



**Newsletter for
week commencing
20 September
2026**

**Twenty Fifth
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
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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

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

St Joseph's

This coming Friday (25th) (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).

Gospel Reflection - Queueing for Heaven?

One of the most expensive department stores holds a sale and shoppers form a queue. The most ardent bargain hunters bring sleeping bags and queue overnight. Other shoppers arrive five minutes before the sale. When the store finally opens the doors the queue surges forward in frenzy. Shoppers 'push in' from every direction greedy for the bargains. Does this make us cross? Of course it does and rightly so. The people who arrived first should get the bargains first. Most of us would agree that that is only fair. The problem comes when we try to use this same sense of 'justice' in earning a place in God's Kingdom. Surprise, surprise! Gaining God's grace is not like queueing for bargains, neither has it got anything to do with how many more hours we have worked in a vineyard, nor has it got anything to do with measuring how many years we have served as disciples.

Once again we are reminded that things that count for so much in this world are turned upside down in God's world. We are taught not to think we are worth more as Christians than those who have found Christianity late in life. If we have lived life as God asks from the outset then we should simply count ourselves as lucky. For others, life's paths may have taken more difficult and painful twists.

The employer in today's parable pays his employees exactly the same amount regardless of the time they arrived at the vineyard. Jesus is telling us that there are no 'partial benefits' in God's kingdom. If we have earned a place in heaven we have earned a place, there won't be some places better than others. God's love is God's love. We are each promised the same measure of his grace.

"... So the last will be first and the first will be last." We would be foolish to expect some kind of pecking order at heaven's gates. We would be even more foolish to expect some kind of organised queueing system or loyalty cards for the longest serving. Those who arrive late should certainly not be regarded as somehow cheating the system. We must recognise God's generosity in giving a level field for all and emulate it. We must be happy for the latecomers, especially if we have played a part in attracting them by our shining example!

Today is **Home Mission Sunday**. It's the day in the Church's calendar when we pray for and support the vital work of evangelisation throughout England and Wales. A collection will be taken at the end of Masses to support this work nationally.

St Gregory's Open Evening Feedback

Below is the URL link to the feedback survey and attached is the QR code for parents/carers to give some feedback following on from our St Gregory's Open Evening. Please visit

St Gregory's Catholic High School Open Evening Feedback 2026 – Fill in form

Unfortunately, this cannot be accessed on a paper copy.

Petitions for Lourdes

Anyone who would like to send a petition to Lourdes is asked to leave this at the back of church. Thank you

Right for Life UK : For all those who have just learned they are expecting a baby and have troubled hearts, let us pray that the Lord Jesus would remove anxiety and fear from their lives and pour His saving grace into their hearts. Lord hear us.

Quote of the Week

Pope Benedict XVI ... "The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

Message of Thanks

The Miller family would like to say a special 'Thank You' to Fr Raymond and all present who played a role in the celebration of Jeanne's life. It was a truly beautiful and amazingly uplifting service for us. Thanks also for the love, prayers, donations, cards and especially the compassion and kindness shown to us, we are so grateful. God bless.

You and your pets are invited to the **Blessing of Animals** at St Benedict's Church (Rhodes Street, WA2 7QE) on Sunday, 4 October at 2.00pm.

This is an opportunity to thank God for our animal friends, to bless those who are sick, to remember our beloved pets who have died and pray for the many animals that suffer in our world. You are welcome to bring your pet or a photo of your pet.

The short service will be followed by treats and refreshments.

Please ensure your pet is safe (i.e. in a carrier or on a lead).

St Francis : Celebrating 800 years Sunday 4 October – 6.00pm

Pilkington Choir will be performing a special concert, followed by tea and coffee and a raffle, to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. The event will be held at St Francis of Assisi, Garston, L19 1RT, and all are welcome to attend. Tickets cost £5 and can be bought from Fr David Potter, or from Anne (01744 732504), or bought with cash at the door

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, contact **Rose Curry** on **07932 729896**.

St Joseph's Primary School 'Learning, Growing, Belonging ... happy together in God's family'

If your child will be starting Reception in September 2027, we would like to invite you to come and visit our school on our Open Evening next Wednesday, 23 September (times available are 1.45pm and 6.30pm). We look forward to welcoming you!

If you are unable to make this day please contact our school office on 01925 723340 where we will be able to arrange an appointment for you to have a personal tour around the school.

Email:

stjosephs_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk

Website: stjprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJoesPenketh

Facebook: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Instagram: stjoespenketh

St Joseph's Church cleaning will take place this coming Wednesday from 9.00am. Please help us if you can - it would be greatly appreciated.

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

St Joseph's UCM

Members should endeavor to attend the following :

Monday, 21 September - **Mass at 9:30am.**

Wednesday, 23 September

Bi-monthly Mass at St Margaret Mary's.

Car will leave the car park at 6:30pm

Friday, 25 September at 9:00am

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Parish of Sacred Heart & Saint Alban Cafod Update – June to September 2026

A cheque for the sum of £485 was sent to Cafod for our 'Hands on Madhapur' project. This brings our current total to £4490.00. Thank you for your continued support.

Cafod Family Fast Day is on

Friday, 2 October.

They are appealing for a solar powered water system for Zimbabwe.

Safeguarding Survey

In October, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) will conduct an audit on the archdiocesan safeguarding team and the work they do to keep our parishes safe.

As part of this audit, we're asking everyone within the Archdiocese of Liverpool (whether you are a victim, survivor, layperson, clergy, volunteer or parishioner) to take a few minutes to complete this survey. The survey will close on Friday 25 September. Please complete the form by scanning the QR code or visiting

forms.cloud.microsoft/e/KU4BAFEYt2



West Warrington Family of Parishes Food Banks

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the food bank. Anyone else wishing to donate will find the collection bin in the Narthex of St Joseph's Church.

Please note that Sacred Heart & St Alban continues to collect food donations for St Joseph's Family Centre. If you can help please leave any contributions in the box provided at the back of church

St Joseph's Family Centre is very grateful for your support.

Thank you to everyone for their continuing support

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](https://www.archdioceseofliverpool.org/adoremus2026)

Canon Christopher reflects In recent months, when choosing readings for funerals the families have accepted the suggestion that we hear from The Book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 which is appropriate and they feel able to identify with it. It begins with the words ... *"There is a time for everything"* and goes on to list a series of events in life that we all experience including the words: *"A time for living and a time for dying"*. We live in time and prepare to go into the next life where there is no time.

God for whom there is no time has always existed. However, God loved us, his greatest creation, so much that He sent his Son to live under the limitations of time for a short period. That is how humble God really is. The Son of God gave up the joys of eternity to live as a human being and even more even to accepting death, death on a cross.

How often do we think of time and its meaning for us? We might think that it flies when everything is going so well and we are enjoying ourselves, and then it seems to travel so slowly when 'we cannot wait' for something to happen. A busy person can find that time flies but a sick or housebound person finds the days, and especially the dark nights, are very long. An elderly person has much to reflect on as he/she comes towards the end of their time on earth and is privileged to be able to prepare for the inevitable end of life. As we think over the words of scriptural text referred to above, we realise that there is much to think about and be grateful for. There may have been many changes through the years, and this can be applied to the future of our parishes and churches that we are being asked to think about.

Each week on the newsletter we have a prayer that we often recite during the Sunday Mass that is meant to help us face the inevitable changes that will have to take place fairly soon. The parish of Saint Wilfrid in Widnes is already on the brink of putting into effect the changes that will be taking place there in the near future and we certainly cannot avoid similar things in our Warrington parishes. That is why we pray for the courage to make the right decisions and to say and do what is necessary for the future.

Consequently in the months ahead we will be moving forward together since we cannot stand still and just hope that everything will be alright. As we already know, we do not have the number of clergy necessary to stay as we are and financial considerations must be taken into account. I find it difficult to talk about money and to appeal for it such as when we have special collections. Some people are very generous people but others must think "we live on fresh air" without being aware of the expenses involved in just keeping our churches open.

We should by now be aware of the principle of 'Families of parishes' but it has not yet been fully put into effect to face the imminent changes that will require much more sharing of people, talents and skills especially in the sphere of catechesis in the Sacraments for our young people as well as helping with others seeking to join us in our own journey of Faith.

Let us continue to pray with confidence and courage as we face challenging times. Amen

Hear More About CAFOD's Work!

Thanks to your generous support at moments like Harvest Family Fast Day, CAFOD works across the globe. We are hosting a visit from Michel, CAFOD's manager in Sierra Leone and Liberia. He will share his experiences of the kind of work your support makes possible – a great chance to hear more detail about the difference you can make!

Saturday, 26 September
(2.00-3.30pm).

Refreshments from 1:45pm
Venue : Parish Hall at St
John Fisher (Moorfield
Road, Widnes, WA8 3JA)

Visit from the Apostolic Nuncio

You may be aware the Archdiocese was privileged to have a five-day visit from the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Buendia, who is Pope Leo's representative in this country.

It was not just a social visit but he was involved in experiencing the life of the Archdiocese by visiting schools, parishes and taking part in several liturgical and social events that would give him a taste of how the Church in our Archdiocese is living out its role and mission at this time. It was a bit like an Ofsted inspection and Archbishop John this week told the Canons that the Nuncio was extremely impressed with what he had seen and shared and would be relating this to Pope Leo XIV.

Archbishop John Sherrington, the Archbishop of Liverpool and Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops' Conference, has offered his gratitude and thanks to those who wrote to their MPs to stop the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* progressing through parliament.

Archbishop Sherrington also expressed his gratitude to disability rights groups and legal and healthcare professionals for raising a collective voice to uphold 'the dignity and sanctity of every life'.

The Bill failed after Second Reading by 270 (Yes) votes to 286 (No) – a majority of 16.

We remained convinced that the most effective way to address suffering at the end of life is through greater access to excellent palliative and end-of-life care. Ensuring such care is available to all who need it can help people experience comfort, dignity and support in their final days. We will continue to promote these as priorities and to stand alongside those who devote themselves to caring for the dying in hospices, hospitals, care homes and communities.

May all the sick and frail find comfort in the support of their loved ones, and the love of God, which transcends all suffering.

I ask the Catholic community to continue to pray for our legislators, that they will ensure that our laws always uphold the dignity of human life.

Home Mission Sunday

On Home Mission Sunday, previously known as Evangelii Gaudium, Catholics across England and Wales are invited to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support the Mission Directorate of the Bishops' Conference through the annual second collection.

The day is a reminder that we are all called to share the joy of the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, parishes and communities, witnessing to Christ in our everyday lives.

Mass Intentions for week commencing 20 September 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
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
Monday 21 September			9.30 am Mary & George Povey (RoS)	
Tuesday 22 September		9.30 am Anita Joseph (18 th Birthday)		9.00 am
Wednesday 23 September			6.00 pm Dave Fullerton (RoS)	9.00 am
Thursday 24 September		9.15 am Requiem Mass Pat Robinson		9.00 am
Friday 25 September	9.30 am - Helen Ingram (3 rd Anniversary)		9.30 am Maureen McNamara (RoS)	
Saturday 26 September	5.15 pm Special Intention (JB)			6.00 pm
Sunday 27 September	11.00 am Special Intention	9.30 am - John Cleary (100 th Birthday Remembrance & 40 th Anniversary)	8.30 am – Betty & Jim Black : Remembrance 4.00 pm Angela Higginson & Christopher Higginson	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	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.

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

Sanctuary Lamps

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

St Alban

Those whose anniversaries
occur at this time

Sacred Heart

Joe Massey (Poorly)

St Joseph

Vocations to the Diaconate

St Joseph's Marian Candle

Eileen Connor
(1st Anniversary)

Please remember in your
prayers the following who
have died recently :
Patricia (Pat) Robinson,
Julie Oates and Brenda
Brathing.

May they rest in peace.

**Please ensure that your
mobile phone is switched off
whilst you are in Church.**
Thank you.

Requiem Mass for Pat Robinson on Thursday,
24 September at **9.15 am** at St Alban's
May she rest in peace.

Deacon Paul Rooney We welcome Deacon Paul
Rooney to St Joseph's parish today. Deacon Paul will
be available after Mass to interact with anyone
interested in serving our dear catholic Church as a
deacon.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball

16/9/26 No 30
Winner : Betty Jones
*The proceeds from
this year's bonus ball
will be sent to Mary's
Meals. Please
continue to support
this initiative.*

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

Irene Crowder,
Margaret McGrath and
Paul Towey.

Young Adults Mass with Archbishop John Sherrington Thursday 3 October

5.00pm at St Philip Neri
Church, Liverpool L8
7NL.

Archbishop John
Sherrington invites young
people aged 18-35 to
celebrate Mass with him
on Saturday 3 October,
The meal following Mass
is now fully booked, but
all are still very welcome
to the Mass.

For enquiries, please
contact Moses
at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk