

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 8th January 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

Fr. Richard Ebo

60th Birthday Wishes

Marian Candle

Gordon and Maureen Peterson

(In Loving Memory)

Lately Dead

Maureen Allen, Philomena Rogerson, Eva Furlong, Brian McDonald,

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball - No : 26 - Winner : Ann Parker

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:

BRIMELOW CRESCENT

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 the Baptism of the Lord

All God's Children



Has anyone ever told you that they're proud of you? It's a good feeling it's a feeling that empowers a feeling that makes you believe you can do anything. Imagine for a moment that day on the River Jordan at Jesus' baptism. Consider how Jesus must have felt when the heavens opened and the Spirit of God spoke the words "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Remember that this significant event took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry before he had gone out into the world to teach or to heal. Before Jesus had done anything at all, God was already well pleased with him. With this kind of support and this kind of love, Jesus was empowered to do anything.

As baptism identified Jesus, so too are we identified in our baptism as children of God. So what significance does baptism have in our lives? Do we feel proud at God's affirmation? Do we feel empowered to carry out God's plan? In truth most of us would be confounded if we had to provide an answer to these questions. To most of us, our baptism is an old photo in a forgotten album of childhood memories, or a neglected christening mug collecting dust on a high up shelf. In our own baptism we do not have the obvious benefit of God speaking directly to us from the heavens. Nevertheless, we have made promises in baptism and confirmation, and like any other promise we have to work at keeping them. Baptism isn't a one off event. Baptism is a sacrament that we have to work at daily setting aside time to think about what we are meant to be doing and having the faith that God is supporting us in our efforts.

Jesus said of his baptism. "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus didn't explain what he meant by this, but in biblical context, the word 'righteousness' is often used to express a good relationship with God. By this, we understand that our own baptism sends us off on the road to building a good relationship with God and with others, and by believing in God's backing, we are empowered to do more than we can imagine.

Church Action on Poverty 2023

No matter how hard we tried to spend sensibly over Christmas, there is no doubt that the pressure of Christmas makes most of spend more than intended. For many, January is a very difficult month with parents wondering how to feed their children or buy bits of school uniform, and the elderly wondering how they will afford their heating bills.

To do:-

- Compile a list of local 'warm and cosy hubs' with dates and opening times to pass on to those who can't afford to heat their homes.
- Donate used school uniform to your school uniform shop or the local charity shop.
- Don't forget to add something to the food banks every time you visit the supermarket. The foodbanks are struggling to stay stocked up.
- Challenge misconceptions around poverty. We are ALL struggling more than we were.
- Donate online to Church Action on Poverty at www.church-poverty.org.uk/

Dry January

Many people around the world choose to observe 'Dry January' for health reasons, to manage their drinking habits, reset their drinking, and feel more in

control of their alcohol intake. As Christians we can take this further and pledge to control our drinking if it is presenting a barrier to God's plans. If we have a plan to make the world a better place, but are always too tired and brain-fogged to make those plans a reality, it is time to take a good long look at how we can remove the barriers that are preventing us from reaching the potential God wants for us.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

11th January

On this day we are invited to start thinking how we can become conscientious and better-informed consumers. Discover your slavery footprint. Ask who picked your tomatoes or made your clothes. Encourage companies to take steps to investigate and prevent human trafficking in their supply chains and publish the information for consumer awareness.

Care for Our Common Home

Dedicate a Tree

Christmas will have been hard for those who have lost a loved one. It's important to think of ways to remember that person and to mark their life. It's a lovely idea to plant a tree in your garden and design a plaque for it in memory. If you don't have a garden you can dedicate a single tree or an acre of woodland with a personalised bench, your dedication will provide a long-lasting tribute that can be visited time after time - and support local wildlife too. To find out more visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/dedications/

Bitesize

There is no need to reach high for the stars. They are already within you — just reach deep into yourself!

Terri Guillemets

Sr. Margaret's Farewell

Because the Parish Club is closed for preparations for this year's Panto, and as Sr. Margaret would prefer to make her farewells on a Saturday evening it has been decided to celebrate her years with us later in the spring - this will give us the opportunity to prepare a suitable send off and presentation. More news of the arrangements will follow shortly.

St. Joseph's Church Cleaning - Thursday 12th January from 9.30am. Thank you to Lucy's Stuart for helping at the Christmas clean. Help is always appreciated.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 8th Jan	8.30am 4.00pm	Lilian Leigh and Kathleen Edge Eric and Lou Priestley
Monday 9th Jan	9.30am	James Brett
Tues 10th Jan		
Weds 11th Jan	9.45am	Requiem Mass for Mary Rimmer
Thurs 12th Jan		
Friday 13th Jan	9.30am	Sam Williamson
Sat 14th Jan		
Sunday 15th Jan	8.30am 4.00pm	Philip Topham Eric Baker

Please visit the new St. Joseph's website for all the news, Mass times, newsletter and much more! www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk

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

FUNERALS

There will be a Requiem Mass for **Mary Rimmer** at **9.45am** at St. Joseph's Church on **Wednesday 11th January**.

There will be Requiem Mass for **Philip Brophy** at **2.00pm** at St. Joseph's Church on **Friday 20th January**.



RENEWAL OF VOWS MASS - 14th February 2023

A wedding vow renewal ceremony is a wonderfully romantic way to reaffirm your love for one another in the eyes of God and in front of family and friends

Simply put, it's a special way to celebrate your marriage. It can also be a great way to mark a milestone such as a special anniversary in your relationship.

St Joseph's Church will be marking its own special milestone and its relationship with its parishioners when it celebrates its Centenary Year with a dedicated mass on probably the most romantic night of the year Valentines Day!.... Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 7.00pm.

Couples are invited to partake in our "Renewal of Vows Mass" so save the date and invite your family and friends along to witness you reaffirm those commitments that you made to each other on your wedding day.

Following our mass, we invite both you and your family & friends to continue the celebrations by joining us in our Parish Club



ST JOSEPH'S CENTENARY PANTOMIME

Our Parish is 100 years old this year and for thirty of those years our Pantomime Group has been helping us to sing, dance and be merry. This year's Centenary offering is ALICE IN WONDERLAND. **Evening performances at 7.15pm:**

Wednesday January 25th; Thursday January 26th; Friday January 27th; Saturday January 28th. **Matinée:** Saturday 28th 2.00pm

Tickets from the usual sources: From the Parish Office (10.00am - 12.noon); At our rehearsals: Tuesday - Thursday (From 7.30pm), Saturdays 1.30pm or contact any of the Panto Team. Because of the pressures on family budgets at this time, we have held prices: ADULTS £7.50, Children £5.

Any incidental profits will be targeted towards vulnerable individuals and groups.