



**Newsletter for
week
commencing
2 August 2026
Eighteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A**

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Prayer

God our heavenly Father, we seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, as we move forward in proclaiming the mission you have given us to do in bringing Jesus to the people who need Him.

Give us the courage to work together in making difficult decisions and grant us perseverance to endure the challenges that lie before us.

May we continually focus on Jesus, nurture our bond with Him daily and pray for the strength to complete what we have to do with unwavering dedication.

All these we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Right to Life UK

Each human being, made in the image and likeness of God, is a pearl of great price. Let us pray for the grace to appreciate the intrinsic value in every person, born and unborn. Lord hear us.

Quote of the Week

Matthew 13: 31-35: The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest of shrubs.

Stay Connected - Keep up to date with the latest news, events and announcements from the Archdiocese of Liverpool by joining our WhatsApp Channel.
<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb8B5Hu2f3EJwDzn72z>

Gospel Reflection - The Real Miracle

What do we do in the face of global need? Well first of all we probably hope that someone else will step in and do something about it. Perhaps at best we will offer up a little prayer or a half begrudged donation. It's not that we don't care about other people's needs, but at the end of the day, what can we do that will make any appreciable difference?

Today's gospel speaks directly to those of us who feel helpless in the face of great need. A multitude of people follow Jesus to a deserted place. As it grows late, the disciples point out to Jesus that the crowds are hungry and should be dispersed to the nearest villages. Jesus however doesn't see a problem. "They need not go away," he says, "you give them something to eat." The disciples have nothing to hand but five loaves and two fishes. We can easily imagine how the disciples must have felt. They must have felt as helpless as we feel when we see a humanitarian disaster on our TV sets. Undaunted Jesus takes the loaves, blesses them, breaks them, and instructs his disciples to feed the multitude. There was such an abundance of food that evening that there were twelve baskets of left-overs.

Jesus provides an abundance of everything we need for our physical and spiritual needs. The world is full of food, drink, wealth and opportunity. For those who feel unloved, short of money or starved of food, these words might sound hollow, but this is where the real miracle comes into play. It is significant that when the disciples tell Jesus that his followers are hungry, that Jesus tells the disciples to do something about it themselves despite their limited resources. Jesus is making his disciples part of the solution just as he makes us part of the solution. The point of the miracle is that God looked upon the small amount of food to be shared and made it more than enough.

This is how we have to approach life. The world's need might seem beyond us, but if we each do our bit, however small, collectively it will become something big. If every one of us made a regular donation, if every one of us gave food and clothes, if every one of us cared and loved the next person, there would be food and shelter and love in abundance. That would be the real miracle.

Safeguarding this Summer

The summer months are a time of joy and relaxation for many people. However, they can also bring increased risks and challenges.

Factors such as hot weather, financial pressures, changes in routine, and reduced access to regular support networks (such as schools) can all have an impact on people's wellbeing and vulnerability.

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 our safeguarding team direct at



Other ways of contacting the service are as follows :

Mark Robson

0151 522 1013/07585761965

Claire Newton

0151 522 1043/07384643237

Email

safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

RCIA : It is that time of the year when we start the preparation for Rite of Christian initiation of adults. If you an adult, baptised in another Church or not yet baptised and wish to become a member of the Catholic Church, kindly complete RCIA form and return it to St Joseph's office. Thank you.

UCM BINGO

Thank you to all who supported our recent Bingo. £72 was raised for our charities and £90 was paid out. The next Bingo will take place on 7 September at 1:30pm

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

Please note that St Joseph's Legion of Mary and Parish Visitors meetings are suspended until 1 September.

Any appointments already scheduled will be observed.

Church cleaning will take place at St Joseph's on Thursday (6th) from 9.00 am. Offers of help always appreciated.

St Joseph's parish has a new administrator – Jill Hughes. We welcome her and wish her all the best.

We would like to thank the many amazing ladies who freely volunteered to serve in the parish office since the month of May. We are so proud of you. May you never lack any essential grace & blessing.

The August edition of the Catholic Pic is available to view https://issuu.com/catholic_pic/docs/catholic_pic_august_2026

It's that time of the year again! Macmillan Coffee Mornings

- **St Joseph's - Friday, 25 September** (10:00am until all the cakes are gone). Please save the date. Helpers very welcome. Entrance is £2 for first cuppa and cake. Join us in the parish centre for fun, and cakes and a chat. Bake it or fake it.
- **Sacred Heart & St Alban – 23 October** (from 10.00 am). £2.00 admission first cup of tea or coffee and a cake free, Helpers welcome and donations for the raffle gratefully received, Come along for a fab day for such a good cause at Sacred Heart Parish Centre (just behind the church).
The Centre will be open on Thursday, 22 October (time to be confirmed) for dropping off donations, cakes, pies etc. Please leave a message or text on **07939518963**.

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Safer Recruitment and DBS Representatives (formerly

Parish Safeguarding Reps)

Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath and Paul Towey

Careers & Events

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

Latest events from across the archdiocese can be found at Events What's on (liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

Marriage Support

From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more:

www.retrouvaille.org.uk
+44 797 338 0443

The St Joseph's Gardening Group will meet on Saturday, 8 August from 8.00 am.. New recruits always welcome.

Many thanks to Joe who has been quietly tending the driveway and small garden at Sacred Heart. His input is very much appreciated.

Mass in Honour of Venerable Elizabeth Prout

Saturday, 12 September 12:00pm at St Anne & Blessed Dominic Church, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3ZD.

Bishop Tom Neylon will celebrate this Mass in honour of Venerable Elizabeth Prout, foundress of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. There was a community of Nuns belonging to this Order who recently served us in Padgate. All welcome.

Cathedral Diamond Jubilee Flower Festival 2027 Make our Cathedral bloom for the Flower Festival by making a £30 donation to sponsor an orchid for a pew-end display. You'll be able to include a short dedication or remembrance, and after the festival you can take your orchid home. To register your interest, please contact Claire in Cathedral House at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk

The Pilgrimage Mass to the Holy Hand of St Edmund Arrowsmith - Sunday, 30 August at 3.00 pm

The Principal Celebrant will be Fr John Hogan of the Diocese of Meath, Ireland. He is the author of the most recent CTS booklet on the life of St Edmund Arrowsmith. All are welcome!

Pilgrimage Mass in Honour of Blessed Dominic Barberi : Monday, 31 August 12:00pm

St Anne & Blessed Dominic Church, Sutton, St Helens WA9 3ZD. Bishop Tom Neylon will celebrate this annual Pilgrimage Mass in honour of Blessed Dominic Barberi.

QUIZ - Sunday, 2 August at 8.00 pm.in St Joseph's Club

Someone won the Jackpot last time. Do come along and bring a team to support your parish club.

Canon Christopher reflects - As they say ... "It's that time of year again. It is the time when things should be getting a little quieter. The schools have closed for the summer holidays when there have been laughter and tears. This caused me to recall my school days and some aspects of them at this time year. Primary and secondary schools would produce a report that indicated who was 'Top of the Class' which probably doesn't happen these days though prizes are given out for various achievements throughout the year. I can still remember the names of my classmates at both levels of schooling who were in regular competition with each other and then individual teachers followed by the headteacher who would write comments. If there was not much to say they would use a word like 'conscientious' and other words like, 'could do better' which should apply to everyone. I have kept in touch with a small number of boys, now retired from lives of work, but I wonder how others, who were less successful at school, are getting on. I might be surprised if I knew.

Competitiveness is something that brings the best out of people but sometimes it is not enough. We have been hearing reports of young people who have done well in their studies and passed all their examinations even to high level but still have difficulty in finding jobs. I still think that university is not always the best route for everyone to follow and that young people should try using their skills in different walks of life with an apprenticeship.

I am always amused at the reaction of my physics teacher when we were on the brink of leaving school. He asked each of us where we were heading in education and most of them went to university taking up engineering in one form or another. He was surprised with my answer that I was not going to a university but to the seminary in the hope of being a priest. (I went to university after ordination). He was delighted at my choice of vocation and even more so when I was ordained and we met in Lourdes. I too was surprised to see him pushing a wheelchair. It seemed he had a severely handicapped child and none of us knew since he never spoke about it. Life is full of surprises.

There are some in our parish and community who can surprise us as I discover when arranging their funerals and hear how much they have achieved through humble thankless service to others.

I write on the feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola who founded the Society of Jesus and it seems that this prayer can be attributed to him. Let us make that prayer our own.

*Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve; to give, and not to count the cost,
to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to look for any reward, save that of knowing that I do your holy will. Amen.*

Saints for the Week

4 August – Saint John Vianney, Priest. Born at Lyons in revolutionary times, he received a limited education but was inspired by the clergy and religious who risk their lives to keep the faith alive. After overcoming difficulties with studies, he was finally ordained a priest. He was given charge of the parish of Ars in the diocese of Belley and by his forthright preaching, personal mortification, prayer and charity he spent the rest of his life renewing it with devoted pastoral care. His confessional was renowned and pilgrims came from afar to obtain his advice. For his personal holiness, wisdom and dedication to parish ministry, Pope Pius XI declared him patron saint of parish priests.

5 August – Saint Oswald, Martyr. Oswald was King of Northumbria for 8 years, having united the kingdoms of Bernicia and Deira. St Bede the Venerable described him as a saintly and powerful king, who was generous to the poor and who gave the island of Lindisfarne to St Aidan as his episcopal see, while helping interpret his preaching to local people. Oswald was killed at the Battle of Maserfield (later named Oswestry), fighting pagans in hatred of the faith.

5 August – Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

6 August – The Transfiguration of the Lord. The feast recalls the pivotal miracle – now a luminous mystery of the rosary – when Jesus took his closest apostles – Peter, James and John – up a mountain (traditionally Mount Tabor) and his early body appeared to them in radiant glory. They saw him speaking with Moses and Elijah, who symbolise the Law and the prophets, and heard the voice of God calling him 'Son', giving them courage that he would overcome death and linking the Easter themes of baptism and resurrection.

7 August – Blessed John Woodcock (of Leyland), Blessed Edward Bamber and Blessed Thomas Whitaker, Priests and Martyrs. Three Lancashire priests executed together after imprisonments at Lancaster Castle. In their troubled times, they trained abroad and bravely returned to the English Mission. John was a Franciscan born at Woodstock Hall, who was also known by his religious name Martin of St Felix or his pseudonym of Farington. Edward from Poulton-le-Fylde, was a chaplain at Standish Hall. Thomas came from Burnley and was tortured after being captured at Goosnargh, suffering solitary confinement before his martyrdom.

Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Companions, Martyrs. The Greek Sixtus was ordained Bishop of Rome in the year 257. In the following year, while saying Mass in the cemetery of St Callixtus, he was seized by the soldiers under the orders of the Emperor Valerian and together with six deacons of the Church of Rome was put to death in 258. He was buried in the same cemetery and is remembered in the Roman Canon.

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban

The Oblates of St Joseph will be making an appeal at all Masses this weekend.
Please give what you are able. Thank you.

The **Annual Service of Remembrance** will take place at Walton Lea Crematorium on Sunday, 9 August at 3.00 pm. All welcome



Mass Intentions for week commencing 2 August 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 2 August	11.00 am Lawrence Serrano (RoS)	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am People of the Parish 4.00 pm Kathleen Johnson	10.00 am
Monday 3 August			9.30 am The Redfern Family (RoS)	
Tuesday 4 August		9.30 am Mary Taylor	10.15 am Requiem Mass Craig John Dinnie	9.00 am
Wednesday 5 August			6.00 pm John Henrethy	9.00 am
Thursday 6 August		9.30 am Agnes Cunningham (Anniversary) 2.00 pm Requiem Mass Maria Willis		9.00 am
Friday 7 August	7.30 pm Chris Smith		9.30 am Angela Clifton	
Saturday 8 August	5.15 pm Rosendo & Razil Billareno (Silver Wedding)			6.00 pm
Sunday 9 August	11.00 am Louise Smith	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am Peter Smithers (RoS) 4.00 pm William Turner (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 & Thursday	No Exposition during August	

- **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**.
- The acronym RoS stands for Repose of the Soul.

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 !

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.

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

Sanctuary Lamps

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

St Alban

People of the Parish

Sacred Heart

John Blomley (Sick)

St Joseph

Holy Souls

St Joseph's Marian Candle
Peace in Our World

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently :
Maria Willis, David Keenan, Craig John Dinnie, Anthony Harvey and Billy Mitchell
May they rest in peace.

FUNERALS

Week commencing 3 August

Requiem Mass for Craig John Dinnie on Tuesday, 4 August at 10.15 am at St Joseph's

Requiem Mass for Maria Willis on Thursday, 6 August at 2.00 pm at St Alban's

Week commencing 10 August

Requiem Mass for David Leslie Keenan on Thursday, 13 August at 10.30 am at St Alban's

May they rest in peace.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball

29/7/26 - No 54
Winner :
Dave McPartland
The proceeds from this year's bonus ball will be sent to Mary's Meals. Please continue to support this initiative.

Offertory Envelopes

If you would like to make your donation via the offertory envelope scheme, please contact Martin Griffiths for St Joseph's and Margaret for St Alban's & Sacred Heart.. You will find the numbers for both offices at the top of this newsletter.

