



Sunday 10 January 2021

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	9	Saturday after Epiphany		10.30am 11.00am 6pm	Priest's Intention Adoration & Confessions Eileen Bevan	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Sunday	10	The Baptism of The Lord	Week I	Ordinary Time Week 1		
During ordinary Time (Winter) and up to Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and those who Care for them; Victims of Trafficking and those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed				9.30am 11.00am 5pm	Neil Marsden Steve Ogden RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	11	Ferial		9.15am	Mary Hawksworth Birthday Intention	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	12	Ferial		7pm	Andrew Murphy RIP Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	13	Ferial		9.15am	Lady Ann Sparks 1st Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	14	Ferial		9.15am	Alan & Sally Reynolds RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	15	Ferial		9.15am	Theresa Young RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	16	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 6pm	Welfare of Paul Ward Adoration & Confessions Marie Cassidy RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Sunday	17	Second Sunday Ordinary Time	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5pm	Parishioners Andrew & Ellen McGuire RIP Patti Rixon RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Father Chris writes.....

Welcome to this weeks Newsletter. As we begin this new calendar year, we find ourselves in a third national lockdown. Thankfully public worship has been recognised as an essential element of society, and we must give thanks to God for that, as it enables us to remain open as almost every other element of society, except the essentials, are closed. With this blessing comes great responsibility, and we must set a good example and follow all the guidance and laws that have been put in place for our safety, not only in church but in every part of our daily lives. Inside this newsletter there is an update on the Covid regulations for our churches - please read them through carefully and follow them, not only for your own safety but for the safety of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Wishing you a blessed week ahead.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit – please pray this prayer every day

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

Newsletter Deadline: 9am Thursday morning.

Covid Update: In this third national lockdown, we are the only public gathering that is permitted by law, and therefore we must ensure we follow all the guidance offered to us by both the Bishop's Conference of England & Wales and the Government. Please:

- Do not come to church if you feel unwell
- Do not mingle with other households/bubbles outside church before or after Mass
- Use the hand sanitiser on the way into church
- Co-operate with our track and trace system
- Wear a face mask inside church (unless you are exempt). A face shield is not an acceptable alternative, and can only be worn in addition to a face mask
- Follow the directions of our wonderful stewards
- Follow social distance guidelines and stay 2m away from people not in your household/bubble
- Use the hand sanitiser as you leave church
- Go straight home from Mass

As we have now reverted to 2m social distancing our capacity has been drastically reduced. Please do not arrive at the last minute (particularly for Sunday Masses) and expect to get a seat - this may not now be possible.

We cannot open the church without stewards present to ensure your safety. We will open the doors to church half an hour before Mass time as long as the stewards have arrived. We are fairly confident we can cover our usual program of Masses at this time, but if stewards have to isolate or become ill we may have to close the church at short notice. We apologise in advance if you arrive for a Mass and the doors are closed - we will avoid this as far as is humanly possible, but know you will understand. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation remains suspended at this time of pandemic. For those of you shielding, unable to attend Mass, or are turned away due to capacity being reached, please remember all Masses at Saint Michael's are live streamed on our webcam:

www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

Baptisms & Weddings: After careful consideration and listening to guidance we have made the decision to suspend baptisms at this time except in a situation of urgency. Our monthly Baptism preparation meetings are also suspended until further notice.

At this time weddings can only take place in urgent situations. Please contact the Parish Office for more information if you need to.

Funerals are still permitted, but by law of the land a maximum number of 30 people can attend (Requiem Mass or Funeral Service). This is not a Parish or Diocesan rule or even a decision of the Bishop, this is a

Government regulation despite what others may tell you. Funerals are therefore only open to invited guests sadly, but please continue to pray for those who have died - it is a corporal work of mercy to do so.

Choir: It was with a heavy heart that we have made the decision to suspend the activities of our wonderful choir during the national lockdown. Under the government guidance the choir could have continued to sing for us at Mass, and our risk assessment still stands, however we have decided for a number of reasons that it would be prudent for the time being to suspend the choir. Stella will continue to sing as cantor for us at some of our Masses. We do say a huge thank you to Stella and the Choir for all they have done to enhance our liturgical celebrations amidst all the restrictions. We look forward to their return as soon as is possible.

Candles: For the moment due to the national lockdown there will be no votive candles available to light. Please think about requesting the Marian Lamp to burn for any intentions you may have

Parish Office: During the national lockdown, Jane will be mainly working from home and will be able to respond to your phone calls and emails during normal office hours (Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm) but please do not visit the Parish Office in person without an appointment as there may not be anyone available to see you. Thank you.

Epiphany Blessing: If you didn't pick up a piece of blessed chalk to mark your home and invoke God's blessing on your home and family, then there are still some available at both churches along with the blessing info sheet.

Holy Water: On this feast day of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ, there are bottles of blessed holy water available for you to take and have at home. The bottles are at the back of Saint Michael's church and by the font at Saint Joseph's. Please take just one bottle per household - thank you.

End of the Christmas Season: Today's feast draws the season of Christmas to an end (you can now take your Christmas decorations down!) but traditionally the crib scene remains until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February. Please leave your crib up at home as you ask God's blessing on your family for the year ahead. Tomorrow we return to Ordinary Time and green vestments

**The Safeguarding Representatives for our parish are
Saint Michael's - Mairie Gelling mobile 07771636925
& Saint Joseph's - Marie Fisher 01516701767**

Christmas Collection: Thank you for your kind generosity, which goes towards supporting the priests of our parish throughout the year.

Retired Priests' Fund - Special Collection: Next weekend the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund will be held. With your help, we can build up the Fund to help meet the future needs of our sick and retired priests. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online. To donate Online please go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund An electronic version of a leaflet about the Fund is available at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund and this also explains how you can donate to the Fund by Standing Order or Cheque and how to Gift Aid donations made using these methods

The parish weekly rosary continues each Monday at 1.15pm from the comfort of your own home.

A reminder: If you are writing cheques to the parish please make them payable to 'St Philip Neri' anything else and it cannot be banked. Thank you

Pause for Reflection: Pause for Reflection: Our Pause for Reflection series on YouTube has taken a break and will return soon - watch this space for details.

#somethingtolookforwardto! Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in joining a Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes during the October half term 2021. We now have a good idea of numbers and can negotiate a price. Watch this space for more info. #Exciting!

Parish Finances: We are well aware people are struggling, and this is not trying to guilt trip anyone - we are so sorry to have to raise the issue of money at this time. Can you help? Do you shop online? Please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk first, search for **stphilipneri** and then when you do buy online lots and lots of shops will make a donation to us that will cost you absolutely nothing - it is free money for the parish. Don't forget there is a donation link on our parish website too. Thank you.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Liversidge Rd](#), [Lytton Ave](#), [Layton Ave](#), [Linden Dr](#), [Malpas Ave](#), [Mallory Rd](#) & [Malvern Grove](#).

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns **for Lyndsey & Tony bless them with their own Baby**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Gerry Byrne Anniversary**. Please keep both of these intentions in your prayers. If you would like the lamp to burn for a particular prayer intention, then

please write your intention out and place it with an offering (we suggest £5) in an envelope marked "Marian Lamp'. We ask Our Blessed Lady to carry these prayers to her Son and to intercede for us.

Pre Lent Raffle: We will be raffling off boxes of chocolates weekly up to the start of Lent in aid of Parish funds. If you would like to take part please put your name and phone number on an envelope with the money in the envelope for the amount of 'goes' you would like per week. Tickets are £1 a go. Please mark the envelope RAFFLE. Thank you in anticipation.

Help get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem: As people are using less and less coins, we thought you might like to put your odd ones to a good cause - our Parish. Mary and Joseph travelled 90 miles before the birth of our Lord, can we help get them there? We are asking for all types of coins from 1 pence pieces to £2 coins. Each week we will "convert" the coins donated to pence to see how far along the way we have helped Mary and Joseph. **Coins can be put in either money bags, envelopes or plastic bags labelled Bethlehem in the baskets along with your offertory.** Interesting fact - 90 miles of pennies would raise £71,350.20, we can but dream! So far we have received **£891.60** which has got Mary and Joseph 1 mile and 200yds of their trip to Bethlehem. Thank you, please keep saving your coins.

Scam Covid-19 Vaccine: People are being sent a text message claiming to be from the NHS which informs the recipient that, "*we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine.*" The message ends with a link to a website mocked up to look like a legitimate NHS platform. The website requests personal details, including name and address and banking details. This is a scam – please do not give them any of your details.

The 2021 Diocesan Yearbooks are still available to purchase from the back of church.

Foundation Governors: We have vacancies for Foundation Governors for Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Foundation Governors represent the Bishop and so must be practising Catholics and genuinely believe in the value and importance of Catholic Schools. Is this you? Are you able to offer your services? If so please contact Mr Turner or Georgie Cragg-James (Chair of Governors) by emailing schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral.sch.uk

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of
Baby Eliarna, Kathleen Margaret O'Brien,
Alan Jacobs, Dora Brown and Joe Kearney
May they rest in peace in the arms of
the Good Shepherd

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Matthew 3:16-17	When the Lord had been baptised the heavens opened, and the spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased
Reading 1	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7	Here is my servant in whom my soul delights
Psalm	Psalm 28	The Lord will bless his people with peace
Reading 2	Acts 10:34-38	God anointed him with the Holy Spirit
Gospel Acclamation	John 1:29	The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him
Gospel	Mark 1:7-11	You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you
Communion Antiphon	John 1:32,34	This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Christopher Matthews VE AChLJ BA (Hons) MA
Assistant Priest: Reverend Father Humphrey Agbim
Deacons: Reverends Gerard Boyle, Patrick Regan, Les Arch, Paul D'Ambrogio & John Birch
Parish Sisters: Sister Catherine Bibby FCJ & Sister Mary Hill CSN
Youth Minister: Clare Williams ✉ clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org ☎ 07803414669

Parish Office:

The Parish Office is usually open 10am to 1pm Monday – Friday
10 Willowbank Road Birkenhead Wirral CH42 7JY
0151 652 5767
admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk
www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk
@stsjoeandmike StMaAAandStJosephs stphilipneribirkenhead
Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

Income:

Offertory Collection: £ 940.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1848.50

Christmas Collection: £1808.80

Saints Club: Suspended until further notice Development Society: Dec 27th £50 364 Jane Fury
Jan 3rd £50 161 Paul Davenport

Our Parish Receives no outside funding and relies completely on your generosity.

Please consider remembering the Parish in your will.

The parish of Saint Philip Neri sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

Saint Michael & All Angels Primary School

New Hey Road, Woodchurch, CH49 5LE

Head Teacher: Mrs Susan Ralph
0151 677 4088

schooloffice@stmichael-allangels.wirral.sch.uk

Saint Joseph's Parish Centre

Greenbank Road Birkenhead

Manager: Mrs Marge Penrose
0151 652 8487 (after 7pm)

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Woodchurch Road, Oxtou CH43 5UT

Head Teacher: Mr Alex Turner
0151 652 6781

schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral.sch.uk