



**Newsletter for
week
commencing
30 August 2026
Twenty Second
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A**

Sacred Heart and Saint Alban Parish Priest : Canon Christopher Cunningham Deacon : Rev Terry Dolan: 01925 492857 Prison Chaplain : Fr James Fasakin C.S.Sp	Tel: 01925 630928 (Parish Office) Office hours: Monday-Friday (8.30am-1.00pm) Email : stalbanspriors@rcaol.org.uk Website : www.sacredheartandstalban.org Facebook : Parish of Sacred Heart and St Alban Warrington
Saint Joseph Parish Priest : Fr Raymond Anyanwu C.S.Sp Deacon : Rev John McClure (Retired)	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 Facebook : Archdiocese of Liverpool – St. Joseph’s Penketh
Saint Paul of the Cross Parish Priest : Fr John Schofield	Tel : 01925 226184 (Parish Office) Office hours: Monday-Friday (9.30am-2.00pm) Email : stpaulofthe cross@rcaol.org.uk Facebook : St Paul of the Cross UK
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Canon Christopher reflects

Last week I could not do better with my thoughts than to share with you an instruction from Pope Leo. Several people have commented that they found it very helpful.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about the English Martyrs. Once again, they have been on my mind as we celebrated the feast of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith this week.

I was thinking during the Mass that we have the privilege to celebrate Holy Mass undisturbed at any time, though I was once interrupted by a heckler. This week I was distracted as I held up the host and chalice as I pictured St Edmund doing the same as he presided at Mass with a group of people in a small chapel in Brindle (near Chorley) knowing that he could be arrested at any moment. It must have been an anxious time.

During his last Mass he was warned that his captors were coming to arrest him and so the vestments, altar stone and other items were put away in hiding.

He did indeed escape on horseback but was caught when unfortunately, his horse refused to jump a ditch as he crossed the moss nearby and he was captured. He was taken to Lancaster Castle to be tried for high treason and on August 28th 1628 was given absolution by Fr John Southworth who was himself martyred later. St Edmund’s last words were “*Bone Jesu*” Good Jesus. As was the routine he was hanged, drawn and quartered. Later, a Catholic managed to cut off the Martyr’s hand which is now a first-class relic preserved in a gold casket in St Oswald’s church, Ashton-in-Makerfield to where it was transferred.

My family (on the Whittle side) has a personal connection in that some of our ancestors are buried at St Joseph’s church in Brindle and we have visited the graves. Similarly, Archbishop John has relatives buried there. (Sadly that church is likely to close very soon)

May they rest in peace.

Let us persevere as we follow the example of the martyrs in witnessing to the Faith in our daily lives. Amen.

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

Urgent: Stop assisted suicide - postcards available

The vote on assisted suicide is on 11 September. Not Dead Yet UK have provided postcards you can send to your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September.

Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details, add a stamp and post it to your MP today!

“Let us pray for all those affected by the debate on assisted suicide, that they may be guided by compassion, wisdom, and respect for the dignity of every human life. May our leaders, medical professionals, and lawmakers seek to protect the vulnerable and uphold the sanctity of life in all decisions”.

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism preparation will be on the 6 September after the 11am Mass at Sacred Heart Church

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

Pilgrimage Mass in Honour of Blessed Dominic Barberi : Monday, 31 August 12:00pm St Anne & Blessed Dominic Church, Sutton, St Helens.

Joan Williams is running a 10k for St Rocco’s on 20th September. Please support her by donating. More details can be found in the narthex at St Joseph’s and on the Facebook page.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 30 August 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 30 August	11.00 am Danuta Herman (RoS)	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am Kath & Tom Coyne 4.00 pm Harry Boyle (RoS)	10.00 am
Monday 31 August		9.30 am Max Wordsworth (RoS) Birthday Remembrance	9.30 am Thanksgiving for a successful operation	
Tuesday 1 September		9.30 am Safe Journey		9.00 am
Wednesday 2 September			6.00 pm Betty Fuller (RoS)	9.00 am
Thursday 3 September		9.30 am Tom Philips(RoS)		9.00 am
Friday 4 September	7.30 pm Paul Flanagan 90 th Birthday		9.30 am Bonnaud Segarajasinghe	
Saturday 5 September	5.15 pm Special Intention IC			6.00 pm
Sunday 6 September	11.00 am Tony Purcell (RoS)	9.30 am People of the Parish	8.30 am People of the Parish 4.00 pm Margaret Hennessey(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	Will resume from 14 September after weekday masses, between 10-11am.	

FUNERALS

Week commencing 7 September

Funeral Service for Harry Jackson on Monday, 7 September at 11.00 am at Sacred Heart

Requiem Mass for Jeanne Miller on Tuesday 8th September at 11.45am at St Joseph's

May they rest in peace.

Advance notice that there is no Mass on Monday 7th September at St Joseph's.

St Joseph's Events Team have got a fun packed Autumn in store for you! There's The Swinging Woodpeckers, The Rock Choir and more. Details will be shared over the coming weeks or check out the noticeboard on the patio now!

St Joseph's Quiz this Sunday 30th August. Test your knowledge this Bank Holiday weekend. 8pm start.

St Joseph's gardening team will meet again on Saturday 5th September from 8am onwards. Refreshments will be provided.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball -
No 52 Winner : Andy James

Sanctuary Lamps

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

St Alban

People suffering from disasters

Sacred Heart

For all our children and staff returning to the schools

St Joseph

Fr Raymond Birthday

St Joseph's Marian Candle

Marion James (RoS)

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently : Harry Jackson, Fr Val Farrell and Beryl Taylor

May they rest in peace.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

- **St Joseph's - Friday, 25 September** (10:00am until all the cakes are gone).
- **Sacred Heart & St Alban – 23 October** (from 10.00 am). **Contact Sue** (07939518963).

St Joseph's Pantomime Group PANTO '27

It's that time again. Our "Sign-up" event is on Thursday, 3 September at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

We are looking for old hands to return; new faces on stage, backstage, building the stage, costume creators and makers, prompt, musicians, general helpers.

So, if you are in school year 7 and above (no upper age limit), experienced or not, just interested, please come along. We are always looking for new people to join us! If you are Under 16, please bring along a responsible adult for this signing up session – they might want to join as well!

Bingo is back! Monday 7th September, doors open at 1pm for 1.30pm start.
Everyone is welcome.

UCM - Thurs 3rd September, 1pm Welcome Back! With a shared lunch. Payment for study day on 17th Sept is due today.

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

Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath and Paul Towey