

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 5th February 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

Those who are suffering in silence.

Marian Candle

Kevin Reaney (Anniversary Remembrance)

Lately Dead

David Gleeson, Michael Kenny,

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball - No : 34 - Winner : Unsold

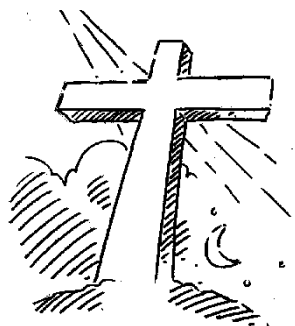
Highway to Heaven'

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:

WOODLEY FOLD.

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Shining Example



We often hear folk proclaim that their faith is a very private affair, something strictly between themselves and God. Of course there's a place for private worship, but at the end of the day, what good is a religious conviction that rarely impacts others and fails to make the world a better place?

Today Jesus tells us that if we live by our faith we will become 'the salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world'. How wonderful to be worthy of such compliments, but lest we get carried away, Jesus warns of us of the pitfalls. If the salt is to lose its taste it will become worthless, and if we are to hide the light beneath a bowl it will obviously fail to serve its purpose. What a silly idea! Why on earth would we go round hiding lights underneath bowls yet we do it all the time.

We deny the salt and hide the light every time we keep our faith to ourselves. It isn't fashionable to be a Christian nowadays and hiding God's light gives us a get out clause. Hiding the light means we can choose the comfortable or the

easy option. Hiding the light means ignoring someone who is alone, or suffering. Hiding the light means keeping quiet and erring on the side of popular opinion. Hiding the light means keeping quiet in the face of injustice or intolerance.

Today we are invited to remember all those who Jesus might have described as the 'salt of the earth'. We all remember someone who has motivated and inspired us. We all remember someone who has stood out against the crowd. Today we ask, "Are we guilty of practising our faith quietly and only when it's safe, or are we shining examples."

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February 2023

Pope Francis insists on the idea of parishes continuing along the path of being a centre of welcome and listening. Parishes aren't an exclusive club, "They have to become once again schools of service and generosity, with their doors always open to those who are excluded. And to those included. To all."

This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention **"....that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need."**



Peace Actions for February

- In the month where we focus on sickness and suffering, think about supporting a charity that works to eradicate disease in an undeveloped part of the world.
- Since 1971, Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors

Without Borders (MSF) has been ready to respond to humanitarian emergencies around the world. Consider fundraising for this charity at www.msf.org.uk

- February 27th marks the beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight. Begin planning now for Fairtrade events and projects.

World Day of the Sick

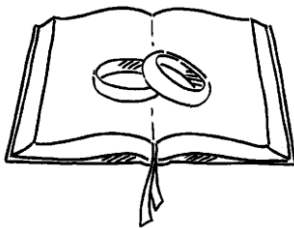
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes - 11th February

"Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.

When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to "make do". For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness."

Taken from Pope Francis's Message for World Day of the Sick

National Marriage Week - 7th -14th February



Celebrate with family and friends

Marriage is not just a union of two people, but rather a union of two families and two worlds. Include your family and friends and make your celebrations even bigger.

National Marriage Week lasts for seven days, which means you have enough time to spend with both your spouse and your family.

Saint Josephine Bakhita

8th February

Victims of Human Trafficking

On this feast day, we are asked to combat human trafficking and modern day slavery. Human trafficking and modern day slavery affects men, women and children. It is amongst the fastest growing of international crimes and one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. And yes... it's happening in the UK!

To do:-

Keep informed:- Visit www.care.org.uk an excellent website to get informed and offers starting points for practical action and advice on spotting the signs of abuse

Bitesize

A good example is like a bell that calls many to church.

Danish Proverb

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

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. **There are 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.**

Mass Intentions

Sunday 5th Feb	8.30am 4.00pm	Antony Bell (4th Anniversary) Bill Turner
Monday 6th Feb	9.30am	Joan Conyngham
Tues 7th Feb		
Weds 8th Feb	6.30pm	Virginia O'Connor
Thurs 9th Feb		
Friday 10th Feb	9.30am	Michael Kenny
Sat 11th Feb		
Sunday 12th Feb	8.30am 4.00pm	David Gleeson (RIP) Eileen Locke (12th 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.

"YOUR PARISH SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU" - St. Joseph's Parish Scout Group is currently in need of Adult Helpers/Assistant Leaders to support the established leaders in the Beaver and Cub sections. It's a great time to join the group as we celebrate our **50th year** and, being the only remaining Catholic Church linked Scout group in Cheshire, we are keen to keep our heritage alive for many years to come. If you are over 18 and are interested in supporting us, please call **Bob Lynch** on **07497 623585**. Cubs meet on a Monday, Beavers meet on a Thursday."

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS MASS
with
BISHOP TOM NEYLON
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 is celebrating its Centenary year with a dedicated Mass on probably the most romantic night of the year Valentine's Day! We would like to extend an invitation to parishioners from St. Joseph's, St. Alban's and Sacred Heart to join us on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 7pm, when couples are invited to partake in our **"Renewal of Vows Mass"**. Forms to register your intention to attend will be placed at the back of each church next week. In the meantime, if you require any

further information, please contact Christine at St. Joseph's on **01925 722105**.

So, save the date and invite your family and friends along to witness as you reaffirm those commitments that you made to each other on your wedding day. Following the Mass, you and your family and friends are most welcome to continue the celebrations by joining us in St. Joseph's Parish Club.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day" so for those who have lost loved ones this Mass will also recognise the commitments that you made to each other on your wedding day.

Some copies of the Archdiocese of Liverpool Directory 2023 are available to purchase at St. Joseph's Piety Shop priced £3.50.

ST. JOSEPH'S UCM

BINGO - Monday 6th February at St. Joseph's Parish Centre. Doors open at 1pm for 1.30pm start. Proceeds to local charities. All are welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Joseph's on Thursday 9th February from 9.30am. Help always appreciated.

St. Joseph's Parish Council Minutes from our meeting on 11th January are available to read at the back of church.