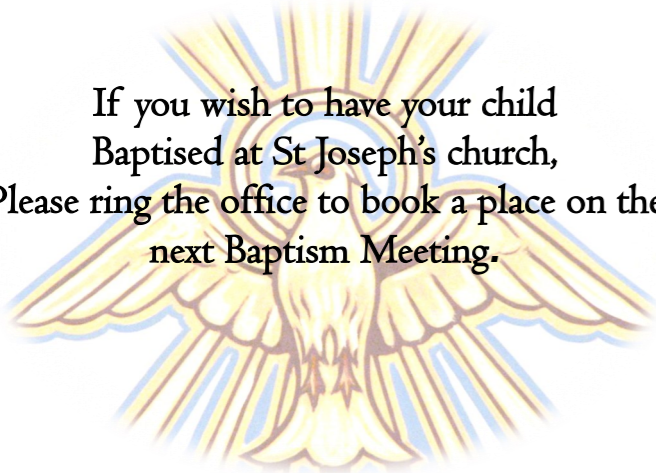


If you wish to have your child Baptised at St Joseph's church, Please ring the office to book a place on the next Baptism Meeting.




Tea and Coffee.
Tea and coffee will be served after the 9.30 am Holy Mass on the **Second and Fourth Sunday of each month in the Parish Hall.**



Request for Resources
Fr James Fasakin, the new Chaplain at Risely Prison, has asked if anyone could please provide or know of any organisation that can offer the inmates Rosary beads, Catholic Bibles and Holy Pictures.
Thank you for your kind support.
If you have some spare resources, you can contact Fr James via email at j.fasakin@rcaol.org.uk, or by phone at 01925 733333 (office) or 07733680555 (mobile).

Last weeks Collection.
Total Collection for the last weekend 24th & 25th December 2023.

Gift Aid:	£ 846. 00
Loose Plate:	£ 875. 40
Total:	£1721.40



Thank you for your wonderful generosity!

Church Cleaning Rota
This week it is Group 6. Thank you to **ALL** our volunteers who help to clean and prepare our church throughout the year.



How to Save your Children through the Rosary.
Pray the Rosary and every time you pray the Rosary say;
'With this Rosary, I bind all my children to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for her guidance and protection'.
In doing so, Our Lady promised to see to their souls .
Mother Mary to Fr. Gobbi.

First Friday Devotions Holy Mass
9.30 am
5th January 2024



Holy Mass Intentions.
If you would like to request a Mass to be celebrated here at St Joseph's church, there are envelopes at the back of church.
Please state clearly for whom your Mass intention is for and the date you wish to have the Mass celebrated on. We will try to meet your requests, Please enclose your offering and pass to the parish office.
The great Doctor of the Church St Anselm declared that a single Mass offered for oneself during life may be worth more than a thousand celebrated for the same intention after your death.

St Joseph's Catholic Church
Crow Orchard Road, Wrightington WN6 9PA
Parish Priest and Episcopal Vicar for Clergy: Fr. Philip Gregory
Tel: 01257 676 027
E-mail: stjwrightington@rcaol.org.uk



Fourth Sunday of Advent.
Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
31st December 2023

Sunday The Feast of the Holy Family.	9.30 am 5.00 pm	Peter & Sheila Castelli John Smith (Memorial)
Monday Feast of Mary the Mother of God	9.30 am	Kirsty Aspinall (Lately Dead)
Tuesday	No public Mass	
Wednesday The Most Holy Name of Jesus.	No public Mass	
Thursday	9.30 am	Geraldine Harvey (Anniversary)
Friday First Friday Devotions	9.30 am	Jane Corless (S.I)
Saturday	No public Mass	
Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord	9.30 am 5 pm	Monica Andrews (Anniversary) Agnes Corless (S.I)

Readings for The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading	A reading from the book of Genesis. Gn 15:1=6;21:1-3
Psalm Response	He, the Lord is our God. He remembers his covenant forever.
Second Reading	A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19
The Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!
Gospel	A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. Lk 2:22-40
Communion Antiphon	Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

This feast comes at Christmas, a time when families are thrown together more than usual. A sense of humour can help, as we are reminded of family resemblances both physical and personal! A sense of gratitude too is not out of place-gratefulness especially to parents who always love us. A sense of service, when we make the extra effort to be helpful and kind, would be a real Christmas gift to all the family. A sense of belonging can help us experience the love and joy of being part of this particular family.

**FR PHIL AND FR ANDREW WISHES YOU ALL
A VERY HAPPY, BLESSED AND GRACEFILLED
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR!**



Sick in our Parish

Please pray the sick of our community, especially Brenda Harmer, Fr John Johnson, Pauline Fowler and remembering all the patients in Wrightington and Wigan hospital and our local Hospice. Heal thy servants, O Lord, who are sick and put their trust in Thee. Send them help O Lord, and comfort from thy Holy Place.



Pray for all those who have died

In your charity please pray for Kirsty Aspinall and Marleen McGuire who have died and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time. In this month we particularly remember the Holy Souls.

Eternal rest grant on to them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in your peace. Amen.



Right To Life UK

Pro Life Prayers

“Let us pray for all those worried about not having the resources to support their new baby, that they would have the faith of Mary and Joseph that God will provide and watch over them. Lord hear us”.

Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

International development charity Christian Aid is appealing for more help in boosting funds to continue to support its local partners.

Church leaders are being urged to renew appeals for donations - every amount will make a difference; £6 will pay for a basic hygiene kit while a donation of £37 will pay for a food parcel for a family of five in Gaza.

Further details on what is being done with the money is in the press release attached.

To make a donation, please visit the Middle East Crisis Appeal page on the [Christian Aid website](#).

800th Anniversary of the Crib

This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the First Nativity Crib, created by St Francis of Assisi in Greccio in Italy in 1223. To mark this special anniversary, and to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, we pray “a child’s prayer” at Christmas.

"Dear Jesus, At this time of year, we picture you in the stable at Bethlehem, with Mary and Joseph, a picture of peace and family love, surrounded by the animals and adoring shepherds. We pray that the peace you brought into the world on that first Christmas night will return to our world, and the light of your guiding star will lead us all one day to be with you in Heaven. Amen."

Prayer by Michael Byrne KGCHS Lieutenant for England and Wales, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Catholic New Years Resolutions

Are you considering making a New Year resolution? Losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more regularly, getting more sleep, or quitting a bad habit are probably top your New Year’s resolution list for 2024. Have you thought about making a spiritual resolution for 2024? It’s great to focus on physical health, but what about your spiritual health? What might a spiritual resolution look like? New Year resolutions need to be realistic. They are not only about giving something up but about doing something to help in our Spiritual growth, bringing us closer in our relationship to our God.

Here are some resolutions you may want to consider for the new year.

- Begin your day by consecrating yourself, your family and friends to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Pray the Rosary each day. A powerful weapon against evil.
- Abstain from meat on a Wednesday or Friday or maybe both. Fasting makes our prayers even more powerful.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, honouring our Lords passion and crucifixion on the cross.
- Pray through a devotional book.
- Read a spiritual book.
- Read or pray with the Bible each day. Fr Michael Schmitz has a video on you tube which takes you through the Bible in a year, giving us a better understanding of the Word of God.
- Go on a pilgrimage.
- Spend 15 minutes with the Lord each day before the Blessed Sacrament.

These are just some suggestions to help us along our spiritual journey for the coming year.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

“Taking to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus, we will go into the world to proclaim the Good News to the whole of Creation”