

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 19th February 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

Ron Molyneux

(Anniversary Remembrance)

Marian Candle

John Worthington (RIP)

(Taught at St. Vincent's for over 25yrs)

Lately Dead

David Gleeson, John Worthington, Brendan Ord, Pauline Ditchfield, Alan Bolger

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball - No : 14 - Winner : Fran Howgate

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: **AUDRE CLOSE.**

Gospel Reflection for the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Friend or Foe?



What strange advice! "If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also." "If anyone forces you to go one mile go also the second mile...." "If anyone sues you for your outer garment, give them your undergarment too." Jesus tells us not to resist evil. Does he mean us to roll over and allow our enemies to walk all over us?

It's very easy for us to love our friends. Only loving those who are easy to love doesn't provide very much of a challenge, and consequently doesn't earn us much of a reward. The challenge

Jesus poses today is to meet our enemies with love. Jesus' advice is to meet violence with non-violence and to meet force with acquiescence. If we only love those who love us back we are not doing anything more than anyone else, but if we love our enemies, we show ourselves to be true disciples of Christ.

In our conflict-ridden world, today's gospel has never been more relevant. Never has there been a better time for Christians to get more involved in campaigning for non-violent strategies. Jesus isn't suggesting we roll over and allow or

enemies to walk all over us, nor is he suggesting we turn a blind eye. What he is suggesting is that we always make a stand for justice in the spirit of love and not aggression. There are a million and one little things we can do each and every day to help tackle the causes of poverty, prejudice and oppression. The world has never been more ready.

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed

Sunday 19th February 2023

On this day we pray for those who have lost their job and who are worrying about how to support their families. We pray for the long term unemployed and for those suffering specific difficulties and barriers. We pray for those who are unhappy in their jobs and for those who feel under-employed and underpaid.

Top Tip:-

It's human nature to think that life conforms to our plans. But it doesn't! If it did, we wouldn't be unemployed or under-employed to begin with. Once we free ourselves from the rigid path we think we should be on, we open ourselves to the new opportunities and roads that will present themselves. When this happens, we need to be willing and ready to say yes.

Church Action on 'Poverty Sunday'

Sunday 19th February 2023

Building a powerful movement to unlock poverty has never been more important. The cost of living crisis threatens to sweep millions into poverty. No one should have to face the choice between heating and eating. To prevent more people being swept deeper into poverty, it's vital that those of us affected have a say. Now more than ever, churches and communities need to stand together and uphold each other's dignity, agency and power.

On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, join with other churches across the UK in giving, action and prayer. Celebrate the transformational possibilities of people coming together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power.

You Can make a donation at www.church-poverty.org.uk/give/

Cost of Living Crisis

'There will be some families who will have to choose between freezing or starving, and some may face both.'

The Money Saving Expert website lists over 90 tips for how to cut back on spending and manage the cost of living. Visit

www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/

Care for Our Common Home

Keeping Healthy and Saving the Planet

We all know that fish is good for us, but overfishing has become rife around the globe, with industrial fishing fleets largely responsible. As a result certain fish have become unsustainable. If we do eat fish, we should eat it as a precious food source and ensure that what we eat is sustainable in the immediate and longer term. The most sustainable seafoods in Britain are Sea Bream, Red Gurnard (or Red Mullet), Mackerel, Flounder, Bib (or Pout), Pollock and Sardines.

Ash Wednesday - 22nd February



'Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent when we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads on this day, are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour.'

Bitesize

Don't be yourself - be someone a little nicer.

Mignon McLaughlin

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.

Sr. Margaret's Farewell

A date has now been arranged for Sr. Margaret's Farewell 'Do' on Friday 17th March. Mass will be held in St Joseph's Church at 7.00pm followed by refreshments at the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to come along to share memories and say goodbye to Sr. Margaret. There are still some envelopes at the back of St. Joseph's for people who would like to make a donation towards Sr. Margaret's leaving present - please place them in the collection basket or post them through the Presbytery door. Thank you.

St. Joseph's Quiz

Next Quiz is **TONIGHT** in the Parish Centre. Starts at 9pm and £1 to enter. 'JACKPOT' is returning with the winning team choosing an envelope with £20 inside! If it's not won it will 'roll

over' to the next quiz until the correct envelope is chosen. Get a team together and come along TONIGHT for a fun filled night while also supporting our Club!

Mass Intentions

Sunday 19 th Feb	8.30am 4.00pm	Tony Newton & Tommy Barnes Brenda Cullen (1st Anniversary)
Monday 20 th Feb	9.30am	Mary Guy
Tues 21 st Feb		
Weds 22 nd Feb	9.30am 6.30pm	John Turner Mary Roche
Thurs 23 rd Feb	7.00am	Christine McGinty
Friday 24 th Feb	9.30am	Thanksgiving for the safe delivery of Grace Jane Guy
Sat 25 th Feb		
Sunday 26 th Feb	8.30am 4.00pm	Parishioners Intentions Rita Lewis

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.

'World Day of Prayer' (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

Friday, 3rd March at St Joseph's Church at 7.30 pm.

Theme 'I have heard about your faith', prepared by the Women of Taiwan.

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>. Buckets are available at the back of St. Joseph's if you wish to donate loose change.

'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.

Stella our Centenary historian is busy preparing a lecture about the history of St. Joseph's and would love to talk to anyone who has memories/keepsakes of St. Joseph's through the ages which can be included in her talk. Stella will be visiting the Presbytery on **Monday 20th February** and **Friday 24th February** from 10am if you would like to pop in and have a chat and share your memories/photographs etc. you will be made more than welcome. Maybe some long lost relatives might have been killed in the First or Second World Wars or someone might have got married 100 years in our Church. Come and share!

Renewal of Marriage Vows Mass - THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you that attended the mass on Valentines Night, your presence

certainly enhanced what was a very special evening for those taking part in a renewal of their marriage vows and helped to make it such a joyous occasion. Seeing the parish centre so full and vibrant after mass fulfilled our aims for the evening though we are not sure if that was down to the free glass of prosecco, tea and cake or those eager to see Father John as the host of Mr & Mrs, a role he proved well suited for!!

The evening's raffle raised the magnificent sum of £220 for good causes with all of the prizes being collected on the night. Events like this take a lot of organising and we are extremely grateful to Bishop Tom Neylon, Canon Christopher and our own two priests for officiating and to those that took time

out to help with the set-up and running of the night; you know who you are!
All of the pictures that were taken on the night will be displayed in the narthex over the next few weeks; and will be available for you to take home for a small donation towards the centenary celebrations
Again; thanks for your ongoing supportYour Parish Council

FUNERALS

There will be a Funeral Service on **Thursday 23rd February** for **Anthony McCoy** at **11.45am** at St. Joseph's Church.

There will be a Funeral Service on **Wednesday 1st March** for **David Gleeson** at **11.30am** at St. Joseph's Church.

MASS STIPENDS

Every week we receive numerous requests and offerings for Masses. This is very positive, since it shows that many parishioners are carrying loved ones, both living and departed, in prayer and want their intentions carried before God in the Church's most sublime prayer, the sacrifice of the Mass.

But the numbers mean that we get more requests than we have Masses. So it is necessary to send a certain number of Masses away to be said elsewhere, by priests who receive fewer intentions or none at all. This helps the priests concerned, and means that these Masses can be said more quickly than if they had to "wait their turn" in our parish. This happens mostly when numerous masses are requested for the same person, so that there will be at least some masses for that intention said publicly in the parish, and parishioners can attend and join their own prayer to the offering.

Every effort is made to comply with requests for a particular date or time when that is requested. However, there is still a significant backlog and so we need to ask those who are looking out for their intentions on the newsletter to be patient and bear in mind the needs of others. Remember also that God lives outside time. He can hear today the prayers that will be offered in the future just as he can those from the past. Nobody will lose out because a particular Mass offering takes time to be fulfilled. God sees what is in the heart of the person who asks for a Mass, and will respond to the generosity and patience of those who wait.