



**Newsletter for
week commencing
19 April 2026**



**Third Sunday of
Easter (Year A)**

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<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>	

**Saint George (23 April)
For the Persecuted**

When the pagan Emperor Diocletian started persecuting Christians, St. George pleaded with the Emperor to spare their lives.

However, St. George's pleas fell on deaf ears and it is thought that the Emperor Diocletian tried to make St. George deny his faith in Christ, by torturing him. St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine on 23 April, 303.

There is much talk nowadays about the apathy surrounding Saint George's day and about what we should do to celebrate it, but we could do no worse than make St. George's commitment to stand up for the persecuted our own.

To do :

- Support a charity that champions the needs of the persecuted. Starting points might include The Church in Need or the Barnabas Fund.

Gospel Reflection - Meeting Jesus

Two disciples travel along the road to Emmaus talking about recent events in Jerusalem. They are feeling helpless and defeated in the wake of Jesus' crucifixion. Perhaps they were still strongly tied to the Jewish expectation of a Messiah and had little understanding of Jesus' divinity. They simply saw Jesus' death as a crushing defeat. Perhaps our own stories aren't too different. We often feel defeated and helpless, unable to see what Jesus' death and resurrection could mean for us. Do we spend long periods of depression, unable to appreciate God's presence in our lives? One thing is for sure; it would be nothing short of a tragedy if we got to the end of life's paths without meeting Jesus, so how should we go about it?

Notice in today's gospel that Jesus opens the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus very gradually. The two travellers don't recognise Jesus straight away, but their hearts warm to him as he helps them to see recent events in the light of scripture. As he interprets what has happened, he gives them hope in the future and a clear vision of new opportunities. Then when the couple invite Jesus to stay, and he breaks bread with them, they come to realise who he really is. What a life changing moment that must have been!

This story is clearly not just for the benefit of the two travellers or even for the first disciples; this story is for the benefit of us all. We might think that we've been going to church long enough to have heard it all before, but there's always something new to learn. Today we are invited to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, and to re-find Jesus in the way we understand and interpret the scriptures. Take up the challenge.



St Mark (25 April)

The second Gospel was written by St Mark, who, in the New Testament, is sometimes called John Mark. Both he and his mother, Mary, were highly esteemed in the early Church, and his mother's house in Jerusalem served as a meeting place for Christians there.

St Mark wrote the second Gospel, probably in Rome sometime before the year 60 AD he wrote it in Greek for the Gentile converts to Christianity. Tradition tells us that St. Mark was requested by the Roman Christians to set down the teachings of St Peter. This seems to be confirmed by the position which St Peter has in this Gospel.

Care For Our Common Home - *Spring Cleaning with Natural Products*

There are lots of websites out there showing you how to make your own cleaning products from natural ingredients. The benefits of natural cleaning products are that you will eliminate plastic packaging and harmful chemicals. The easiest ingredient to have around is bicarbonate of soda. Baking soda has been used for over a century as a way to deodorise, clean and scour away dirt. You can easily use this alone to clean sinks, toilets, baths, ovens, fridges and surfaces to remove dirt and stains.

**Charity Shop Appeals
*Spring Clear Out for Charity***

There are always charity shop appeals at this time of year for donations such as men's and women's clothes, bric a brac, toys, books and cd's.

Your charity shop donations will have a big impact on the lives of others. Many charity shops will organise collection of heavy goods. Don't forget if you are returning from an Easter break, that many charity shops also accept foreign coinage.

Canon Christopher reflects The stories of conflicts in the world are always in the news. In recent months they have affected all of us in one way or another, directly or indirectly and at different levels of society. The Scriptures speak of wars and rumors of wars, with words that speak of justifying the destruction of lives physically and psychologically.

Last weekend our Holy Father, Pope Leo, encouraged us to join him for an hour of prayer for peace especially in the Middle East. I hope we were able to do break away from our routine and do that in some way.

For some time there has been another 'life issue' that has concerned us in the news. It may seem to have gone quiet recently, but it is still important. In the Isle of Man and one of the Channel Islands, laws have already been passed enabling assisted suicide. At present it is still under consideration in the House of Lords and will be taken back to the House of Commons eventually. We cannot ignore it and so the bishops of England and Wales have asked to pray especially this weekend by partaking in a Holy Hour in our churches. I cannot do better than to encourage you with the following reflection given to us by Cardinal Vincent Nichols entitled: *Embrace and uphold a culture of life.*

"We offer our prayers this holy hour for the dignity of human life. In particular our focus is on the end of life and praying together in front of the Blessed Sacrament that assisted suicide will not become law in our lands. This would greatly diminish the importance and innate value of every human person, akin to saying that our life is not a gift of God. Instead, we would be asserting that life is our own possession to do with as we choose. But we are far more important than that. We are a gift of God - a gift that is freely given. Then, when God is ready, we are called back to Him.

During this holy hour, we pray that many minds and hearts will be open to this beautiful and great truth about the value, importance, and beauty of every human person. We pray passionately that we will not take a step in legislation that promotes a so-called 'right to die', that will quite likely become a duty to die and place pressure on doctors and medical staff to help take life rather than to care, protect, and heal.

"When you are praying, please remember those who care and accompany people facing their last days. Especially pray for those who work in palliative care - nurses, doctors, people who are home visitors. They do a wonderful job with compassion, but they need more resources. That is what we should be investing in, not a piece of legislation that leaves us vulnerable and under pressure to seek an end to our life.

"This is an important moment in our history. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard. Many have not yet made up their minds how to vote. May God bless us all, bless our countries, and bless those who make our laws with the courage to embrace and uphold a culture of life."

Everyone is welcome to Saint Alban's today (Sunday) at 5.00 pm for an hour. May God bless us all. Amen.

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Volunteers Required

- **Confirmation Team** - To assist with confirmation preparation we are trying to create a team that can work together across the deanery to help prepare our young people for this important step on their journey of faith. You do not need to be experienced in working with young people: there are a number of roles to be involved with. And there need not be any long term commitment. A willingness to be involved is the main thing – even if only for one meeting.
- **Children Liturgy Catechists at Sacred Heart** are also needed.

If you are interested in being involved with preparing our young people or would like to know more about how you can help (without any obligation to commit) please contact Margaret in the Parish Office on 01925 630928 during normal office hours.

Parking at St Joseph's - Please ensure that when you use the car park that you only park in the disabled spaces if you have a current permit. Thank you.

A key has been found in St Joseph's church. Please contact the office if you think this may be yours. Thank you.

Right to Life UK

Let us pray for all those who care for people with disabilities, including family members and professionals, that the Lord would revive their spirits and that they would get the necessary respite care they require to relieve body and mind. Lord hear us.

Pray in May

During the month of May, Mary's Meals is inviting churches and schools to take part in their 'Pray in May' campaign, encouraging prayer and reflection for children around the world who rely on a daily school meal.

Mary's Meals provides nutritious school meals to children living in poverty, enabling access to education and long-term hope.

More information can be found on the Archdiocese of Liverpool Pastoral Development Bulletin at the back of our churches

As Pope Leo XIV leads a **Prayer Vigil for Peace**, we ask everyone across our archdiocese to join together with the Holy Father in prayer

"Lord Jesus, you conquered death without weapons or violence.

You shattered its power with the strength of peace.

Grant us your peace, as you did to the women filled with doubt on Easter morning, as you did to the disciples who were hiding in fear. Send forth your Spirit, the breath that gives life and reconciles, that turns adversaries and enemies into brothers and sisters.

Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother, who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart, firm in the faith that you would rise again.

May the madness of war cease and the earth be cared for and cultivated by those who still know how to bring forth, protect and love life. Hear us, Lord of life!"
(Leo XIV PP)

Refreshments After Mass on Sundays

- **St Joseph's** – after the 8.30 am Mass hosted by members of the Hospitality group and after the 4.30 pm Mass hosted by members of the Teams of Our Lady.
- **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.

Fr Raymond will celebrate a Class Mass in St Vincent's School on 22 May at 2.00 pm. If you wish to attend please contact the school on 01925 726544.

Annual Retreat

St Joseph's parish priest will be away on annual retreat 27 April to 2 May. Kindly visit our family of parishes for your weekday Masses.

Our Family of Parishes warmly welcomes the following RCIA candidates who were received into the Roman Catholic Church at St Joseph's on Holy Saturday.

Alison Elizabeth McWilliams, Kingsley Onyedikachi Ogbuagu, Stephen Ross Thomasson, Florence Lilian Strickland-Wright, Jonah Edward Strickland-Wright, Laura Kate Elizabeth Strickland-Wright, Stephen Hilton Strickland-Wright and Joshua Aaron Payton

May God bless them and their families as they continue their journey of faith.

St Joseph's Pantomime Group

Following the highly successful Pantomime, we are pleased that we have been able to disburse £4,000 in donations to the following deserving causes following written requests from connections to these groups :

- St. Joseph's Legion of Mary
- St. Joseph's Hospitality Group
- St. Joseph's Uniformed Groups
- St. Joseph's Family Centre
- St. Rocco's
- Warrington Food Bank
- Widnes Food Bank
- Lourdes Pilgrimage
- St. Joseph's Parish Centre
- Rock Steady Boxing Widnes
- Friends of St. Mary's Cemetery

Once again, none of this would have been possible without the support from parishioners, the Warrington West Family of Parishes and from further afield.

God bless you all.

A Symphony of Stars St Joseph's Community Youth Talent Show

Last weekend was the Grand Final, a resounding celebration of courage, community, and remarkable raw talent found within our four diocesan schools.

The eight finalists each brought a unique flavour to the stage, proving that the future of the performing arts is in very capable hands.

For more details see the notice at the back of church.

The Big Christian Aid Quiz

with Hotpot Supper
(£10 per person)

Friday 8 May with a 7.30pm start

Greenalls Social Club, St Helens, WA10 4DN

For more information/ booking : please contact Janice Watkins on 01744 27425 or email Andy apwatkins137@gmail.com

Priests' Training Fund

A collection will be taken next Sunday (26 April).

Easter Bingo

Thank you to all who supported the Easter Bingo. A total of £449.50 was raised for local charities.

Anne Houghton won the hamper and Jessie Whitfield the Easter Egg Tower.

Next **BINGO** will take place on Monday, 11 May at 1.30 pm

The surest sign of age catching up with us is loneliness.
The young are slaves to dreams; the old servants of regrets.
The most difficult art is the art of growing old without regret.
You are only as old as you feel.

Red Boxes - St Joseph's Parish

In 2025, £4,125.00 was raised through the Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries.

Thank you!

In the Archdiocese of Liverpool, over £175,000 was raised in 2025 through the Red Box collections and by people giving directly via direct debits, cheques and online.

St Joseph's UCM will meet on

Thursday, 21 April at 1.00 pm for its AGM. All members are asked to attend. Thank you.

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Safeguarding Reps

Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath and Paul Towey

St Joseph's Bonus Ball – 15/4/26

No 25 – Colette Higham

Bitesize

The oil of hope makes life's machinery run smoothly. ~James Lendall Basford

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban

Lepra has thanked the parish for its recent donation of £250.

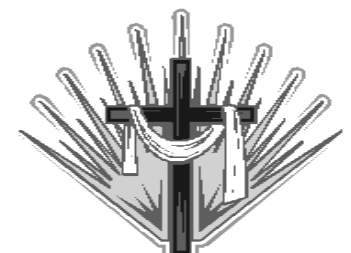
The parish has also forwarded £200 this week to Mary's Meals.

Many thanks for your continued generosity.,

Volunteers are required at St Joseph's for the following on **Pentecost Sunday** (24 May) :

- **Bidding Prayers** - Please sign sheet in Narthex if you are willing to read a prayer in your own language.
- **Musicians** needed to help with the music.

Please phone 07794230212 if you can help. Thanks.



Mass Intentions for week commencing 19 April 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 19 April	11.00 am Laura Smith (Sick)	9.30 am Thanksgiving	8.30 am Tony Birschez (RoS) 4.00 pm Patricia Townley	10.00 am
Monday 20 April			9.30 am Winifred Redfern (RoS)	
Tuesday 21 April		9.30 am Thanksgiving		9.00 am
Wednesday 22 April			6.00 pm Christine Hope (RoS)	9.00 am
Thursday 23 April		9.00 am * Dr Walter Burke (RoS)		9.00 am
Friday 24 April	12 noon : Deanery Mass at St Joseph's People of the Parishes			
Saturday 25 April	5.15 pm Max Wordsworth			6.00 pm
Sunday 26 April	11.00 am Ian Bailey (RoS)	9.30 am Mary Taylor (RoS)	8.30 am Maureen Parker 4.00 pm Bill Turner	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	Monday after the 9.30 am Mass	

- **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 note the change to Mass times on Thursday and Friday.

<p>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</p>	<p align="center">Sanctuary Lamps The Sanctuary Lamps will burn this week for the following intentions :</p> <p align="center">St Alban Pope Francis (RoS) (1st Anniversary)</p> <p align="center">Sacred Heart An end to war and violence</p> <p align="center">St Joseph Prayers for world peace</p> <p align="center">St Joseph's Marian Candle Chris Wilkinson</p>	<p align="center">FUNERALS</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Week commencing 20 April</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Funeral Service for Maureen McNamara at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 21 April at St Joseph's.</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Week commencing 27 April</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Requiem Mass for Philomena Bradshaw at 10.00 am on Monday, 27 April at Sacred Heart. <i>May they rest in peace</i></p>
<p>The Legion of Mary meets on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm in the Loreto Room [behind St Joseph's Church]. All welcome</p>	<p>Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently :</p> <p>Fr Brian O'Mahoney CSSp, Fr James Casey CSSR, Philomena Bradshaw, Maureen McNamara, William Turner and Ian Skelhorn <i>May they rest in peace.</i></p>	<p align="center">Remembering Christine .. One Year On!</p> <p>This coming Wednesday (22nd), Mass will be celebrated for Christine at 6.00pm at St Joseph's. This will be followed by a hot pot supper, drinks, music and celebration in St Joseph's Club to which everyone is welcome. For catering purposes please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to attend. Thank you. Amy & Lucy.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Why not take a moment to check in – you may find something of interest</p>	<p>The First Holy Communion Children will be receiving the Holy Eucharist at St Joseph's for the very first time on Saturday, 2 May. Let us keep them in our prayers.</p>	<p>Did you attend a Notre Dame School in the Archdiocese of Liverpool? There will be a reunion on 17 May for all ex-pupils & teachers, consisting of Mass at 11.00am followed by a complimentary light lunch & a Social finishing at 3.00pm, at the Irenaeus Centre, Waterloo. A donation for our current charity & a raffle prize would be appreciated. Please try to attend, all are welcome. Reply by 3rd May to Bernie Shaw, 0161 483 0173 Email ; berniemshaw@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Please visit St Joseph's website for all its news, Mass times, newsletter and much more! www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk</p>		<p>Scouts Spring Bedding Plant Sale - Saturday, 25 April from 9.00 am in St Joseph's car park. First come, first served. For those with mobility or limited transport constraints, please contact us with your needs and we will endeavour to get your plants delivered as normal. Contact: alan.spreadbury@15thstjosephsscouts.org.uk</p>
<p>Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in Church. Thank you.</p>		
<p>Parishioners from St Joseph's are asked to collect their offertory envelope box from the back of Church. Thank you.</p>		