West Warrington Family of Parishes

Newsletter for week commencing 5 July 2026

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sacred Heart and Saint Alban **Parish Priest :** **Canon Christopher Cunningham** **Deacon :** **Rev Terry Dolan: 01925 492857** **Prison Chaplain :** **Fr James Fasakin C.S.Sp**	**Tel: 01925 630928** (Parish Office) **Office hours:** Monday-Friday (8.30am-1.00pm) **Email :** stalbanspriory@rcaol.org.uk **Website :** www.sacredheartandstalban.org **Facebook :** Parish of Sacred Heart and St Alban Warrington
Saint Joseph **Parish Priest :** **Fr Raymond Anyanwu C.S.Sp** **Deacon :** **Rev John McClure (Retired)** **01925 723146**	**Tel: 01925 722105** **Office hours :** Monday-Friday (9.00am-12 noon) **Alternative Tel : 01925 631086** **Email:** stjoseph.warrington@rcaol.org.uk **Website :** stjosephpenketh.co.uk **Twitter :** @StJosephs_RCC **Facebook :** www.facebook.com/groups/stjorc
Saint Paul of the Cross **Parish Priest :** **Fr John Schofield**	**Tel** : **01925 226184** (Parish Office) **Office hours:** Monday-Friday (9.30am-2.00pm) **Email :** stpaulofthe cross@rcaol.org.uk **Facebook :** St Paul of the Cross UK
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Prayer

God our heavenly Father, we seek guidance from the Holy Spirit as we move forward in proclaiming the mission you have given us to do in bringing Jesus to the people who need Him.

Give us the courage to work together in making difficult decisions and grant us perseverance to endure the challenges that lie before us.

May we continually focus on Jesus, nurture our bond with Him daily and pray for the strength to complete what we have to do with unwavering dedication.

All these we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Sacrament of Confirmation

Our young parishioners celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with Archbishop John this weekend at St Oswalds Church. ***Please continue to keep them in your prayers.***

Annual Archdiocesan Lourdes Mass

The annual Archdiocesan Lourdes Mass will take place on Sunday, 19 July at 3.00 pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

All are welcome … whether you are travelling on this year's pilgrimage, have joined us in previous years, or are simply a supporter of the pilgrimage.

Archbishop John Sherrington is the celebrant.

Today, as part of the **UK Disasters Emergency Committee, CAFOD** is launching the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal to raise vital funds for communities affected by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela.
Please visit … https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies-venezuela-earthquake-appeal

Gospel Reflection - Simple Truths

Hands up all those who feel they are working too hard? Hands up those who feel there just aren't enough hours in a day? Hands up those who can't find a way out of their problems or cannot cope with the pain of some seemingly irreparable damage. We probably all feel that we are overburdened in one way or another, and so for each of us today's gospel has a valuable message.

"Come unto me all who are weary and heavy and I will give you rest". We should each repeat these words every day like a mantra. However intolerable life might feel, these words bring comfort and support.

Today Jesus criticises the religious leaders who over complicate the law. Jesus was concerned for those people at the bottom of the social heap who could not live up to the six hundred and thirteen commandments of the Jewish law. Jesus' intention was not to do away with the law, but he could not support the lawyers who spent their time manufacturing new and insufferable burdens for broken people.

To the broken people Jesus says …

"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light".

The demands of the twenty first century puts many challenges our way, and we spend a lot of our time juggling priorities and trying to live our lives by more than one agenda. Our lives are complicated and overly burdened. We look for the solutions to our problems in lifestyle magazines therapists and in bottles of pills. When we were children life was simple, but as we grow older we have a tendency to complicate our lives.

Today God asks us to recognise simple truths. We are asked to take a good long look at what is important and cut out what isn't. We are asked to simplify our lives and to trust in God.

Pack Your Baskets!
'Picnic in the Parish' is coming this July

Are you looking for the perfect summer afternoon out with the whole family? Look no further! We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 'Picnic in the Parish' event on **Saturday, 18 July (3.00 to 10.00 pm)** in the beautiful grounds of **St Joseph's Parish Church.**

There will be a 'cash only' stall selling pulled pork barms, hotdogs and chips with scones, jam and cream for dessert. Admission is Free.

This is a family focused day designed with everyone in mind. Whether you want to kick back and relax or keep the kids entertained … we've got it covered.

There will be live musical entertainment, children's activities and lots more.

We want you to feel as comfortable as possible so please feel free to bring along your own picnics, blankets, tables and camping chairs. Don't forget to bring cash if you are planning on buying any of the food offerings as we are unable to take card payment.

Important notice regarding drinks – *To help support the event only alcohol purchased from the club is permitted on site. Bag checks will be in place at the entrance to ensure compliance. We appreciate your co-operation in abiding by this rule.*

Whilst entry is completely free, spaces are limited and tickets are not required, it would be appreciated if you would notify one of the Event Team members of the numbers in your party.

We can't wait to see you there for a brilliant day under the sun (and the stars!).

Car Parking

St Joseph's - Please make sure that when you use our car park you only park in our disabled spaces if you have a current **blue badge**.

Let us also be considerate while parking our cars and endeavour to park in the middle of the bays so that others can find space to park their cars. Let us avoid taking up spaces for two cars with one car.

Sacred Heart & St Alban : please consider others when parking in either car park.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Chair of the International Affairs Department of the Catholic *Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said …*

"I wish to express my deepest solidarity with and prayerful support for all those men, women and children affected by the two devastating earthquakes.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands alongside our brothers and sisters in Venezuela at this time of immeasurable suffering."

Careers & Events

The latest vacancies from the archdiocese can be found at Careers - Join the team (liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

Latest events from across the archdiocese can be found at Events - What's on (liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

St Joseph's UCM

Monday, 6 July
Members will be going to the **National Pilgrimage Walsingham**. They will be praying for every member of the parish. Departure time is 9:00 am. All attending should be at Burtonwood Services on time.

Saturday, 11 July
Archdiocesan Business Meeting at the Cathedral. Departure time is 12.15pm

St Joseph's church cleaning on 9 July at 9.00am. Offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, has released a statement on the Russian drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's capital Kyiv carried out in the early hours of Thursday morning, 2 July.

"Our hearts are heavy but not broken following yet another massive and brutal aerial assault last night on Kyiv. As the Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, I join with people worldwide in mourning the tragic loss of innocent lives and pray for the recovery of people who suffered serious injuries, lost their homes, places of work and study."

The July edition of the Catholic Pic is available to view at https://issuu.com/catholic_pic/docs/catholic_pic_july_2026

St Joseph's Gardening Team will meet on Saturday, 11 July. We look forward to seeing you there.

Quiz Night at St Joseph's

Tonight (Sunday) at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre Lounge with Quizmaster Extraordinaire … Alan. New teams are always welcome. Jackpot stands at £30 and climbing. Play Your Cards Right starts at £27. Come along and join in the fun - and it is fun; you don't have to be the brain of Britain! Everyone welcome.

Quiet Retreats for Adults this October - During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, and evening prayer, and then a lot of time to explore the area, pray, or just simply relax. Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

FLAME - The archdiocese is organising a trip to FLAME (the largest Catholic youth event in the country) where 10,000 young people gather together at Wembley Arena to listen to speakers, pray and praise.

It is open to young people in Year 9 and above. If you're interested in bringing a group of young people, please contact Sarah McGeehan on s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk or 07415099048.

Please note that young people must be accompanied by a teacher, youth leader or chaplain

Please visit :
https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/

Catholic Holidays in the Lake District this Summer

During August and September, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is opening its doors to families, groups of friends, or private individuals who are looking for an affordable stay in the Lake District. Breakfast and evening meal are provided, and Mass is celebrated on site. For more information check out castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

A Flower Festival to celebrate the Cathedral's 60th Diamond Jubilee Thursday, 14th to Monday, 17th May 2027

Floral arrangers are needed for next year's event to celebrate the Metropolitan Cathedral's Diamond Jubilee. The theme of the Festival will be **'Hope'** in all its different forms.

Organisers are looking for established and experienced individuals and groups who have a proven history of creating floral arrangements for their own parishes and similar settings. If you are experienced and interested please contact Claire Hanlon at c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk in the first instance.

Further details regarding dates, exploration of the theme, and other practical arrangements will then be provided. Our team will be on hand to support participants throughout the process.

The people of Venezuela need our help at this time, especially in prayer but also in material help. You may wish to donate towards the earthquake appeal here in Church or through CAFOD DEC online

Canon Christopher reflects .... Once again memories and associations have been working overtime. Reminders of people and events in the past have been at the forefront of the mind in recent days as well as what is to come in the future.

"Time flies when you're having fun" so they say. I am not sure about the enjoyment aspect, but I feel that this year is passing very quickly. Already we are looking forward to celebrating the close of another school year with all the things that are involved as well as high school students waiting in eager anticipation for their examination results. From my point of view there is no holiday on the horizon as yet.

This week I attended the funeral of Canon Leo Stoker and as expected we reflected over his life. I was reminded of the examination of life that we must all pass in order to get to heaven. The homilist at the Mass reminded me that like the priest whose life we were reflecting on, I had also been one of the Vatican II priests, namely that we were ordained just after the Ecumenical Council of sixty years ago. This brought about many changes in the Church and as Pope St John XXIII said at the time, it was an aggiornamento: "Open the window and let in the fresh air." No-one likes changes but we cannot refuse the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

At the recent deanery Mass and meeting I was again reminded of the changes that occurred as my first Mass was very much like the Mass we celebrated at Saint Mary's….all in Latin and back to the people. Fifty-nine years ago, I had presided with Mgr John Butchard acting as deacon whilst Canon Leo Stoker was the subdeacon. It was liking stepping into the past.

Another thing happened last weekend. A parishioner gave me a souvenir copy of the Pictorial which was about the Golden Jubilee of the Cathedral. The reminders of the event were fascinating as they were still very vivid in my mind. However, it also reminded me of the priests with whom I had studied for six years and then ordained with me at that time. Many of them have gone to their reward and I am the only one still in active service. At the funeral today I was asked by a much younger priest when I will be retiring. He said that he is counting the days to his own retirement date planned for a couple of years' time. Another priest in the archdiocese who is my age is still persevering in a parish told me that he found it hard to follow up a recent sick-call in the middle of the night even though it is summer.

In the eulogy for Canon Stoker, it was emphasised that he was 'stubborn' or more politely 'determined'. Over twenty years ago he had suffered a heart attack and so was appointed to a country parish but he then he had a severe stroke which left him virtually paralysed on one side. Nevertheless, after a year or two with the patience and support of his parishioners, he continued to serve as parish priest for many years and was able to drive with a specially adapted car. We were made of strong stuff in those days !

Our prayers at this time look to the future in our deanery and the archdiocese in general where inevitable changes must be made. When I was ordained, there were about four hundred priests in the archdiocese. Very soon there will be less than ten percent and we must face the inevitable challenges that are involved. As we face the holiday season, with more meetings and work to be done, the weeks ahead are going to involve much thought and prayer. As we say in Latin*: Oremus pro invicem – "Let us pray for each other".* Amen.

Saints for the Week

5 July – Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest. Born at Cremona in Lombardy, Anthony first studied medicine at Padua before becoming a priest. Inspired by the teachings of St Paul on the Eucharist and Christ crucified, he founded the congregation of Clerics of St Paul (known as Barnabites) which worked for the reform of morals among the faithful. Preaching on street corners, he popularised the ringing of bells in Milan at 3.00pm on Fridays to recall the crucifixion.

6 July – Saint Maria Gorretti, Virgin and Martyr. Born at Ancona in Italy of a poor family, having lost her father, she spent her childhood near Nettuno helping her mother in the domestic chores. She was a religious girl and much given to prayer. At the age of 11, while defending her chastity against a man attempting to violate her, she preferred to die rather than give way and was repeatedly stabbed with a knife. She died in hospital after forgiving her attacker (who later repented and eventually became a Capuchin friar and attended her canonisation).

9 July – Saint Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and Companions, Martyr. Augustine Shoa Rong, a Chinese priest and 119 companions (87 Chinese Catholics and 33 Western missionaries) were martyred between c17-20 for their faith. This feast honours their steadfastness in the face of persecution in Chine and in witnessing to the universality of the Church, calls the faithful to reflect on the sacrifices made in all times and places for believing and holding fast to the Good News.

11 July – Saint Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe. Benedict was born at Norcia in Umbria. After studying at Rome, he led a life of solitude in Subiaco and gathered disciples around him and then went on to Monte Cassino. Here he founded a hilltop monastery that continues to the present day, where he wrote a balanced and moderate Rule combining work and prayer, which was widely influential. This has led to his being called the 'Father of Monasticism in the West.

13 July – Saint Henry. Born in Bavaria he succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria and later was elected Holy Roman Emperor. He was outstanding for his reforms in the Church and for his encouragement of missionary activity, setting up many dioceses and founding monasteries. He was canonised by Pope Eugene III in 1146.

Right to Life UK

The Lord tells us that He has revealed the mysteries of the Kingdom to little children. Let us, therefore, ask for the grace to protect all children - born and unborn - from every form of harm. Lord hear us

Quote of the week

"All who root their lives in forgiveness are able to pass through rock-hard situations like the water of a stream".

Brother Roger of Taize

Congratulations are sent to Thomas Meadows and Samantha Hamilton who are to be married this coming Saturday at 3.00pm at St Alban's. *May the Lord bless them always.*

Mass Intentions for week commencing 5 July 2026

	Sacred Heart	Saint Alban	Saint Joseph	Saint Paul of the Cross
Sunday 5 July	**11.00 am** Laura Smith	**9.30 am** People of the Parish	**8.30 am** Paddy Fearon **4.00 pm** People of the Parish	**10.00 am**
Monday 6 July			**9.30 am** Thanksgiving (Maria Baker)	
Tuesday 7 July		**9.30 am** Stephen Monks		**9.00 am**
Wednesday 8 July			**6.00 pm** Bernadette Day (RoS)	**9.00 am**
Thursday 9 July		**9.30 am** Patricia Davies (RoS)		**9.00 am**
Friday 10 July	**9.30 am** Tony Young (Anniversary)		**9.30 am** Chris Wilkinson (RoS)	
Saturday 11 July	**5.15 pm** People of the Parish			**6.00 pm**
Sunday 12 July	**11.00 am** Martin Griffiths	**9.30 am** Doris Cleary (Birthday Remembrance)	**8.30 am** Alan Lunt **4.00 pm** Marie O'Connor	**10.00 am**

Confession	**Saturday** from 4.30 pm	**Saturday** from 9.30 am	**Wednesday** 5.15 pm-5.45 pm	**Saturday** 5.15-5.45 pm
Adoration [Exposition]		After Mass on Tuesday & Thursday	Monday 10.00-11.00 am	

- **Holy Eucharist -** Please note that whilst we can receive the Holy Eucharist under both kinds, intinction (dipping the Body of Christ into the Chalice of His blood) **IS NOT PERMITTED.**
- The acronym RoS stands for Repose of the Soul.

Penketh Support Group Food Hub
Meeting Lane Community Centre WA5 2HB. Opening Hours Thursday, Friday & Saturday until 12:30pm. If you require a food parcel please contact Helen on 07415 939808 or email penketh2020@outlook.com

The Legion of Mary meets on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm in the Loreto Room [behind St Joseph's Church]. **All welcome**

Why not visit our website and keep up-to-date on all the news at **www.sacredheartandstalban.org** or follow us on Facebook @ **Parish of Sacred Heart and St Alban Warrington**
Why not take a moment to check in !

Please visit St Joseph's website for all its news, Mass times, newsletter and much more!
www.stjosephpenketh.co.uk

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in Church. Thank you.

Sanctuary Lamps
The Sanctuary Lamps will burn this week for the following intentions :

St Alban
Confirmation Candidates

Sacred Heart
Mandy Rossiter (RoS)

St Joseph
Victims of the earthquake in Venezuela

St Joseph's Marian Candle
Those killed in Nigeria on account of their faith

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died recently : Josie Clifton, Liam Nichols (aged 29), Bernadette Meadon, Mandy Rossiter, David Alexander Boyd, Leslie Christopher Cross and Maureen Veronica Houghton.
May they rest in peace.

FUNERALS

Week commencing 13 July

Requiem Mass for David Alexander Boyd on Tuesday, 14 July at 11.00am at St Joseph's

Funeral Service for Leslie Christopher Cross on Wednesday, 15 July at St Joseph's at 12.30pm

Week commencing 20 July

Requiem Mass for Josephine Clifton on Tuesday, 21 July at 12.30pm at St Alban's.

Funeral Service for Maureen Veronica Houghton on Wednesday, 22 July at 11.30am at St Joseph's

May they rest in peace.

St Joseph's Bonus Ball

29/6/26 No 56 Winner : Carmel Anderton

The proceeds from this year's bonus ball will be sent to Mary's Meals. Please continue to support this initiative.

St Joseph's parish welcomes Harrison James Bagshaw-Mahoney, Orla My Bibby, Sofia Abigail Burke, Harry James Hales and Freddie Philip Martin Hansen who were baptised last week. Wishing them God's blessings.