



**Newsletter for
week commencing
13 September
2026**

**Twenty Fourth
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 Twitter : @StJosephs_RCC Facebook : www.facebook.com/groups/stjorc
Saint Paul of the Cross Parish Priest : Fr John Schofield	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
Liverpool RC Archdiocesan Trustees Inc : A Registered Charity No: 1199714	

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

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

St Joseph's

Friday, 25 September (10:00 am until all the cakes are gone). Please bring a container with you if you wish to take any cakes home with you.

Sacred Heart and St Alban

Friday, 23 October (from 10.00 am). Contact Sue (07939518963).

St Gregory's Catholic High School Open Evening 17 September (4-7pm)

Pupils in Year 6 are warmly invited to attend along with their parents/carers as the event is intended for only those pupils who require a place in 2027.

Gospel Reflection - If Forgiveness Was Infectious

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us." Just imagine what sort of world we would live in if this simple statement could become a reality. Imagine feeling the relief of being forgiven for our sins and in turn, forgiving those who had sinned against us. Imagine the same people forgiving those who had sinned against them and so on and so on until the world's screaming grievances grew gradually quieter and finally disappeared altogether. What a wonderful world that would be. Is it any wonder Jesus talks so much of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

So how can we make forgiveness more of a reality? How can we make forgiveness globally 'infectious'? Firstly we need to look inwards. For what do we each need to be forgiven? Who might we be hurting, perhaps unintentionally? Might we have made someone feel small or stupid with a careless or overly sharp remark? Might we have spoilt someone else's relationship by indulging in an affair? Have we neglected a lonely or vulnerable family member? Might we have bullied someone, gossiped behind someone's back, lied, cheated or taken something that didn't belong? Have we contributed to keeping someone else in poverty or denied a helping hand when it was desperately needed? Only when we can admit our own sins and unburden our own guilt can we really appreciate the value of forgiveness in the lives of others.

Offering forgiveness is just as hard as asking for it. How often do we hear someone say, "I will never forgive that person for what they have done!" Behind the statement is a deep rooted need to avenge the offender, either by hurting them back, or by withholding forgiveness. One person not forgiving another person is bad enough, but when entire nations are unable to forgive, then mankind is in big trouble! Sometimes the sins of others are so great that we wonder how we can begin to forgive. Sometimes a crime is so great and the culprit so devoid of remorse that we wonder whether we should really be expected to forgive, yet Jesus tells us, "I do not tell you to forgive seven times but seventy seven."

It is clear that we need a few helpful strategies in place to move us from feelings of vengeance and violence to a more peaceful place. The first and probably the easiest strategy is to search for some level of understanding and empathy. Understanding why someone has done something is a strong platform for forgiveness. However, where empathy totally eludes us, it is important for us to entrust the mechanics of justice to others who are less angry and less prejudiced than ourselves. Another 'must' is to set aside any notion of forgiveness turning us into doormats or naïve and deluded 'do-gooders'. The strategy that Jesus teaches us today is that we can become more compassionate as individuals by remembering how often we have been forgiven ourselves.... perhaps more times than we can remember.

Marriage Preparation Catechists Needed

Would you like to accompany the engaged couples in their journey of marriage preparation? The archdiocese is now recruiting catechists to join the marriage preparation team.

The catechist training will be provided at St Joseph's Church, Penketh, Warrington WA5 2BB and consists of 5 sessions :

- o Thursday 1 October 2026 (6.30–8.00 pm)
- o Thursday 8 October 2026 (6.30–8.00 pm)
- o Thursday 15 October 2026 (6.30–8.00 pm)
- o Thursday 22 October 2026 (6.30–8.00 pm)
- o Thursday 29 October 2026(6.30–8.00 pm)

Upon completion of training, the catechists will be asked to offer marriage preparation course taking place across the archdiocese.

If this is something you are interested in, please sign up here <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/zpD4xRN9dT?origin=lpLink>

For more information, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

Adventurous Accompaniment Day Workshop Saturday, 19 September (10.00am–4.00pm) St Margaret Clitherow Centre

Adventurous Accompaniment helps us explore how, as Christian communities, we walk alongside people through the many circumstances of their lives.

It is already central to parish life—listening to those who are grieving, welcoming newcomers, supporting young people, visiting the sick, or helping those exploring faith. These workshops build on what many already do naturally, encouraging us to be more intentional, skilled, and reflective. “Adventurous” accompaniment means stepping beyond what is familiar, meeting people where they are, and journeying with them without rushing to provide answers.

This is a free workshop at St Margaret Clitherow Centre exploring the ministry of accompaniment, suitable for both beginners and those with experience. Please bring your own lunch. Sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/9zxSLAndhm> For enquiries, please contact Moses Mui, Training Coordinator at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

FLAME

The archdiocese is organising a trip to next year's FLAME - the largest Catholic youth event in the country, where 10,000 young people gather at Wembley Arena to listen to speakers, pray and praise. It is open to young people in Year 9 and above. If you're interested in bringing a group, please contact Sarah McGeehan at s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048. Please note that young people must be accompanied by a teacher, youth leader or chaplain. More information: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

St Joseph's Youth Ministry are leading a 5k walk from 10 am on Saturday, 19 September.

They will start from church and snacks and drinks will be provided afterwards. All are welcome.

Contact the group directly at : stjosephyouthministry12@gmail.com

Today is Education Sunday "A learning people in a time of change"

This year Education Sunday takes place at a time when many children, young people and staff have been away from schools, colleges and universities and have been working in different ways. Churches, too, have had to learn and adapt, whilst still maintaining a pattern of worship.

This is a time to think about what we have learnt about ourselves, about our communities and about God.

Today's readings teach us about the values needed to live and grow happily together.

Today those values are just the same. Do not harm people, do not cheat, do not steal, forgive as we would like to be forgiven ourselves. We still have those same rules!

Today we ask our youngsters the importance of looking after each other, and the consequences of only thinking of ourselves.

ADOREMUS

Saturday, 10 October (9.00am to 6.00pm)
Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

The theme this year is 'How we are Eucharist'.

Come and join us to adore the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The event itself is free and available to all. At the Metropolitan Cathedral, there will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, Holy Mass, opportunities for confession, a variety of workshops and a shared time of prayer during the day for all. Celebrated with Archbishop John Sherrington, this is an event not to be missed! Sign up for workshops here: archdioceseofliverpool.org/adoremus2026

Roundtable Discussion Wednesday, 23 September (7.00 pm)

There will be a 'discussion' during the Season of Creation on the documentary - *The People's Emergency Briefing*.

The interactive screening and conversation on how Christians are called to care for our common home will take place at St Vincent de Paul Church, 13 Hardy Street, Liverpool, L1 5JN. Doors at 6:45pm. All are welcome.

Registration is available via the archdioceseofliverpool.org/pebro undtable or by contacting stvincent@rcaol.org.uk

Guild of St Stephen Pilgrimage to Lourdes (25–31 October 2026)

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Council of the Guild of St Stephen is organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes, open to adults aged 18–70.

Prices start from £600 per person; contact the Guild for full details and booking information.

For more information, please contact Rose Curry on 07932 729896.

Upcoming Parish Events

Join us for two fantastic musical evenings hosted by the St Joseph's Events Team! Both events require advance ticket purchases to assist with seating and catering.

Swing Band Night – On Sunday, 11 October from 6.30pm in the Parish Centre we are showcasing '*The Swinging Woodpeckers*' who will be playing the Big Band Classics from the 1920s through to modern hits. Ticket price includes a hotpot supper.

Church by Candlelight Night – Friday, 23 October from 6.30 pm brings Warrington's own *Community Rock Choir* along with local schools choirs to the parish. The Church will be bathed in candlelight as you are treated to a performance of Pop, Rock & Motown chart tracks. Light refreshments are included.

Ticket prices for both events are - adults £10 and children £5 and are available from the Events Team and Parish Centre

Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart starts again this weekend at the 11.00 am Mass.

PRAYER

St John Damascene gave a classic definition of prayer ...
"*Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God*".

Canon Christopher reflects I have experienced an unusual buildup to the weekend with joys and sorrows.

The sorrow related to Friday when we remembered the 9/11 event that changed the world 25 years ago when two tower blocks in New York City were destroyed with a great loss of life.

One of the joys was the defeat of the Parliamentary Bill that supported assisted suicide. Archbishop John has written to us saying that we must thank God for this blessing (*see elsewhere in this newsletter*)

The other joy came from the privilege that Canon Dave (the Dean) and I felt at being invited to an event in the Anglican Cathedral on Saturday. We were privileged to be invited to a gathering of what might be called celebrities in the city of Liverpool and beyond. The event that prompted the occasion was the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Buendia who is the representative of Pope Leo XIV in this country. He is visiting the archdiocese for five days partly to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Chapter. (the Chapter as you will know is the name given to a gathering or group of Canons). Our Chapter is the oldest in the country and one year older than Westminster (much to their disappointment I gather).

The guests on Saturday included leaders from all walks of life : representatives of church and religions, as well as politics and civic society. For example, our mayor and deputy mayor were both there together with the bishop of Warrington . It was a celebration of unity at all levels and the Nuncio spoke of the fact that we have two cathedrals in this city connected by Hope Street.

This was the theme of the joy that we experienced on the day, the joy that comes from unity, mutual understanding and purpose exemplified by the relationship set by Archbishop Worlock and Bishop Shepherd in those difficult times in the 1980s. Their theme was 'Better Together' which is continued in this manifesto.

A publication was distributed entitled *Manifesto for Hope in our City Region* but the archbishop stressed that we are also concerned with the wider region beyond Merseyside including Lancashire and Greater Manchester. It was good to meet several people from all walks of life across the region.

There were several speeches and I was particularly impressed by the address from the Nuncio and the response from Archbishop John. The latter spoke without notes, but I hope we receive a copy of the Nuncio's words. The event concluded with a celebration of *Evensong* in the beautiful Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

The following are some words from the Manifesto which, as the archbishop told us, can be extended beyond the City region

"We pray for our city, a place of home where the waters of the Mersey (which flows through Warrington) have brought many to our shores and been a gateway to countless horizons. It is a place where every citizen finds worth and belonging....where our faith in each other is never overcome by narratives of division and deception...where differences are embraced strengthening bonds forged through all we have in common and where hope will always prevail because of who we are and what we believe. Amen"

Message from Archbishop John Sherrington

You will no doubt have heard that the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which sought to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales, was rejected today at Second Reading in the House of Commons. I wish to give thanks first to Almighty God, and then to all those across the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese who, through prayer, witness, campaigning and writing to MPs, helped to bring this about. Please thank the people entrusted to your pastoral care for their faithful efforts and encourage them to continue to uphold the dignity of every human life with charity and conviction.

We are a people dedicated to the good and dignity of life in all its stages. May the Lord continue to bless those in authority, those who make decisions, and those who implement them, so that public life may always be marked by justice, compassion and respect for the vulnerable.

I also thank all healthcare professionals, hospice staff, chaplains, carers and volunteers who serve those who are terminally ill and dying with skill, tenderness and respect. We must now renew our commitment to excellent palliative care, advocating for wider hospice provision and practical support for those nearing the end of life and for their families.

May God bless you all . **+ John**

Most. Rev. John Sherrington
Archbishop of Liverpool

Saints for the Week

14 September : The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Honouring the sign of our salvation, the feast commemorates the finding of the cross of Jesus in Jerusalem by St Helena in 326 and the dedication in 335 of the first basilica built over the site by her son Constantine, enclosing Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre. Large relics of the true cross are preserved in Mount Athos, Rome, Venice and Paris.

15 September : Our Lady of Sorrows. This commemoration follows yesterday's Exaltation of the Holy Cross just as the Immaculate Heart of Mary follows the Sacred Heart of Jesus, showing the intimate bond of Our Lady with her Son. Her seven sorrows begin with the prophecy of Simeon that her heart would be pierced by a sword, followed by her experiences of the flight into Egypt, the loss of Jesus for three days, the carrying of the cross, the crucifixion, the deposition from the cross and the laying of the body of Jesus in the Holy Sepulchre.

16 September : Saints Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs.

Cornelius was ordained Bishop of Rome in the year 251. He laboured to combat the Novation schism, insisting on the Church's power to forgive those who had lapsed under persecution and with the help of Cyprian, he was able to enforce his authority. He was sent into exile by Emperor Gallus and died at Civitavecchia. His body was brought to Rome and interred in the Catacombs of Callixtus.

Cyprian was born in Carthage and was converted to the faith at the age of 35. During the persecution of Valerian he was first exiled then martyred for the faith and beheaded for refusing to conform to pagan rites.

17 September : Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

Born in Montepulciano in Tuscany he entered the Society of Jesus at Rome and was ordained priest. After being created a cardinal and later Archbishop of Capua he was of considerable help to the Roman dicasteries in solving the many difficult questions which arose. He is buried alongside his student St Aloysius Gonzago in the central Roman church of Sant'Ignazio.

18 September : Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church.

She was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 13 September 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 13 September	11.00 am Special Intention	9.30 am Daphne Houghton (RoS)	8.30 am Sheila Allen (RoS) 4.00 pm Eric & Lou Priestley (RoS)	10.00 am
Monday 14 September			9.30 am Romaine Serajasinghe	
Tuesday 15 September		9.30 am John Spencer		9.00 am
Wednesday 16 September			6.00 pm Norma Reading	9.00 am
Thursday 17 September		9.00 am* Kobyn Robert Lonsdale	11.30 am Requiem Mass Martin Mather	9.00 am
Friday 18 September	12 noon : Deanery Mass at Holy Family, Cronton 1st Intention : People of the Parish 2nd Intention : Thanksgiving to St Jude		9.30 am Claire Unsweet (RoS)	
Saturday 19 September	5.15 pm Special Intention			6.00 pm
Sunday 20 September	11.00 am David Griffiths (RoS) (Birthday Remembrance)	9.30 am Ray Illingworth (RoS) (Anniversary)	8.30 am Helen & Jerry Wylie 4.00 pm John Byrne (90 th Birthday)	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	After Mass on Monday & Friday (10.00-11.00 am)	

- **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.
- Please note that Mass on Thursday at St Alban's will be celebrated at 9.00 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 !

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

Julie Oates (RoS)

Sacred Heart

Rev Paul Cooper (RoS)
(*Birthday Remembrance*)

St Joseph

David Hughes (*Anniversary*)

St Joseph's Marian Candle
People of the Parish

Please remember in your
prayers the following who
have died recently :
Pat Robinson, Kevin Wright,
Julie Oates, Martin Mather
and John Spencer
May they rest in peace.

There are many sick people
in our families and
community and especially in
the hospital.

Let us pray for them.

FUNERALS

Week commencing 14 September

Requiem Mass for Martin Mather on Thursday,
17 September at 11.30 am at St Joseph's

Week commencing 21 September

Requiem Mass for Pat Robinson on Thursday,
24 September at 9.30 am at St Alban's

May they rest in peace.

**Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Safer
Recruitment and DBS Representatives**
Irene Crowder, Margaret McGrath & Paul Towey

St Joseph's Bonus Ball

9/9/26 - No 24 Winner : Maria Baker
*The proceeds from this year's bonus ball will be
sent to Mary's Meals. Please continue to support
this initiative.*

St Joseph's UCM : Thursday, 17 September
Study Day at Schoenstatt Shrine, Bolton, Coach to
leave at 9.30 am.

Thanks to those who supported the recent Bingo.
We raised £46 for our charities and £90 was given
in prize money. The next Bingo will take place on
5 October at 1.30 pm. **All welcome.**

Parishioner Jennifer Rowlands is running the Great
North Run for Cafod this weekend. You can sponsor
her efforts here: tinyurl.com/GNRJennie