 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

St Joseph's Scouts are holding a **Race Night** this coming Friday (6th) in the Club. First race at 7.00 pm £2 entry. Everyone 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

A warm welcome to the parish for those recently baptised. May God bless you and your families:
Archie William Maple
Thomas Harry Vickery
Betsy Anne Gill
Alexa Elizabeth Stanley
Arlo Shepherd

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>

Quiz Night at St Joseph's Sunday, 1 March starting at 8.00 pm

£1 to enter so please come along, bring some friends and get a team together. The jackpot is £110.00. Play Your Cards Right is £64 plus - so we are talking big money!

Sacred Heart and Saint Alban – Parish Safeguarding Reps

Irene Crowder
Margaret McGrath
Paul Towey

St Joseph's Bonus Ball results for 25/2/26 will be published next week.

St Joseph's UCM

Thursday, 5 March at 1pm. Business meeting and donations for Easter hampers. Thanks

CHRISM MASS Wednesday, 1 April A 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.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 1 March 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 1 March	11.00 am Louise Smith	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am People of the Parish 4.00 pm Kathleen Moore (Anniversary)	10.00 am
Monday 2 March			9.30 am Norma Parker (RoS)	
Tuesday 3 March		9.30 am Vicky Evans		9.00 am
Wednesday 4 March			6.00 pm Chris (Birthday)	9.00 am
Thursday 5 March		9.30 am Gerard Bannon (Birthday & Anniversary Remembrance)	7.00 am Private Intention	9.00 am
Friday 6 March	7.30 pm Linda Mellor (80 th Birthday)	12 noon Requiem Mass David Abbott	9.30 am Stephen Berks (1 st Anniversary)	
Saturday 7 March	5.15 pm Donor's Intentions			6.00 pm
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

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 and also on Saturday from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm		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
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 Our World

Sacred Heart
Those Who Suffer and
Mourn

St Joseph
Christine Hope
Birthday Remembrance

St Joseph's Marian Candle
Children Recently Baptised
and Their Families

Please remember in your
prayers the following who have
died recently : Angela O'Brien,
David Abbott, Joyce, Teresa
Cadman, Paul Baines, Max
Wordsworth and Jean Greaves

May they rest in peace.

Once again we welcome
Archbishop John to St Joseph's
who will preside at the 4.00 pm
Mass on Sunday.

FUNERALS

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

Requiem Mass for David Abbott on Friday,
6 March at 12 noon at St Alban's

Week commencing 9 March

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

May they rest in peace

St Gregory's Catholic High School

The next events will be held on

- 5 March (10.00-11.00 am) Mass with Year 8P
- 6 March – Celebration of the Word. Theme :
Second Week of Lent – Do Not be Afraid
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.

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