

## St. Joseph's Newsletter – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

### **Sanctuary Lamp**

Fr. Malcolm Prince

### **Marian Candle**

Margaret Cunningham

(40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance)

### **Lately Dead**

Lucy Roach, Patrick Healy, Christine Kelly,

### **St. Joseph's Bonus Ball**

29<sup>th</sup> March No: 37 – Unsold

### **Highway to Heaven'**

Introducing a new feature to our Newsletter called 'Highway to Heaven'. Each week we will publish a different street/road name from our local area and ask you to pray for the residents in that location. This week's location is: **ST.**

**MARY'S ROAD.**

**St. Joseph's 'Over 60's Club'** meets every Thursday in the Parish Centre from 1.30pm-3.30pm for a chat and game of Bingo. New members are always welcome.

### **Gospel Reflection for Passion (Palm) Sunday**



#### **What's the Point?**

Today we recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and we hear again the story of the Passion. But as we stand in church waving our palms and reading our Mass books, we have to be aware that we are doing more than just re-reading a two thousand year old story. What point is there in simply remembering a sequence of events? There is only a point in remembering Jesus' Passion if it truly impacts on our twenty first century lives.

We don't need to have been around at the time to imagine how it must have felt to be a part of the crowd that greeted Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. We know what it's like to be swept along with a crowd. We know how we can be brave as part of a crowd... infallible even. We remember the crowd that supported Jesus so enthusiastically at the beginning of the week and how it mysteriously melted away by the end, to be replaced by a different crowd

shouting for his crucifixion. Are we any better than those original supporters? Can we stand up for Jesus as individuals when the going gets tough?

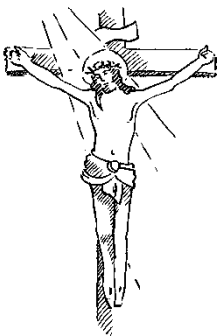
We remember Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. We remember that it's a journey he made with no hint of compromise. How easy it would have been for Jesus to have bypassed Jerusalem altogether, but what would have been the point of that for us two thousand years on. There is no room in Christianity for compromise.

We remember the death of Jesus as a supreme act of love. Jesus taught that we were worth all that pain and suffering. Do we leave the church today simply to catch up with our Facebook accounts and enjoy our Sunday lunch, or do we consider how we should live our lives from this day on knowing that Jesus considered us worth his ultimate sacrifice?

### **Easter Triduum**



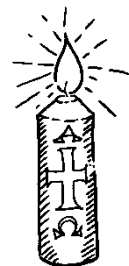
The term triduum means 'three days.' The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). Each of those days 'tells' a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. We look at the East Triduum as on single celebration that lasts for three days. We cannot separate the death of Jesus from his resurrection. We do not spend all of the three days in church, but at various times during those days, we are called to church to gather and remember together. Because the Triduum tells an ongoing story, try if you can to make all the services.



### **Holy Places Collection**

In most Catholic parishes around the world, a Good Friday Collection will be taken up to aid Christian parishes and their outreaches in the Holy Land. This initiative has been an annual tradition in the Church since its institution by Blessed Pope Paul VI.

According to Paul VI, the collection was created "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities."



## **Fasting and Abstinence**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are observed as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food or drink or form of amusement.

## **Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for April 2023**

### ***For a culture of peace and non-violence***



Governments support the arms industry by arguing that it supports jobs and protects our security. Christians argue that security is not advanced by waging war and supporting repression, or by spending billions on nuclear weapons systems and aircraft carriers. It is advanced by building fairer societies that support the most vulnerable, and by investing in public services. Pope Francis urges us this month to build a safer world, where real human needs are prioritised. This month we are invited to join Pope Francis's prayer intention. **"We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens."**

## **Peace Actions for April**

- Offer an elderly or less mobile neighbour a lift to one or all of the services during Holy Week.
- If you are buying chocolate for the children over Easter, look out for 'The Real Easter Egg'. This egg contains a little booklet which teaches the Easter Story. It is also made with Fairtrade chocolate which helps support third world producers.

## **Care for Our Common Home**

### ***More Carbon Fast***

This week abstain from buying new carrier bags in supermarkets. Plan better! Find a place to keep reusable bags where you will always remember to take one out with you. Plastic carrier bags are obviously bad for the planet but they also cost a lot. If you are buying carrier bags every time you go out you are probably spending £180 a year that you could spend on something better.

### **Bitesize**

Everyone must choose one of two pains: The pain of discipline or the pain of regret.

*Jim Rohn*

### **Pilgrimage to Lourdes & Nevers**

1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> June cost £645.00

Travel by coach & train - For more information contact **Chris Sykes** on **07587046985** (St Benedict's Warrington)

### **Spring Bedding Plants - delivered by the Scouts.**

This year St. Joseph's is joining with other local scout groups and offering an online ordering service as well as the usual paper based forms. Pick up an order form at the back of church or call Alan on **01925 711228**. You can also order online at

<http://www.warringtonwestscouts.org.uk/plant-sale>

### **'Warm and Cosy'**

Come along to St. Joseph's Parish Centre every **Thursday** between **1pm and 3.30pm** to enjoy a cuppa and biscuit and have a chat. Also you can watch TV and enjoy free 'WiFi'. All items are complimentary.

### **Lourdes Petitions Easter week HCPT**

One of our parishioners, James McDowall is travelling to Lourdes with HCPT at Easter and has offered to take your petitions to be placed at the Grotto. If you would like him to take any, please post them through the Presbytery letterbox clearly marked 'Lourdes Petitions'

## Mass Intentions

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>8.30am 4.00pm</b>	<b>Cyril &amp; Joan Burney Parishioners Intentions</b>
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Christopher Higginson</b>
<b>Tues 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
<b>Weds 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St. Vincent' Primary School Assembly Service of preparation for Easter</b>
<b>Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm</i></b>
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am 3.00pm</b>	<b><i>Morning Prayers &amp; Office of Readings</i> <b>Liturgy of the Cross and Passion</b></b>
<b>Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am 8.00pm</b>	<b><i>Morning Prayers &amp; Office of Readings</i> <b>Solemn Vigil of Easter</b></b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>8.30am 4.00pm</b>	<b>John Traynor Margaret Cunningham (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)</b>

Please visit the new St. Joseph's website for all the news, Mass times, newsletter and much more! [www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk](http://www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk)

Exposition at St. Joseph's 10am until 12 Noon every Monday and Friday.

The 7am Mass on Thursdays during Lent is followed by a 5\* breakfast in the Loreto Centre. Please and come and join us. All voluntary donations towards the breakfasts will be sent to help the victims of the Turkish/Syria earthquakes.

### UCM

The Easter Bingo on 27<sup>th</sup> March raised £300 less £95 given in prize money. A big thank you to all who supported the enjoyable afternoon.

### Easter Church Cleaning at St. Joseph's

Ladies, please note cleaning will be at 9.00am on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. No morning prayers that day. Extra help would be appreciated. Thank you.

### **Confirmations 2023**

*We are looking for a parish representative from St. Joseph's to join an enthusiastic team of priests, parishioners and chaplains to help our young people on their confirmation journey. The team meet every month on Friday afternoons to prepare and plan towards a successful celebration for our young people. If you think you may be interested in this role, please contact Suzie, School Chaplain at St Gregory's Catholic High School on [swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com](mailto:swhitlow@stgregoryshigh.com).*

### **CENTENARY RETREAT**

Would you like to get away from your worries and cares and relax, reflect and pray for a while this summer? As part of the activities to mark our centenary, we are organising a 24-hour residential retreat in June. This will involve an overnight stay, Friday to Saturday, with times for prayer, reflections led by Fr Mark, as well as meals and relaxation. The venue is likely to be either in North Wales or the southern Lake District, chosen for its beautiful surroundings and comfortable accommodation and facilities. The place and exact dates have yet to be chosen from those available (see display at the back of church), since they will depend on the numbers likely to come. For this reason, anyone interested should sign the sheet at the back of church as soon as possible. Please note that this is not yet as a hard and fast commitment, but please only sign if you think there is a serious chance you will be taking part. Cost will be kept to a maximum of about £100, including travel, accommodation and full board, and may be significantly less, but once again this cannot be confirmed until numbers are known. The more the merrier!

Fr Mark

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

**Good Friday Service** – This will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 12 Noon in Honiton Square. Everyone welcome.

### **Church Gardens at St. Joseph's**

A 'big thank you' to the Church Gardening Team for their hard work on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March (special thanks to Andy for breakfast!) I hope parishioners noticed and are grateful for the work of this small band of dedicated volunteers. There were 8 of us (the majority are septuagenarians!) Appeals for more volunteers continue to fall on deaf ears! Notwithstanding this, existing team members will continue to volunteer for as long as they are able! 😊

### **St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School**

**Consultation on proposed changes to St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School with effect from September 2023. Please see the poster in the Narthex and also on the Notice Board with more information regarding this.**

### **Can Anyone Help? Missing! St. Joseph Banner**

We are trying to trace a missing banner (picture of which was on one of the windows in the Narthex of St. Joseph's Church) It was used on Walking Day Parades in Penketh, Sankey and Warrington. When not in use it was stored in an old brown suitcase. Anyone with information, please contact Christine at the Presbytery. A small reward will be offered to the finder(s)!!

Photos from the **Renewal of Marriage Vows Mass** are now ready to collect from the back of St. Joseph's Church. Please feel free to leave a small donation. Thank you.