

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 5th March 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

Tommy Barnes

Marian Candle

Marion James

(70th Birthday Remembrance)

Lately Dead

Jonathon Wainwright (31yrs), Michael Doherty, Mary McKenna, Betty Woods, Vincent Sweeney, Henry Bailey, Edward Brown, Maureen Burke,

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball - No : 35 - 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:

WESTBROOK 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.

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)

Mass Intentions

Sunday 5th March	8.30am 4.00pm	Patrick McDonnell Mavis & Ken Andrews (Diamond Wedding Anniversary)
Monday 6th March	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Dorothy Walton (B'day Remembrance)
Tues 7th March		
Weds 8th March	6.30pm	Kathleen Edge
Thurs 9th March	7.00am	Simon Weedon
Friday 10th March	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Muriel and Jack Douglas
Sat 11th March		
Sunday 12th March	8.30am 4.00pm	Marion James (Birthday Remembrance) Brendan Ord (RIP)

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

Monday 6th March - Bingo in Parish Centre. Doors open 1pm for 1.30am start. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 9th March - Church cleaning from 8am after the 7am Mass and breakfast. Helpers always welcome. Thank you.

QUIZ AT ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE

This Sunday 5th March at 9pm - Jackpot now stands at **£30!**

Come along and join in the fun while supporting our Club!

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.

Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent

Believing Jesus is the Son of God



Jesus is the Son of God, but there are those who have other opinions. Perhaps, they say, he was just a very good man with a gift for teaching and healing. Perhaps he was just a prophet. Perhaps he was just a charismatic leader, a social worker, a philanthropist, a rebel or some kind of religious genius.

Today Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. And as Jesus was praying the appearance of his face is changed, and his clothes become a dazzling white. Suddenly they see two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They have appeared in glory and are speaking of his departure, which he is to accomplish at Jerusalem.

What the Bible is saying here is that Jesus of Nazareth was no ordinary human being. Jesus was no ordinary carpenter from Galilee. Jesus was not just a miracle worker, not just a teacher, not just a healer. In the 'Transfiguration' Jesus reveals his true identity. Jesus is the Son of God, the only Son of God'. It's no wonder that Peter wants to erect three tents to hold onto this truth. How privileged the early disciples were to have been given this vision. We have not been given first hand experience of the Transfiguration, but what we do have is the evidence of how the disciples' lives were changed by the Knowledge of Jesus' identity. The disciples had the memory of the Transfiguration to

motivate them through the difficult times ahead. We have the memory of Peter's commitment and influence to motivate us similarly.

There are those who think it is good enough simply to believe Jesus was a good man. For those of us who believe Jesus is the Son of God, we will never attend the funeral of a loved one with thoughts of never seeing them again. Believing in God, means believing that one day we will share in Jesus' glory.

Peace Actions for March 2023

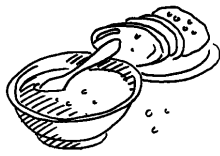
- If you are 'giving up for Lent', aim to ensure that your 'giving up' is benefiting the poor and the vulnerable.
- **Fairtrade Fortnight 27th Feb-12th March** :- Try as many Fairtrade products as you can this fortnight, and commit to buying your favourites throughout the year.
- **St Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (19th March)** Look to Saint Joseph on this day as a model of fatherhood in our own families.
- **World Water Day 22nd March**:- Use this day to focus on our care for God's creation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2023

For victims of abuse

Pope Francis tells us, "In response to cases of abuse, especially to those committed by members of the Church, it's not enough to ask for forgiveness. Asking for forgiveness is necessary, but it is not enough. Asking for forgiveness is good for the victims, but they are the ones who have to be "at the centre" of everything. Their pain and their psychological wounds can begin to heal if they find answers —if there are concrete actions to repair the horrors they have suffered and to prevent them from happening again. The Church cannot try to hide the tragedy of abuse of any kind. Nor when the abuse takes place in families, in clubs, or in other types of institutions. The Church must serve as a model to help solve the issue and bring it to light in society and in families. The Church must offer safe spaces for victims to be heard, supported psychologically, and protected." This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention **"....for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering."**

Family Lenten Fasting, Fundraising and Giving



Persuade the family to give up fast foods and junk food for Lent and trade for a good bowl of soup instead. Donate the money you will save online to the Lenten appeals that CAFOD, Sciaf, Trocaire and Christian Aid are all running this Lent.

Care for Our Common Home

Carbon Fast For Lent

In his famous encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis highlights how the lives of people in poor countries are affected for the worst by the changing climate. What we buy, what we eat, how we travel and how we heat our homes all contribute to our carbon footprints. Changing our lifestyles overnight is difficult but we can all begin to take small steps that can change our understanding and behaviour. Doing this during Lent, as part of our Lenten observances, can help us place our actions in the context of our faith and strive to be better stewards of God's creation. Here are a couple of ideas to get you started.

- Turn down the thermostat to 18 degrees C. Even one degree will save energy, and money! If you're feeling the cold, pull on a woolly jumper!
- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth. One source claims doing this will save 25 gallons of water a month!
- Unplug mobile phone chargers, and anything else that has a transformer attached. 8% of electricity consumed at home is from appliances we aren't even using.

Bitesize

Some things have to be believed to be seen.

Ralph Hodgson, The Skylark and Other Poems

'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.

FUNERALS

There will be a Funeral Service on **Monday 6th March** for **Jonathon Wainwright** at **12.30am** at St Joseph's Church.

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! 😊

Wednesday Lenten Reflections

On the Wednesdays of Lent at 7pm, after the 6.30 Mass, there will be a series of spiritual reflections in the Loreto Room on a theme related to Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Wednesday 8th March - "**God's mercy in St Luke's Gospel**", followed by discussion. 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