



**Newsletter for
week commencing
3 May 2026**



(Year A)

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URGENT NOTICE : On Tuesday, 5 May work will begin at the junction of Bewsey St, Bewsey Road, Froghall Lane and Tanners Lane. The work is expected to take around 16 weeks (probably longer). It is likely to cause delays so please be prepared! Thank you.

St Joseph's School May Procession

You are warmly invited to join us on Friday (8th) as St Joseph's school community continues the age-old tradition of the May Procession. The First Holy Communion children will lead us from school to crown Our Lady.

Parishioners are warmly invited to meet the procession at the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes outside church after the 9.30am Mass.



Children will be receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time as follows :

- St Alban's - Saturday, 9 May at 10.00 am
- Sacred Heart – Saturday, 16 May at 11.00 am

Congratulations are sent to the children from St Joseph's who received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time on Saturday..

Please keep them and their families in your prayers

Gospel Reflection - Finding the Best Way



Prisons are full of people who have never set out to be bad. Our path in life is often set from childhood. Our futures are often decided for us by our upbringing, by good parents or by bad parents, by mistakes we have made that have set us on a wrong path, or by exams that we have either passed or failed. But our past doesn't have to equal our future. If we want God to prepare us a place in heaven, we have to live by God's teaching, and that starts with a simple decision. We only have one life, and we have to find the best way to live it.

If you have faith in God, you also have faith that Jesus is preparing a place for each and every one of us. So how do we find our way to that place? Jesus' only advice is, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." To the early disciples Jesus must have sounded like he was talking in riddles, but to have tied up all the loose ends for the early disciples would not have helped us future generations. We have to find our way to the Father through Jesus without maps or answer books. How could Jesus have left specific answers two thousand years ago on subjects like embryology for instance, cloning, or IVF? Jesus simply trusts us to work things out in the light of his teaching, just as he trusted his first disciples.

"No one comes to the Father except through Jesus". There are many rooms in God's house ... room enough for everybody who acts in good faith room enough for everyone who lives their life the way Jesus has taught.

Sacrament of Confirmation Welcome Mass

We warmly invite the Confirmation candidates and their families from Sacred Heart & St Alban, St Joseph and St Paul of the Cross to come together at St Paul of the Cross Church, Burtonwood on Saturday, 9 May at 6.00pm as we welcome them to our Family of Parishes Church Community.

Canon Christopher reflects My reflection this week has been prompted by the arrival of the month of May, which seems to have come upon us very quickly. The liturgical calendar begins with the optional memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. The celebration was introduced by the Church in response to the parades taking place in Moscow marking the Communist outlook on work. The Christian view of work is the opposite of the materialist view of Communism. A worker such as Joseph is not just a unit of labour but a person who is created in God's image. The work that we do echoes the glorious work that God has done in creation.

On this Memorial Day we can reflect on the guidance of the Church given in the pastoral constitution on 'The Church in the modern world' at the Vatican Council. This took place over sixty years ago, but its teaching is even more relevant in the Church of today showing how the Holy Spirit guided the Council members to foresee the future relevance of its teaching. We were told that "through science and technology mankind has extended his mastery over almost the whole of nature and still continues to extend it." The Council recognised the development of many means of communication between nations uniting us as a single worldwide community. It could never have envisaged the speed at which we have developed in technology and especially in artificial intelligence (which I think is a sophisticated word for computers).

In the face of this vast enterprise, we should be asking ourselves a series of questions. What is the meaning and value of all this activity? How should these benefits be used? Where are the efforts of individuals and communities finally leading us? With the extraordinary advances in technology are we using them well and going in the right direction?

The Council declares that 'Man created in God's image has been commissioned to master the earth and all it contains, so to rule the world in justice and holiness. He is to acknowledge that God is the creator of all, and to see himself and the whole universe in relation to God, in order that all things may be subject Him, and that God's name be an object of wonder and praise over all the earth'.

This commission extends even to the most ordinary activities of everyday life – in gaining a livelihood for us and our families, in offering appropriate service to society and so helping to realise God's plan in history.

Christians are convinced that the triumphs of the human race are a sign of God's greatness and the effect of his wonderful providence. The more our power increases, the wider is the scope of our responsibilities, as individuals and as communities but if we see the hand of God in our progress we will be guided in the right direction.

There has been much rapid change in the world, and it is still changing. The words of the Council in wonderful foresight recognised this and so they are just as relevant today as they were sixty years ago.

*God our Father, Creator of all things, you have entrusted your work to our hands:
grant that our labours may prove worthy of you that your Name may be honoured. Amen.*

Legion of Mary

Join us for a Celebration Mass of Hope Life and Blessing of the Sick on Wednesday, 13 May at 2.00pm at St Joseph's.



Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre following the Celebration Mass.

Refreshments After Mass on Sundays

- **St Joseph's** – after the 8.30 am Mass hosted by members of the Wednesday Arts & Craft group and after the 4.00pm Mass hosted by members of the Carers 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 is most welcome.

Mary's Meals - This May, all of our parishes are invited to join Mary's Meals UK in their annual 'Pray in May' campaign, praying for children worldwide who rely on a daily meal at school. Mary's Meals UK has produced a range of free prayer resources, including bidding prayers, rosary reflections and a prayer calendar, suitable for use in Masses, services, parish groups, and personal prayer. These resources help us reflect on how prayer can lead to hope and practical action for those most in need. Please visit :

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may-resources>

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.

Pentecost Sunday

International Day Celebration

Sunday 24 May will be the Pentecost Sunday/International Day celebration at St Joseph's. **There will be only one Mass on that day (at 10.00 am).**

Every member of the parish is encouraged to attend this special Mass in the individual's national or cultural outfit.

Bidding prayers will be said in the various languages in the parish. Volunteers are needed to lead Bidding Prayers. Please sign sheet in Narthex if you are willing to read a prayer in your own language. Musicians are also needed to help with the music. Please phone 07794230212 if you can help.

We want everyone to feel included. Join us, bring your families and friends, and let make this special day a memorable one for all. Remember, there will be a buffet in the parish centre after Mass.

Walking Day Celebration

As part of our Walking Day celebrations we hope to put together a display of photographs from previous Walking Days of Sacred Heart & St Alban's parish. If you have any photos you would like to share for the display we would be very grateful. So, please start looking through those old albums and watch this space for details on how to get them to us. Many thanks in advance.

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 we do not have enough catechists, we will, unfortunately not be able to provide this service for our young children.

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.

Share your Youth Pilgrimage Memories!

This year marks 50 years of the Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, and we'd love your help to celebrate this special milestone by sharing your memories.

- Did you meet your partner on the pilgrimage?
- Have several generations of your family travelled to Lourdes?
- Were you part of the very first pilgrimage, or did you experience a moment there that stayed with you forever?

Whatever your memories or experience – we want to hear from you!

Please send your memories and/or photos – to communications@rcaol.org.uk by **13 May**.

Selected submissions may be featured in The Pic, on the Archdiocesan and Animate's websites and social media channels and in a special scrapbook of memories being created for the youth pilgrims travelling this year.

Please note: By sharing photos with us, you confirm that you are happy for them to be used in archdiocesan publications and that you have obtained permission from everyone pictured, or from their family if they are deceased.

Missionary Appeal

The Oblates of St Joseph Congregation will be visiting St Joseph's parish on Sunday, 10 May. They will preside at both Masses on that day. Kindly be generous to them.

The following week a collection will be taken for World Communication Day (17 May).

St Joseph's Parish Offertory Envelopes - If anyone else would like a box for 2026/27 please contact Martin Griffiths via the Parish Office.

Messages of Thanks

Mary Thompson wishes to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and Mass cards received following the death of Kevin. Thanks also to those who attended the funeral, the musicians, singers, Rosalie and Mary for the flower arrangement and to all contributors. Your kindness means a lot. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.

On behalf of the St Joseph's scout group I'd like to thank everyone who supported our plant sale last weekend. Alan Spreadbury

Westminster Assisted Suicide Bill has Fallen

The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law! This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords. To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

St Joseph's Bonus Ball

29/4/26 No 27 Winner : Cafod
42 numbers sold.

St Joseph's UCM

Thursday, 7 May at 1.00pm
Meeting : The theme of the talk will be on the charity '**Medaille Trust**'.

Please bring jigsaws and games for the seafarers. Thank You.

Saturday, 9 May at the Cathedral.

Annual General Meeting.

Cars will leave at 11.30 am.

Wednesday, 13 May

Bimonthly Mass at St John Fisher. Cars leave at 7.00pm.

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

Bingo at St Joseph's

The next session will take place on Monday, 11 May at 1.30pm.
All welcome

St Joseph's Family Centre is having a Celebration Evening and AGM on Monday, 18 May (7.00-9.00pm) at Winmarleigh House, Masonic Hall. RSVP 01925 635448 or email jwilkinson@sjfc.org.uk.

Children don't forget to pick up this week's **LOOK** from the back of church.

Dignity of Human Life -

Archbishop John Sherrington has asked for your continued prayers after the Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life on Sunday. He made this video from Rome, where he is for a week-long retreat with other Bishops.

You can view the video at **Archbishop John Sherrington on the Dignity of Human Life**

A warm welcome to the children from St Joseph's who were baptised this Sunday. Alba & Indie Rudd, Alessia Pozzi, Neriah Ogbuagu, Zack Lucas Bibby, Harry and Sienna Lowe. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Safeguarding

Reps - Irene Crowder,
Margaret McGrath & Paul Towey

Right to Life UK : As we enter into this month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, we bring to mind all mothers. That, like Mary, they would be able to love and cherish their children from the point of conception. We pray also that these women would find support in their spouses, family and friends as they journey through the joys and trials of parenthood. Lord hear us.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 3 May 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 3 May	11.00 am John Burke	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am People of the Parish 4.00 pm Peter Ryan (Anniversary)	10.00 am
Monday 4 May		9.30 am One Who is Sick (HW)	No Mass	
Tuesday 5 May		9.15 am* Peter Navin		9.00 am
Wednesday 6 May			6.00 pm Sheila (RoS)	9.00 am
Thursday 7 May		9.30 am Special Intention		9.00 am
Friday 8 May	9.30 am Dave Abbott (RoS)		9.30 am Rebecca Lee (RoS)	
Saturday 9 May	5.15 pm People of the Parish	10.00 am - First Holy Communicants & Their Families		6.00 pm
Sunday 10 May	11.00 am José Antonio Laurencio Da Costa (Anniversary)	9.30 am Sheila O'Neill	8.30 am Annette Parker (RoS) 4.00 pm Sharon Morley	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 Thursday		

- **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**.
- As is tradition on Bank Holiday Mondays, Mass is celebrated at St Alban's. This means there is no Mass at St Joseph's so their intention has been moved to Monday, 10 August.
- Mass on Tuesday at St Alban's will be celebrated at 9.15 am.

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 – Mary's Meals

Sacred Heart

First Holy Communicants from
Our Family of Parishes

St Joseph

Michael Dowdican
(9th Anniversary)

St Joseph's Marian Candle

The work of Mary's Meals and
the children they help worldwide

Please remember in your
prayers the following who have
died recently : Joseph Patrick
Hooper. Fr Gerard Cobham and
Patricia Ford.

May they rest in peace.

During May the Rosary will
be recited before each
weekday Mass.

Pentecost Novena

This year the Novena to the Holy Spirit will
begin on 15 May and conclude on
Saturday, 23 May. Each session starts at
7.00 pm at St Joseph's and there is a
theme each day to reflect on.

- Friday, 15 May : ***Come Holy Spirit***
- Saturday, 16 May : ***Wisdom***
- Sunday, 17 May : ***Understanding***
- Monday, 18 May : ***Counsel***
- Tuesday, 19 May : ***Fortitude***
- Wednesday, 20 May : ***Knowledge***
- Thursday, 21 May : ***Piety***
- Friday, 22 May : ***Fear of the Lord***
- Saturday, 23 May : ***Gifts to Fruits***

Do come along. Don't miss out.
The facilitator is Fr Phil Marsh C.S.Sp

St Joseph's Youth - The parish Youth Co-ordinators will speak at both Masses this weekend. Parents are asked to encourage their children and grandchildren to be part of this initiative. The youth remain not only the future of the Church but part the Church today and we cannot ignore them. Catch the young for Jesus!