



St Albert's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter Friday, 04 September 2026

www.stalbertsprimary.co.uk



Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our children and families.

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are ready for an exciting year ahead.

A very warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families as they begin their journey at St Albert's.

We would also like to wish our former Year 6 pupils every success as they start their new adventures at secondary school. We are incredibly proud of them and know they will achieve great things.

Reception Class

Our Reception class started with us on Wednesday and we are already very impressed with how well they have settled in. From **Monday 7th September** the children will stay in school all day. Gates will open at 3pm for Reception class pickups only so that they can leave whilst it's quiet.

Drop off and Pick Up

Children in Y1-Y6 should come into school in the morning independently saying goodbye to parents at the gates. This is for Health and Safety reasons and to encourage independence. Reception children will be walked into class by parents.

Gates will open at 3pm for reception parents only and at 3.10pm for all other parents. Please be respectful of this to help reception children and families' settle into school.

Attendance Focus

Attendance will remain at the forefront of our focus this year and, as you may be aware, it is also a Government focus. There are lots of changes taking place that we will keep you updated with, but the premise is that all children must have **good school attendance** as Persistent Absence significantly disadvantages children in so many ways. We appreciate your support with this matter. Every Day counts.

Focuses for this Half Term

We have a very busy half term with lots of focus areas planned. Geography field trips will take place; children will visit the Art Gallery and we have a number of Zoo workshops followed by a whole school visit to the Zoo. Please watch this space

Free School Meal Eligibility

From September 2026, Free School Meal eligibility is expanding to include all children in households receiving Universal Credit. We encourage all parents and carers to apply or check their eligibility, even if you have been refused in the past or your child already receives Universal Infant Free School Meals.

A successful application may provide your child with free school meals and can also help the school access additional funding to support pupils. Please complete a eligibility check via

<https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/education-and-schools/financial-support/free-school-meals>

Free Breakfast Club

Our **Free School Breakfast Club** started on Wednesday, **8.15-8.45am**. Our usual Breakfast Club will continue to run from **8am -8.15am** for those parents who need an earlier start. The cost of this will be **reduced from £2.50 to £1** as children will then join the Free School Breakfast Club at 8.15am. If you wish for your child to attend Free Breakfast club, please contact the school office as places need to be booked in advance. Please also note that entrance closes at **8.20am** so please do not be late.

Year 4 First Holy Communion & Reconciliation

Application forms for entry into the preparation programme will be available every **Sunday (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th) throughout September after 10am mass**. They will not be available at any other time. Dates for the Holy Communion celebrations are:

St Albert's: Saturday 8th May 2027

St Brigid's: Saturday 15th May 2027

The Mass of Induction to the First Holy Communion programme, will be on **Sunday 4th October**, followed after mass by the first of our monthly meetings for parents and children, which everyone is expected to attend.

If your child is not baptised yet but you would still like them to be involved, please see Fr David asap to arrange baptism.

At St. Albert's, our mission is walking together with Jesus to

LOVE, LEARN AND SERVE

Our vision centres around the 'CHILD'

C for the Child, H for High Expectations, I for Inspirational & Memorable, L for Listening and D for Dreams and Doors.



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Mass Times

Please find attached our Parish Newsletter, which contains current Mass times, parish news, and important upcoming events.

Coffee Mornings

As usual each teacher will shortly be arranging a coffee morning with parents. This is a great opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and go through school systems and expectations. Dates to follow. Please ensure at least 1 parent / carer attends for each child as there will be lots of important information and support.

Year 1 Big Art Visit

We are excited to let you know that our Year 1 children will be visiting the Walker Art Gallery on **Wednesday 9th September** as part of their learning. A letter containing further information will be sent home on Monday. Please look out for it in your child's bag.

Uniform

Children all look very smart in their new uniforms. Can you please ensure you have written their names on all their clothing so that we can return if they get lost. Children need to be independent in looking after their own belongings and this is the first step.

Wellies Needed

Please provide your child with a pair of wellies to keep in school. This will ensure they can fully enjoy our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) activities and access outdoor play areas whatever the weather. Thank you for your support.

Week's Attendance

Rec	100 %
Y1	92.1%
Y2	94.4%
Y3	99.4%
Y4	97.7%
Y5	100 %
Y6	94.3%

PE Days

Mon	Y1 & Y6	Sports with Mr Unwin
Thur	Y2 & Y5	Sports with Mr Unwin
	Y6	Swimming Starting 17 th Sept
Fri	Y3 & Y4	Gymnastics

After School Club

Mon	Year 5	Sport with Mr Unwin
Tues	Year 3 & 4 3.15-4pm	Sport with Mrs Michaels and Mrs Cruise
Thurs	Year 6	Sports with Mr Unwin

Parents and carers are welcome to donate their child's **PE tops** so that we can use as spare PE kit when needed. We would be grateful for any contributions. Thank you for your support.

PE Kits

All children, except Reception and Year 1, should continue to come to school dressed in their PE kit on the days that they have PE.

Navy shorts (or Navy jogging bottoms in Winter)

Light blue/Navy School PE T-shirt with logo
Slip on pumps / trainers may be worn outside
Please note that short tight shorts are not part of our school PE uniform and are not appropriate for school.

Y6 Swimming

Year 6 will be starting their swimming lessons on **Thursday 17th September**. A letter will be going home shortly with further information. These lessons will continue every week until the end of term. Please can we remind parents to ensure that children bring their swimming kits to school every Thursday.

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Mass Times



Thank you to everyone who has commented on the suggestion of changing the Mass times.

As of today, 6th September our Mass times will be:

Saturday 5.30pm SJF (No change)
Sunday 9.45am SATG
11.15am SC

This will allow us to spend some time chatting to people after Mass at St. Albert's and be on time starting Mass at St. Columba's.
 I do appreciate all who made contributions to the discussion on changing the times.

The Apostolic Nuncio's Visit

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, the Holy Father's representative to the Court of Saint James, (the Ambassador of the Holy See, will be visiting the diocese next week. There are a couple of events to which everyone is invited to.



A Concert for the Nuncio - Saturday 12 September
 All are invited to A Concert for the Nuncio on Saturday 12 September at 7.30pm at St Francis de Sales Church, Hale Road, Walton, Liverpool L4 3RL. The concert will feature Anna Callacher (soprano), the Hope Street Consort, Paul Thomas (trumpet) and James Luxton (organ).
 A light supper will be served afterwards, and there will be a retiring collection. All are welcome.

Evening Prayer Sunday 13 September at 3pm

All are invited to assemble as our archdiocesan family at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 13 September at 3pm for the culmination of the Apostolic Nuncio's visit to the archdiocese. This date coincides with the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Metropolitan Chapter of Liverpool.

The celebration with take the form of Evening Prayer sung in the Cathedral. There will be a drinks reception following in the Cathedral crypt.

The Apostolic Nuncio will also celebrate the Solemn Mass at 11am in the Cathedral on that date.

Tesco Stronger Starts



If you shop in Tesco, Deysbrook Lane, St. Albert's Primary School has been chosen for the stronger starts campaign. The School is looking to improve and enhance the outdoor play area which boosts children's imagination, wellbeing and confidence by meaningful play experiences. Please take the blue tokens and place them in the middle box to support the school. In-store voting is open until November 30th.

MPs debate assisted suicide bill

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill returns to the House of Commons for its Second Reading on 11 September. You can contact your MP using the online resources provided by CBCEV in association with Right to Life UK: cbcev.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide or righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote



Parishes Little Church

We welcome the Little Church at Saint Albert's back this week and next week at Saint Columba's. Our catechists warmly welcome the younger members of our parish to join them for their own Liturgy of the Word and to explore the readings in their own language, whilst parents, have a little time on their own to reflect on the readings of the Mass and think about the relationship with the Lord. All children are welcome.



Praying God, You are the author and giver of all life. Help us to cherish every person, especially those who are suffering, elderly, frail, or afraid. Grant wisdom, compassion, and courage to all who care for the sick and vulnerable. May we always recognise the dignity of every human being, created in your image and loved by you. Comfort those in pain, strengthen families, and fill our hearts with hope in your unfailing mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE PARISHES OF Ss. Albert the Great Columba & John Fisher Newsletter

23rd Sunday of the Year (A)



A reflection on today's Gospel

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers practical wisdom for dealing with conflict within the Christian community. His concern is not punishment or winning an argument, but reconciliation. The goal is clear: "If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." Christ's desire is always to restore relationships rather than break them apart.

Too often, when someone hurts us, our first instinct is to complain to others, harbour resentment, or simply walk away. Jesus proposes a different path. He asks us to approach the person directly, with honesty and charity. Such conversations are rarely easy. They require humility, patience, and courage. Yet they reflect the way God himself deals with us, always calling us back to communion rather than abandoning us because of our failures.

The Gospel also reminds us that faith is never purely individual. We belong to a community, the Church, where we support one another in the journey of discipleship. When difficulties arise, we are called to seek truth and healing together, trusting in the wisdom and guidance of the Christian family.

Jesus then gives a beautiful promise: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." The Lord is present whenever believers come together in prayer, worship, and genuine efforts at reconciliation. His presence gives us hope that even wounded relationships can be healed.

Today, we might ask ourselves whether there is someone with whom we need to seek peace. By taking the first step towards forgiveness and understanding, we become instruments of Christ's mercy, and in doing so, we truly gain a brother or sister for the Kingdom of God.

PARISH CLERGY

PARISH PRIEST
Father David Gamble

ASSISTANT PRIEST
Canon Michael Fitzsimons

PARISH DEACON
Deacon Daniel Piwowar

SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT

31 Hollow Croft
Stockbridge Village
Liverpool L28 4EA
☎ 0151 228 7308
✉ stalberts@rcaol.org.uk

SAINT JOHN FISHER

SAINT COLUMBA
37 Tithebarn Road
Knowsley Village
Prescot L34 0EU
☎ 0151 936 7688
✉ cjf@rcaol.org.uk
☐ www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk

ADMINISTRATION

To be arranged

Please see Father David or Father Michael until further notice.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday 5th & 6th September
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)
 5:30pm John Hamilton SJF
 9:45am Winnie McCarthy & Parishioners SATG
 11:15am Joan Fletcher SC

WEEK 23 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR II)
 Monday 31st August – Feria
NO SERVICES

Tuesday 8th September – Birthday of Our Lady
 9:15am Joseph Nicholls SC
 10:00am Bishop Tom Neylon SATG

Wednesday 9th September – Feria
 Those affected by drought and hunger SJF
 10:00am Lisa Usher SATG
Mass in St Brigid's school

Thursday 10th September – Saint Ambrose Barlow
 9:15am Eucharistic Service SC
 10:00am Jean Sullivan SATG
 Friday 11th September – Feria
 10:00am No Mass SATG

Sunday 12th & 13th September
24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)
 5:30pm Ann Franklin & Parishioners SJF
 9:45am Lisa Stanley SATG
 11:15am Marie Speight SC

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Sick in our parishes
 Joan Haigh, Norma Pritchard, M.
 Rivi, Loretta McDonnell, Thomas
 Hopkins, Amy Murphy, Joseph
 Cameron, Rowan Sanderson,
 Karen Duffy, James Murphy,
 Elizabeth Jones, John Dempsey,
 June Courtney, Margaret Donnelly,
 Helen Donnelly, Katie Westell, Bro
 John Smith MHM, Fr. Paul Mooney
 MHM

*We bring before you all who are sick in
 our parishes. Hold them gently in your
 healing love, ease their pain, and
 strengthen their hearts with hope. Bless
 those who care for them with patience
 and compassion, and unite us as one
 family in supporting them through
 prayer. May your peace rest upon them
 today and always. Through Christ our
 Lord. Amen.*

Those who have died recently:
 George Nooley, Jean Sullivan,
 Gillian Kerwin

*Eternal Rest, grant unto them O Lord,
 And let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services or our safeguarding team direct at or Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384642327 or safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk



From Father Mike... ETHIOPIA EMERGENCY APPEAL

As many of you know Fr Michael spent a few months working with CAFOD in the Tigray region of Ethiopia back in 2005 mainly supporting a project working with street children but also visiting other CAFOD supported projects on health, water and farming. He has been back to visit friends and the CAFOD projects in Ethiopia several times since his initial time there. He worked closely with the sisters of the Daughters of Charity - the same order who ran Christopher Grange nursing home here in our area.

Sadly recently there has been a terrible conflict and war in Tigray an although there is an uneasy peace now the scars of war and the threat of renewed fighting is not far away. Added to this is the ongoing impact of climate change has caused a significant drought. Local crops have failed and the water levels have dropped to a critical level.

Over 10 years of positive development have been wiped out by war and climate change. And, as ever, this impacts most on our poorest sisters and brothers around the world. The situation in Tigray is now critical and famine is now a real threat and possibility. Official agencies have given a six week notice for urgent intervention.

Because the Daughters of Charity are already rooted in these villages, their teams can deliver help immediately without administrative delays. With support, they intend to:-

- * Repair broken water wells and install solar pumps for rural clinics, schools, and villages.
- * Distribute emergency nutrition directly to young children and pregnant or nursing mothers.
- * Provide drought-resistant seeds and livestock feed so farmers can stay on their land and plant again.

We are asking if you would consider giving some support to this emerging crisis. The Sisters are trusted partners and we can get the money to them within the next few weeks. We will hold an emergency additional second collection next week, please donate if you are able, and keep the people of Tigray and the sisters in your prayers at this sad time.

First Holy Communions Saint Albert's & St. Brigid's Schools

Application forms are now available on the Sundays of September after Mass and **ONLY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS**, can apply. Please do not send grandparents, big brothers or sisters or ask for one for my mate as refusals can offend.



The Mass of Induction to the First Holy Communion programme, will be on **Sunday 4th October**, followed after Mass by the first of our monthly meetings for parents and candidates, which everyone will be expected to attend. Please keep all the families and children in your prayers.

Arrangements for St. John Fisher and St. Columba's First Holy Communions, will follow.

Lourdes 2027

Lourdes Youth Coach 2

Applications for any young people wanting to go on the Youth Pilgrimage, applications open on line on **Monday 14th SEPTEMBER**. The actual price for 2027's pilgrimage is £730, but there is an early bird discount of £50, bringing the cost down to £680, until 19th October.



For any young people, aged 15-22, who might be thinking of going (parents and grandparents ask your teenagers if they are interested), or would like to hear more about the pilgrimage, there will be a get together **this Tuesday 8th September** in the Youth Club at St. Albert's starting at 7.00pm. Some of the girls from our parish will be there to tell you about their experiences and an opportunity to ask questions, and I hope members of the Coach 2 staff team will be present. Come along you will be more than welcome.

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main 1	Chicken Chow Mein served with Noodles	Cheese & Tomato Pizza served with herby diced potatoes and salad	Chicken Tikka Curry & rice served with Naan bread	Farm Assured Beef, Mash, gravy and seasonal vegetables.	Fish Finger, chips, Spaghetti Hoops
Allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens
Sandwiches Deli bar	Choice of Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Egg filled sandwich/Barm/Wrap with salad selection	Choice of Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Egg filled sandwich/Barm/Wrap with salad selection	Choice of Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Egg filled sandwich/Barm/Wrap with salad selection	Choice of Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Egg filled sandwich/Barm/Wrap with salad selection	Choice of Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Egg filled sandwich/Barm/Wrap with salad selection
Allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens
Jackets	Oven baked jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or beans served with salad selection	Oven baked jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or beans served with salad selection	Oven baked jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or beans served with salad selection	Oven baked jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or beans served with salad selection	Oven baked jacket potato with Tuna, Cheese or beans served with salad selection
Allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens
Dessert	Flapjack				Angel Delight served with fruit
Allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens	please see School Website for Knowsley Council Menu with allergens

Drinks Available Daily: Water, Milk

