

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 26th February 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

For the People of Ukraine
Suffering for 12 months

Marian Candle

Mavis & Ken Andrews
60th Wedding Anniversary

Lately Dead

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

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball - No : 9 - Winner : Mrs J Gulliver

First Sunday of Lent

The Devil's Attention



If we imagine that temptation never seems to come our way, could it be that we're not worth the devil's attention? We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. If temptation never seems to come our way, perhaps it's because we are not trying to be close to

God in the first place. Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self interest. Self interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"

Beginning Lent

"Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over, and over again, yet expecting different results." This definition can be a good beginning reflection as we examine the choices we will make in the days ahead. This is the time of year to ask some uncomfortable questions. How often do we fail to hear the cry of the poor? How often do we fail to forgive and how often do we fail to see our own failings? Today we pray for all those who genuinely desire a change of heart.

St David's Day

1st March 2023

David's most well-known saying was, 'Do the little things in life.'

It's easy to think that only the big things count. If everyone did little acts of kindness every day we would leave the world a better place.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

3rd March 2023

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is an opportunity for us this Lent to eat simply, to pray and to give what we can. Take home a CAFOD envelope today and put in it whatever you save by fasting on Family Fast Day. Return the donation next weekend or soon after. You can use the CAFOD envelope to Gift Aid your donation, which boosts your donation by 25%. The focus this Lent is to support those most affected by the climate change crisis.

Lent Talks

BBC Radio 4

Six people well-known in their fields reflect on the story of Jesus' ministry and Passion.

Listen on Wednesday evenings at 20.45

Fairtrade Fortnight

27th February – 12th March 2023.

This Fairtrade Fortnight, join in spreading a simple message: **making the small switch to Fairtrade, supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.**

Bitesize

It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are.

Roy Disney

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:

RUSCOLM CLOSE.

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)

The Rosary will be recited at **11am on Thursday 2nd March** in St, Joseph's Church for the repose of the soul of **Betty Woods.**

Everybody welcome. Also, during Lent Morning Prayers will take place at 9am before Mass on Mondays and Fridays

Mass Intentions

Sunday 26th Feb	8.30am 4.00pm	Parishioners Intentions Rita Lewis
Monday 27th Feb	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Martha Connolly (Anniversary)
Tues 28th Feb		
Weds 1st March	6.30pm	Patrick (Patsy) Cassidy
Thurs 2nd March	7.00am	Brian Johnson
Friday 3rd March	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> John Traynor
Sat 4th March		
Sunday 5th March	8.30am 4.00pm	Patrick McDonnell Mavis & Ken Andrews (Diamond Wedding 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.**

Theme 'I have heard about your faith', prepared by the Women of Taiwan. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

UCM

Thursday 2nd March - Speaker Carol from local charity Helping Hands and Care in the Community at 1pm in Loreto Room.

Our Raffle and Bring and Buy raised £55 for Archdiocesan Lourdes Centenary fund. Thank you ladies.

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

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.

FUNERALS

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

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! 😊

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.

Fr. Mark Drew

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. These will begin on Wednesday 1st March with a talk by Fr Mark on "**What is the point of Lent?**", followed by discussion. Light refreshments provided.

