

St. Joseph's Newsletter - 26th March 2023

Sanctuary Lamp

Special Intention for PH

Marian Candle

Wishing a speedy recovery for
Barbara Forbes and Tony Banks

Lately Dead

Frances Healy

St. Joseph's Bonus Ball

15th March No : 36 - Winner : Jennet Donlan

22nd March No : 10 - Unsold

Highway to Heaven'

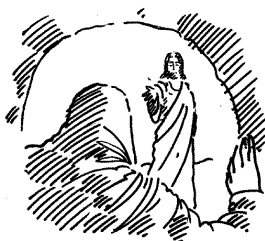
Introducing a new feature to our Newsletter called 'Highway to Heaven'. Each week we will publish a different street/road name from our local area and ask you to pray for the residents in that location. This week's location is: **Wyoming Close.**

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.

Easter Bingo Afternoon at St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Meeting Lane, Penketh
Monday 27th March at 1.30pm - Admission 50p (inc. Tea and Biscuits)
Bingo and Raffle. Proceeds to St. Joseph's UCM local charities.

Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Life Changing



The most unsettling parts of the Bible are the bits where Jesus doesn't do exactly what we expect. Today Jesus' good friends Mary and Martha send him a message to come quickly because their brother Lazarus is dying. We would expect Jesus to drop everything and go quickly to their house.

Instead, he hangs around for a couple of days and does nothing. What can he be thinking of? In truth, the delay is an essential part of the story. If Jesus had simply raised Lazarus from feeling unwell the story

would have lacked poignancy, and no one would have had their faith significantly deepened that day. That Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead has a dramatic and profound impact on all not least Lazarus himself.

We might have expected Lazarus to have more to say on the matter. We might wish that he had shared a couple of life after death experiences with us, but it seems that Lazarus and his experiences are not really the point of the story. The main point of the story is Jesus' ability to transform the meaning of life and death for those who trust in him. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." In bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus shows the crowds that death need hold no fear for those who place their trust in him.

It is truly life changing to know that we are invited to place this much faith in God. It is life changing to know that God can handle any situation in which we find ourselves, and that he knows how to lead us through it. All we have to do is focus our faith on God rather than our own imagined solutions. Expect surprises. Expect delays. Expect a God who can guide us through life with all its challenges.

Care for Our Common Home

More Carbon Fast

This week's challenge is to cut down on screen time. Spend the next week reading, reflecting, writing and gardening rather than watching the TV or Youtube. Apart from saving energy, having a board games evening with the family or just spending time in quiet contemplation has got to be good for our wellbeing.

Penitents and Wanderers

Traditionally Lent is a time for those who have wandered from the Church to return in readiness for Easter. We can all play a part:-

- Offer a family member or neighbour a lift to Mass.
- Share the church newsletter.
- Share Youtube links for churches who are still livestreaming their Masses.

'HELP!' - St Joseph's War History

The question is, does anyone know of any Catholic soldiers from the Parish of St. Joseph's, Penketh, who served in either of the World Wars. We want to

include them in our history for Jubilee day in September. Any information you have, please send to stjoseph.warrington@rcaol.org.uk or call the parish office on **01925 722105**. We would also like to know anything about the POW camp and those prisoners who attended our church.

Foodbanks

We've heard it on the news. There are families having to choose between energy and food. Lots of families are struggling with the costs of both. It goes without saying that foodbanks are under pressure to keep up with demand, and this will be harder still over the school holidays. We are all struggling with increasing food costs, but where you can, aim to add items to the supermarket foodbanks.

Fairtrade Thank You

With the spring term rattling to a close. Don't forget to thank teachers and support staff with Fairtrade chocolate and Fairtrade flowers. Supporting Fairtrade means ensuring fair pay and working conditions for workers in third world countries. It also helps to support a better environment.

Bitesize

There are two ways to slide easily through life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking.

Alfred Korzybski

US (Polish-born) author, logician, & scientist (1879 - 1950)

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)

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>

'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.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 26th March	8.30am 4.00pm	Pauline Ditchfield John and Evelyn Turner
Monday 27th March	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Kevin Ashbrook
Tues 28th March		
Weds 29th March	6.30pm	Maureen Allen
Thurs 30th March	7.00am	Kenny Black
Friday 31st March	9.00am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayers</i> Patrick Carr (3rd Anniversary)
Sat 1st April		
Sunday 2nd April	8.30am 4.00pm	Cyril & Joan Burney Parishioners Intentions

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.

UCM

Wednesday 29th March – Mini bus will leave car park at 6.15pm prompt for Bi-monthly Mass at St. Jerome's, Formby.

Thursday 30th March at 1pm – our AGM, all members are asked to attend this meeting. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross

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

Lourdes Petitions Easter week HCPT

One of our parishioners, James McDowall is travelling to Lourdes with HCPT at Easter and has offered to take your petitions to be placed at the Grotto. If you would like him to take any, please post them through the Presbytery letterbox clearly marked 'Lourdes Petitions'

LENTEN REFLECTIONS on Wednesdays at 7pm, after the 6.30pm Mass, in the Loreto room.

Wednesday 29th March – “How to get the best out of Holy Week”. 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.

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Good Friday Service - This will take place on Friday 7th April at 12 Noon in Honiton Square. Everyone welcome.

Church Gardens at St. Joseph's

A 'big thank you' to the Church Gardening Team for their hard work on Saturday 18th March (special thanks to Andy for breakfast!) I hope parishioners noticed and are grateful for the work of this small band of dedicated volunteers. There were 8 of us (the majority are septuagenarians!) Appeals for more volunteers continue to fall on deaf ears! Notwithstanding this, existing team members will continue to volunteer for as long as they are able! 😊

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Consultation on proposed changes to St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School with effect from September 2023. Please see the poster in the Narthex and also on the Notice Board with more information regarding this.