

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 12th March 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

For our Parishioners in hospital.

Marian Candle

Muriel and Jack Douglas
(Birthday Remembrance)

Lately Dead

Janet Simpson, Betty Woods, Brendan Brennan,

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball - No : 22 - - Winner : 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: **GRANGE FARM CLOSE.**

Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent **Breaking Down Barriers.**



"Are you hiding anything?" It's an uncomfortable question that probably invites a heated denial from most of us; yet most of us are probably hiding something. We might be trying to shrug off a nagging guilt or an unforgiving sin. We might be trying to forget an episode in our lives where we behaved unwisely. We might be trying to cover up the agony of a failed relationship or putting a brave

face on a lifetime of loneliness and rejection. How many of us are covering up weaknesses and flaws in our character? Most of us are trying to hide something, yet we would all acknowledge that burying something isn't the best way to find healing or improvement.

The woman at the well in today's gospel was struggling through life with a great deal of baggage. Firstly she was a woman with a lesser role in society, not only that, but a woman without a husband and to add insult to injury, a woman with a bad reputation. Secondly the woman was a Samaritan, a foreigner, and as such, regarded by most as a person to be avoided altogether. Jesus puzzles the woman. He is a man and he is a Jew, in other words, the very last person she

would have expected to strike up a conversation. Life had taught the woman to expect something very different. Life had taught her to expect contempt and rejection. Is this why we keep our own failings under wraps? Do we, like the Samaritan woman expect our friends family and work mates to be unforgiving and uncompromising if they knew the real us?

God's love is like a sprinkler system spreading Christ's unconditional life giving water without prejudice or judgement. Lent is the time to unravel all our hidden pain and set it before God. Lent is the time to take a leaf out of Jesus' book, to see the pain in the lives of others and break down the barriers that society has built.

A Lesson from St Patrick 17th March.



What can we learn from Saint Patrick? Well, not unlike Jesus, Patrick was a great storyteller. He had a great story to tell about his faith to the people of Ireland, and he had to figure out how to tell his story of faith to an audience that had never heard such a story before. Plus, he had to do it in such a way that people would be inclined to listen and believe.

Today we have a similar challenge, to tell people about our faith in a way that will engage and involve, that will impact attitudes and ultimately lead to meaningful change. **Happy Saint Patrick's Day.**

Reading John in Lent

During the weekdays and Saturdays of Lent, The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is delivering daily podcasts from the Gospel of John - "the disciple whom Jesus loved". Starting with an introduction from Canon Christopher Thomas on Shrove Tuesday, 'Reading John in Lent' starts in earnest on Ash Wednesday with John 1: 1-18, telling us how "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" - Jesus Christ, the only Son from the Father. We then follow the Gospel through all 22 chapters concluding on the Friday of Easter Week. Join us as for 'Reading John in Lent'. Taken from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

You can listen to all the podcasts at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/series/reading-john-in-lent/>

CAFOD's Lent Appeal 2023

Give a gift today to help people facing the climate crisis.

£26 can build a raised seed bed that will protect vegetables from floods.

£40 can provide 16 palm trees - enough to protect a community from extreme weather.

To donate online visit:- [Cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-cafod/lent-appeal](https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-cafod/lent-appeal)

Care For Our Common Home

More Ideas for a Carbon Fast.

- Plan a meal with food that has not had to travel by plane.
- Enjoy sustainably harvested fish. Consider how you can make this a part of each Friday this Lent
- Share a vegetarian recipe with a friend

Bitesize

I myself am made entirely of flaws, stitched together with good intentions.

Augusten Burroughs, Magical Thinking

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

Everyone is invited to Sr. Margaret's Farewell party on Friday 17th March. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm at St. Joseph's Church followed by refreshments in St. Joseph's Parish Centre. In order to assist with catering, there is a list at the back of St. Joseph's church for you to sign if you are attending. If anyone wishes to attend from other parishes, please contact Margaret McGrath on 01925 630928. Thank you.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes & Nevers

1st - 8th June cost £645.00

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

Christine is on holiday next week – any items you wish to be printed in the newsletter, please contact Margaret at St. Alban's on 630928.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 12 th March	8.30am 4.00pm	Marion James (Birthday Remembrance) Brendan Ord (RIP)
Monday 13 th March	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Mary Croughan (Birthday Remembrance)
Tues 14 th March		
Weds 15 th March	6.30pm	Hubert Hallman
Thurs 16 th March	7.00am	Canon Christopher Cunningham
Friday 17 th March	9.00am 7.00pm	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Sr. Margaret
Sat 18 th March		
Sunday 19 th March	8.30am 4.00pm	Parishioners Intentions Des Ord (7 th Anniversary)

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.

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.

'World Day of Prayer' (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) Friday, 3rd March at St Joseph's Church at 7.30 pm.

UCM

Thursday 16th March - Stations of the Cross in St. Joseph's at 1pm for our Lenten Reflections.

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>

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at St. Joseph's at 12 Noon after Exposition.

'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.

St. Joseph's Gardening Team

Another year begins for the gardening team who will meet up on **Saturday 18th March** from 9am (or earlier if you wish from 8am with Stuart Weedon) We would also like to appeal for more volunteers to join our team (only a couple of hours per month!) Without your support the gardening team will find that the job will become more and more difficult - so please try and come and support us. An excellent breakfast will be provided! 😊

LENTEN REFLECTIONS on Wednesdays at 7pm, after the 6.30pm Mass, in the Loreto room. Wednesday 15th March - **"The Paschal Mystery"** - at the heart of our Faith with Fr Mark. Hot drinks and light refreshments provided.

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.

ST. JOSEPH'S PANTOMIME GROUP

We advertised during show time that because of the current economic pressures and challenges facing people in our parish and the wider local community, we would be directing most of any residual funds this year towards vulnerable individuals and groups. However, in keeping with our traditional engagement with parish groups, we will still invite bids for small focused projects that might benefit from a limited donation.

Please apply in writing via the parish office (FAO The Pantomime Group) by MONDAY 14th MARCH.

DEANERY SYNODAL COUNCIL - ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

As promised, our Parish representative on the Deanery Synodal Council, ANDY PENNINGTON, will be holding a discussion and consultation session concerning the idea of *FAMILIES OF PARISHES*. This will take place on **WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH following the 6.30pm Mass** and will form part of our Lenten preparations. More details to come.

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

New Offertory Envelopes for **St. Josephs'** will be ready for collection on **Sunday 19th March** and **Sunday 26th March**.

Please be aware that some numbers have changed so do check that the box you pick up has your name allocated to it. New parishioners and those who want envelopes for the first time can also get them. If you regularly put cash into the weekly collection in Church and pay any amount of tax, please **GIFT AID** it at no cost to yourself but giving the Parish 25% extra income.

IMPORTANT: please let the parish know of any change of address etc. or if you cease to pay tax.



Cheltenham 2023---Date for your diary.

This is always a popular afternoon in St Joseph's Club, watching the Cheltenham Gold Cup on the telly! The date this year is **Friday 17th March** from 12noon.

The **Gleeson** family would like to express our sincere thanks to Fr. Mark, the organist, the hospitality group, parishioners, neighbours, friends and the dedicated staff at Warrington hospital who cared for David in his final days. Also, for the Mass and sympathy cards, flowers and for the love and support we received on the sad loss of **David Gleeson**. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.