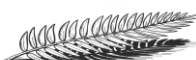




Newsletter for week commencing 29 March 2026



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 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: 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><b>Saint Joseph</b> 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><b>Saint Paul of the Cross</b> 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>	

**MASS OF CHRISM  
Metropolitan Cathedral  
Wednesday, 7.30 pm**

The bus will leave from Sacred Heart (Milner St) at 5.45 pm and from St Joseph's at 6.00 pm  
The cost will be £5 per adult (which has been subsidised for a number of years)

**Easter Gardens in our Churches**



It has become tradition in our churches to create Easter Gardens and we always appreciate plants and flowers to help. If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers for the Easter Garden in memory of a loved one, please place your offering in an envelope and hand it in to your parish office.

If you are donating a plant and would like this to be returned, please put your name on the underside of the plant pot so that we can let you have it back.

**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

**Quote of the Week**

*"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* (Hebrews 13:2)

**Gospel Reflection - From Palms to Easter Bunnies?**

Where was the necessity for Jesus to die on the cross? Could Jesus have avoided Jerusalem? Why didn't Jesus choose to live into old age continuing his ministry of teaching and healing? If he had chosen this route we might be in church today talking about a man who told wonderful parables and worked wondrous miracles.



We might not have been talking about death and we might not even have been talking about resurrection. It is human nature to want to avoid suffering. How many of us would confess to gladly avoiding the run up to Easter? How many of us would secretly like to skip from the carnival atmosphere of the Palm Sunday liturgy to Easter Sunday with its chocolate bunnies and play down the gravity of Maundy Thursday and the brutality of Good Friday. But what good is a faith that is about Easter bunnies? What good is a faith that is only about the good bits, the easy bits and the comfortable bits? What good is our faith if we don't ever get to confront struggle, difficulty, hardship and pain? Jesus refused to avoid Jerusalem because to have avoided Jerusalem would have meant avoiding confrontation. To avoid confrontation he would have to have kept quiet and kept out of trouble. To keep quiet is to allow injustice to flourish. To keep quiet is to accept compromise. Of course, Jesus wasn't going to accept any of this. We are not required to face the suffering Jesus faced but we are required to keep the memory alive. Why? Because remembrance of Jesus' pain demands a future different from the past. Remembering pain keeps alive a protest. As Christians we are required to make our voices heard and that doesn't mean sidestepping difficulties in order to make ourselves more comfortable. Of course, this doesn't mean that we need to deliberately seek out pain and suffering in order to be good Christians.

In Holy week we can often focus too much on the suffering, but Jesus has a greater focus, and that's on the love that prompted the suffering in the first place. Those of us who are lucky enough to know real love know how love can change us, inspire us and empower us. Jesus' love for us, proven by suffering beyond our imagination, has the power to save us from the messiest and darkest corners of our lives.

**Canon Christopher reflects ....** Over the years I have accumulated many books, mostly relating to religion or spirituality, and the numbers are still increasing since I am a member of a book club that provides a new book about four times a year. I must admit that I cannot claim to have read all the books in my library, certainly not from cover to cover. The books are not catalogued in any order which means I have difficulty in finding one I am looking for. In the process of searching, I have often come across books that I read many years ago and find great pleasure in looking through them again when a new look can be very enlightening.

This week we celebrate Holy Week, that is the Great Week in the Christian calendar. Once again, we will hear words from the Old and New Testament that are repeated every year and yet there is always something new to discover in our experience of this wonderful story about what is known as the Passover and the Paschal Mystery. We celebrate the story with joy and hope even though the story is a mystery that cannot be fully understood. It requires faith. As we proclaim it and hear it all year, year after year, we can only wonder at the meaning of it...

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." This week I will be hearing those words put to music which will enhance their beauty for me.

My memory takes me back to a two-day course at seminary in which the Paschal Mystery was unwrapped for us. I feel it was a revelation that has deepened my love of the liturgy and its many aspects. The readings at Mass during this Great Week build up to the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Maundy Thursday. As Jews have done since then, and still do today, Jesus gathered with His disciples in the Upper Room to celebrate the Passover recalling that God had saved the people of Israel from slavery through the 'blood of the lamb'. It was a Passover like no other as Jesus brought new meaning to the ancient ritual. He is the Paschal Lamb who is slain and the shedding of his blood saves humanity from the slavery and darkness of sin that brought us into new life. This is united with the events of the following day on Good Friday when Jesus physically shed his blood and offered his life in sacrifice to his Father in atonement for our sins.

This is not the end of the mystery story. Having been buried in the tomb He was raised from the dead which we celebrate on the third day in the Mass of the Easter Vigil. At this time we celebrate the sacraments of initiation when we unite our own suffering and daily lives to the Paschal Mystery, dying to sin and rising to new life. The darkness of the night is banished by the brightness of the Paschal Candle which represents the light of Christ that has come into the world, a light that we share through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Throughout this Great Week then, let us truly celebrate this wonderful mystery of our salvation by physically participating in the ceremonies that will be taking place in our churches. We do this every year and yet there is always something new to enjoy that lifts our spirits in a world that is suffering in so many ways at this time. We look forward to rejoicing in the resurrection which we can all share. We have done it before let us enjoy it again. May it be a Great Week, a truly Holy Week for all of us. With many blessings. Amen.

**Easter Triduum** - The term 'Triduum' means three days. The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter Triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). Each of those days 'tells' a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. We look at the East Triduum as one single celebration that lasts for three days. We cannot separate the death of Jesus from his resurrection. We do not spend all of the three days in church, but at various times during those days, we are called to church to gather and remember together.

**Holy Thursday  
(Maundy  
Thursday)**



On the night he was betrayed, Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist. We hear his admonition  
*"Do this, in remembrance of me."*

And then we have the wonderful example of the service to which we are called when Jesus, who is Lord and master, takes a basin of water and washes the feet of his apostles ending with the words  
*"What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do."*

**Good Friday**

On this afternoon, we listen and remember how Jesus suffered and died for our sins.



After the Passion we are reminded that there are many people in the world who need our prayers. Then a cross, the symbol of our salvation, is brought forward for us to venerate. This is our opportunity to humble ourselves before the awesome saving action of Christ.

After 'veneration' we participate in a simple reception of the Eucharist and then leave church again in silence to continue our prayer and fasting at home and to return on Saturday evening for the Easter Vigil.

**Holy Saturday**



We wait for nightfall before gathering for this vigil Service of Light.

The lighting of the fire and of the Easter Candle go back to rites that long precede Christianity.

The Candle, carried with loving reverence and lyrically praised in word and song, is a sign of Christ 'the light of the world,' and celebrates the victory of light over darkness.

The Archbishop has written to thank the parish for the warm welcome he received last weekend and he also wished to thank parishioners for this welcome and for *'the way in which they hold up the parish'*.

*Easter Sunday marks the first anniversary of his translation to The See of Liverpool as our new Archbishop.*

The **new Offertory Envelopes** for the next tax year starting **6 April** are available for collection at **Sacred Heart and St Alban. Envelopes for St Joseph's parish will be available shortly. Please be aware that some numbers have changed so please check that the box you pick up has your name on it.**

New parishioners and those who want envelopes for the first time can also get them. If you regularly put cash into the weekly collection in Church and pay any amount of tax, please **Gift Aid it at no cost to you** but gives the Parish 25% extra income. The only tax requirement is that it should be recorded by envelope or standing order Standing order forms are also available. New forms will be available if you wish to set up a new standing order or change from envelopes.

**IMPORTANT : please let the parish know of any change of address etc or if you cease to pay tax.**

#### Refreshments after Mass on Sundays

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

An '**Easter Egg Hunt**' will take place in the church gardens at St Joseph's after the 8:30 am Mass on Easter Sunday. Children, who have attended Mass, are invited to join in the Easter Egg Hunt to find lots of delicious treats. There will be eight Easter questions that will lead the children on a hunt around the church gardens.

This event is free of charge, and all are welcome! Please invite your family and friends to celebrate Easter Mass with us and then enjoy some Easter fun searching for sweets and chocolate. We are very egg-cited to see you all there!

#### St Joseph's

Eucharistic Ministers needed for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Three ministers are required for each. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex.  
Thank you

#### Quiz night at St Joseph's Club

Sunday, 29 March  
8.00pm start.  
Jackpot - £130  
Play your cards right  
£100 plus  
Come along, bring a team, support your club.  
Thank you

**Right to Life UK** : As we recall the welcome of the Lord into Jerusalem and then His Passion and Death, let us pray for those who are sick and fearful, that our Lord, who walked the lonely road to the Cross, will accompany them in their suffering and assure them of His love. Lord hear us.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball Winners will be announced when Ann Marie returns from holiday.  
Please keep a note of your numbers.

A very happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to Peter Doody for 31 March.

#### Sanctuary Lamps

The Sanctuary Lamps will burn this week for the following intentions :

##### St Alban

Angela O'Brien (RoS)

##### Sacred Heart

Roque Sabijon (RoS)

##### St Joseph

Pat Williams (RoS)

##### St Joseph's Marian Candle

Dave Mather (RoS)

#### FUNERALS

##### 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, 7 April** at St Joseph's. Please note date.

**May they rest in peace**

#### 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 have taken place and the 'Grand Final' will take place on Sunday, 12 April (11.00 am-3.00pm) where students will showcase their talents in a Celebratory Community Event. Everyone is welcome to attend! 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*

An Easter church clean will take place at St Joseph's on Monday (3<sup>0th</sup>) after the 9.30 am Mass. Help would be very much appreciated.  
Thank you.

#### St Joseph's UCM

9 April (12.30-3.30 pm)  
Next Meeting

#### Scouts Spring Bedding Plants

This year, unfortunately (due to resource constraints at the supplier), we're unable to provide a full order-and-delivery service, so instead we will hold a **Plant Sale** in St. Joseph's car park from 9.00am on Saturday 25 April ... 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@15thstjo  
sephsscouts.org.uk

#### Sacred Heart & St Alban Cafod Update

On behalf of the parish at total of £610 was sent to Cafod (£400 for Cafod Family Fast Day and £210 for our 'Hands on Madhapur' project.

This brings our running total to £3945. Thank you for your continued support

#### Assisted suicide Bill Defeated in Scotland

Two weeks ago MSPs voted by 69 to 57 to defeat Liam McArthur's Scottish assisted suicide Bill. If this Bill had passed and gone on to become law, it would have ushered in an irrevocable change that would have put the vulnerable at risk and seen the ending of thousands of lives through assisted suicide in Scotland.

To mark this historic moment, Right to Life UK has released a beautiful short film entitled 'A Better Path', which can be viewed at [www.righttolife.org.uk/betterpath](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/betterpath)

**Mass Intentions for week commencing 29 March 2026  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
<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 & Philip Cullen <b>4.00 pm</b> Joanne Brownlow-Heath (Health, Happiness and Birthday Greetings)	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b> 30 March			<b>9.30 am</b> Maura Cullen	
<b>Tuesday</b> 31 March		<b>9.30 am</b> Elizabeth O'Connor (99 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance)		<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 1 April	<b>7.30 pm – MASS OF CHRISM</b> <b>Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King</b> Angela O'Brien		<b>9.30 am - Passion Play</b> by St Vincent's School <b>2.00 pm – Mass in</b> St Gregory's school	<b>9.00 am</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 2 April	<b>St Alban</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	
		<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> (Rex Oswin) followed by procession to Sacred Heart where there will be 'Watching' at the Altar of Repose. <b>Night Prayer at 10.00 pm</b>	
	<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	
		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> (Special Intention) followed by <b>Night Prayer</b> at 10.00 pm	
<b>Good Friday</b> 3 April	<b>St Alban</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	
		<b>12 noon</b>	Stations of the Cross	
	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion</b>	
	<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	
	<b>Honiton Square</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	Ecumenical Prayers	
<b>Holy Saturday</b> 4 April	<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion</b>	
	<b>St Alban</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	
	<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	
	<b>St Alban</b>	<b>8.30 pm</b>	<b>Solemn Vigil of Easter</b> People of the Parish	† <b>Service of Light</b> † <b>Readings</b> † <b>First Mass of the Resurrection</b>
<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Solemn Vigil of Easter and Reception of RCIA Candidates</b>		
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 5 April	<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>8.30 am</b>	People of the Parish	
	<b>St Alban</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	Thanksgiving – Jocelyn Hemsley (95 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)	
	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	John Burke (RoS)	
	<b>St Joseph</b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>	Isabella Brownlow	
<b>Confession</b>	No Confession at Sacred Heart on Holy Saturday	St Alban - Saturday from 9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b> 5.15 pm-5.45 pm	
<b>Adoration [Exposition]</b>		After the Mass on Tuesday	Will recommence on Monday 13 April	

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**

**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

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently : Roque Sabijon, Jean Greaves, Derek Greaves, Bernadette Day (nee Alexander), Patrick Kevin Thompson, Barbara Bartko, Joseph Thirunilam and Harold Boyle.  
May they rest in peace.

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.**

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers at St Alban's are asked to collect their new rota from the back of Church. It starts on Easter Sunday. Thank you.