

Mass Times, Services and Intentions

Saturday 21st February *First Sunday of Lent*

St Joseph's	4.30pm	Mass	Lois Limm RIP
-------------	--------	------	---------------

Sunday 22nd February *First Sunday of Lent*

St Joseph's	9.30am	Mass	William Fairclough Anniversary
Sacred Heart	11.00am	Mass	Jack Gough Anniversary

Tuesday 24th February *Week 1 of Lent*

Sacred Heart	12.00pm	Mass	Roddy Glynn
Sacred Heart	12.30pm	-	Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 25th February *Week 1 of Lent*

St Joseph's	12.30pm	Funeral Mass	Kathleen Starbuck
-------------	---------	--------------	-------------------

Thursday 26th February *Week 1 of Lent*

Sacred Heart	10.00am	Mass	People of the Parish
--------------	---------	------	----------------------

Friday 27th February *Week 1 of Lent*

St Joseph's	10.30am	Funeral Service	John O'Brien
St Joseph's	12.00pm	Funeral Mass	Patricia Lever

Saturday 28th February *Second Sunday of Lent*

St Joseph's	4.30pm	Mass	Phyllis Bailey Birthday Memorial
-------------	--------	------	----------------------------------

Sunday 1st March *Second Sunday of Lent*

St Joseph's	9.30am	Mass	Kathleen & Vincent Unsworth Anniversary
Sacred Heart	11.00am	Mass	Binish & Shana 19th Wedding Anniversary
Sacred Heart	12.30pm	Baptisms	Zuzanna Katarzyna Barcikowska & Arlo Hogan-Fishwick

Newsletter for the Parish of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith
Served by the Churches of Sacred Heart and St Joseph



Sacred Heart Church
Walmsley Road
Leigh WN7 1YE

First Sunday of Lent
22nd February 2026

Parish Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
email: k.ogrady@rcaol.org.uk



St Joseph's Church
Mather Lane
Leigh WN7 2PR

Parish Administrators

Jacqui Unsworth
Anne Crinigan

Office Hours:

Mon, 9.00am—4.30pm **St J**
Wed, 10.00am—2.00pm **SH**
Thur, 10.00am—2.00pm **St J**
Fri, 10.00am—2.00pm **St J**



Parish Office

St Joseph's Presbytery
Mather Lane
Leigh WN7 2PR
stedmund.leigh@rcaol.org.uk
01942 673517

Food for thought!

In today's Gospel we hear about the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. This is more than a story about one moment in the Bible—it acts as a mirror for everyday human life. Jesus faced three temptations – one was to satisfy hunger instantly- the second to seek power and success without sacrifice – and the third to demand proof of God's protection. These are the same struggles we can experience today, just in modern forms. We often want immediate comfort and quick relief from stress instead of patience and trust. The world tells us to seek achievement, recognition etc, even when it means compromising values. The wilderness moment teaches us that who we are is more important than what we gain, and this season of Lent helps us to reflect on that. For centuries the Church in her wisdom has recommended spiritual medicine during Lent to help us to get better. Lent is a season of reflection to bring us closer to Jesus and prepare for our celebration at Easter. By the time Easter approaches, we will have had many opportunities so that our soul has been tended like a garden – not perfect but softened and strengthened. May we understand that transformation rarely happens in comfort, but in honest reflection and trust.

Praise Him!

Recently Deceased

We pray for those who have died

Kathleen Starbuck

John O'Brien

Patricia Lever

Kathleen Keavney

Michael Tighe

Stephen Chase

and those whose

anniversary occurs at this time, may the peace of our risen Lord Jesus enfold us all.

Sick and Housebound

We hold in prayer all who are sick in body, mind or spirit and those who care for them:

James Allen

Patricia Case

Nuala Conroy

Sean Fleming

Chris Higgins

Marian Hindley

Brenda Jones

Kitty Jones

Iris McKiernan

John Mulligan

Deacon Dennis Vint

Pauline Woods

Deacon Bernard Worden

May the risen Lord embrace them with healing love.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week our Sanctuary Lamp will shine for:

An end to knife crime

at St Joseph's Church

and

For those in freezing conditions in Ukraine

at Sacred Heart Church

The Pope's Intention February: For Children with Incurable Diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

First Holy Communion Preparation for Children who attend non-Catholic Primary Schools

The sessions for the Sacramental Programme, 'With You Always' will begin in March. If your child is in Year 4 or above, has been baptised and would like to make their First Holy Communion, please speak to Fr. Kieran as soon as possible.

R.C.I.A.

We have six candidates that are walking the Journey of Faith this year. Please pray for them.

We will meet again on Wednesday 25th February 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Presbytery.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

This week the Stations of the Cross will be prayed after the midday Mass at Sacred Heart Church

Forthcoming Second Collections

27 Feb/1 March—CAFOD Collection

7/8 March—The S.V.P.

Please give generously.

Something to Ponder

In Lent we pause, we slow our pace

We make a quieter gentle space .

We pray a little more each day, and think about the words we say

We give up things we may not need and plant instead a caring seed.

We try to love, forgive restart, with calmer mind, a caring heart.

Each day we walk a better way preparing hearts for Easter Day. Through quiet hope and love we share New life and joy are waiting there.

Tea & Coffee will be held after the 11.00am Mass today. All are welcome.

ROSSENDALE MALE VOICE CHOIR as seen on BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT Saturday 28th March 2026

commencing at 7.30pm

Tickets available on-line from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-josephs-players.

Bar & refreshments available.

All proceeds go towards the ongoing restoration of St Joseph's Hall.

The Sodality Hall/Mather Room

The Sodality Hall/Mather Room is available to hire for parties etc.

To book the room, please contact: Christine Prince:

07766681339

The Annual World Day of Prayer 6th March 2026

Two Services will held this year at Christ Church Pennington, 12.00pm and 7.00pm.

It has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria.

All are very welcome!

For those who enjoy singing, please come to a practice at Christ Church, Monday, 23rd February at 12.00pm only.

CAFOD Lent Appeal—Family Fast Day Collection Friday 27th February

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions—such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought.

Please consider accepting an envelope as you exit, to remind you to do your best for our seriously suffering world family.

If you can gift aid, every £1 becomes £1.25 at no extra cost to you. Please return the envelope next week or

donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope

Or call **0303 303 3030**

Text **CAFODLENT** to **70085** to donate £10.

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick

If you would like Fr. Kieran to visit a family member who is sick and housebound, please speak to him or contact the Parish Office and a visit will be arranged.