

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 31 March 2024

SERVING THE CHURCHES OF SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS AND SAINT JOSEPH

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	30	Holy Saturday		8.00pm	The Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter (Parishioners)	Saint Michael's
Sunday	31	Easter Sunday	Week I			
During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media: Survivors of Abuse; the Church; Human Work				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Tom & Mary McLoughlin & Family People living in Bethlehem NO MASS	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	1	Monday of Easter Octave		10.00am	Charles Devon Anniversary RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	2	Tuesday of Easter Octave		7.00pm	Intentions of Sneha	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	3	Wednesday of Easter Octave		9.15am	Kevin Maughan & Family	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	4	Thursday of Easter Octave		9.15am	James McLoughlin Anniversary	Saint Michael's
Friday	5	Friday of Easter Octave		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	6	Saturday of Easter Octave		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	John Murphy in remembrance RIP Adoration & Confession Confession Carrie Williams	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	7	Second Sunday of Easter	Week II			
During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media: Survivors of Abuse; the Church; Human Work				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Teresa & Frank Denye Diamond Wedding Anniversary Brian Boyle 37 th Anniversary RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We proclaim 'Happy Easter' Jesus' Resurrection, in a time for our world when there are dreadful conflicts in Ukraine, the Holy Land and several other parts of our world that have slipped from the focus of attention. There is ongoing concern for the environment and the effects of climate change that cause displacement of peoples; this can result in conflict, and fear from others, which is sadly fed on by some, that these displaced people will 'overwhelm' their lands. It could seem dark and hopeless, like a dark tomb; it was here in the darkness, of what seemed 'dead' that the new light, new life of Christ broke forth. Light came from darkness, hope from despair, joy from sadness, life from death. Those seem 'nice words' but recently we have seen those words become 'living words' in those who put their lives on the line to bring aid, compassion and care to those most vulnerable, those who risk scorn and derision to reach out to people that might be labelled 'outcasts' or 'undesirable' by some. We saw, through the hard pandemic days, people going out of their way to see nobody was forgotten. Then the Resurrection becomes real right now! When people encountered the Risen Christ often they did not recognise him, something blocked their understanding, then a word or action would happen and 'their eyes would be opened'; they would realise he had been there all along! We take heart today that by our attitude and witness we can help people to see the Risen Christ is among us, and we can make that hope and life real right now!

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

Come O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle 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 taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity. Number: 234025

Safeguarding Representatives Saint Michael's - Mairie Gelling & Saint Joseph's - Marie Fisher

Every Blessing for Easter: As I say in the note above, we wish you all every blessing for this Easter Time, rejoicing that the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection gives us great hope even in the darkest days.

Chrism Mass thanks: Last Wednesday we hosted our Diocese of Shrewsbury Chrism Mass with Bishop Mark at St Michael's. It was a wonderful celebration with our whole Diocesan family; a big 'thank you' to all from our parish and pastoral area who helped in any way in this celebration, both in the liturgy itself, stewarding and 'behind the scenes'. It was made possible by so many working together, and everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated

Thank you: Going on from the note above, thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in both our Churches over these days. A lot of preparation is involved, much of it unseen. Again, everyone's effort and support are greatly appreciated.

Easter Ceremonies: Please see the 'Dates for your Diary' Box on the fourth page in bottom right for details of our Services. Please note the changes that take place in the regular pattern of services in this Easter Weekend. Please note especially that on Holy Saturday, 30th March there is **NO 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Michael's** that evening because of the Easter Vigil Mass at 8.00pm at St Michael's later that evening. Also on Easter Sunday, 31st March there will be **NO 5.00pm Evening Mass at St Joseph's**. Please note also on Easter Monday, 1st April the Mass at St Michael's is at 10.00am that morning and not 9.15am as usual

Clocks go forward this weekend: Please note that this weekend 30th/31st March the clocks go forward one hour on the Sunday morning, so we lose the hour. Please note this, as it will make the Masses on Easter Sunday morning feel earlier!

Offertory Envelopes: If you are still using Offertory envelopes they are now ready and labelled at the back of church to pick up. Please look for your name. **Please use your new envelopes from Weekend of 6/7th April.** Please DO NOT use your old envelopes after this date as it causes issues with the accounting system, Many thanks. If you no longer use offertory envelopes and there is a box for you please let the office know so we can reduce the cost of ordering boxes next year.

Parish Fundraising Event: Spring Sing at St Michael's & All Angels Church Saturday 13th April 7.30 Tickets £8 with competition-winning **Warrington Male Voice Choir** and guests **Wirral 3Ls Choir**. Members of St Joseph's Choir sing in both of these choirs. Please support our parish community and our Fund Raising events. Tickets at the back of Church after all weekday and weekend Masses, or to reserve tickets ring Parish Office tel number 0151-652-5767 weekdays 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Helping to Keep Our Churches Warm: Thank you to everyone who donated towards our heating bill. As a Parish we raised £744.15 which will make a big difference in easing our heating bills. Envelopes are at the back of Church and Gift Aid forms should anyone else wish to donate, Many thanks.

Team to help with Parish 'Health & Safety': As people who have helped us in the past with Health & Safety matters are understandably having to stand aside from these roles we are looking for a group of people who might be willing to help in this role across both our churches. If you feel this is an area you might be able to help with, do please contact the Parish Office.

Back by popular demand: St Joseph's Choir Parish Grand National Flutter! Have a flutter on the Grand National (Sat 13th April) without losing money to the Bookies! Grand National Draw. Buy a £2 ticket for a chance to draw a horse. List of runners and names drawn will be issued before the race. **BIG cash prizes.....** the more that play, the more we pay to winners and the Parish Fund! Tickets available after all Masses.

Grand Easter Raffle – Winners will be drawn this Saturday and will be notified. Anyone we don't have a contact number for will be in the newsletter next week. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets.

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

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Bryanston Rd, Burrell Close, Burrell Court, Cressington Ave, Crofton Rd, Cumberland Ave, Dingle Rd, Derby Rd & Dovedale Close.**

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Prayers for Brian MacDonald**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Immigration status change, Grant of Asylum**. Please write your intention out and place it with an offering (we suggest £5 to cover the cost of the candle) in an envelope marked "Marian Lamp". We ask Our Blessed Lady to carry these prayers to her Son and to intercede for us.

Further threat to the unborn of abortion up to birth:

In the next couple of weeks an attempt is to be made to widely decriminalise abortion up to the birth. This is a further assault on the sanctity of human life in our society. The *Right to Life* website has details under 'Take Action' which enables you to find and contact your MP directly and the website of the *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children* has helpful information under 'Resources.' The Right to Life website also has details of an alternative amendment by Caroline Ansell MP to reduce the legal limit for abortion from 24 to 22 weeks on the basis of the increased survival rates for babies being born at 22 and 23 weeks. We cannot doubt the impact which your e-mail or letter will have in making known opposition to decriminalizing abortion up to birth and in support of the value of every human life.

<https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

Job Vacancy for a school chaplain 3 days per week during term time at Upton Hall school. For more information:

<https://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk/page/?title=School+Chaplain+required&pid=1752>

St Michael's Old Presbytery: Work is restoring the Old Presbytery at St Michael's is coming to completion, but it will a short while yet until the building is ready for use again.

Foodbank: Thank you for your continued support of Wirral Foodbank over the years. Donations of long life items always welcome e.g. Tinned vegetables, fruit, meat, fish. Please leave your donations at the back Church, many thanks.

St Michael's Ladies' Group Lunch. A table has been booked for lunch at The Bassett Hound, Thingwall for 12.30 on Thursday 25th April. Names please to Sally Collins (07907122556) no later than 20th of April. All ladies welcome.

Parishioners who are Housebound If you know of anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at home, can you ask them or help them to contact our Parish Secretary Jane on 0151 652 5767 or admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

Every Penny Counts - our Bethlehem loose change collection has been rebranded to EVERY PENNY COUNTS. Please keep donating your loose change in the boxes provided. Our Bethlehem collection has raised £200.00 in the last three months, and about £700.00 in the last year. As our heating costs have more than doubled EVERY PENNY COUNTS and this money will help towards the costs, thank you.

St Michael's Church Cleaning: Next Thursday 4th April after 9.15am Mass. Many hands make light work! Any help greatly appreciated, Many thanks.

Old Spectacles: Please bring any old unused glasses and leave them at the back of church at St Joseph's. They will be taken to a charity who send them on to Africa, Many thanks.

Dates for your Diary 2024

Holy Saturday – 30 March

Blessing of Easter Food - 2.00pm St Joseph's

Easter Vigil Mass 8.00pm - St Michael's

NB No Saturday evening 6.00 Mass at St Michael's

Easter Sunday – 31 March

9.30am St Joseph's

11.00am St Michael's

NB No Sunday evening Mass at St Joseph's

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of

Mary Price who has died recently

May she rest in peace

in the arms of the Good Shepherd

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Ps 138: 18. 5-6	<i>I have risen: I am with you once more; you place your hand on me to keep me safe. How great is the depth of your wisdom, alleluia!</i>
Reading 1	Acts 10: 34. 37-43	<i>We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection.</i>
Psalm	117: 1-2. 16-17. 22-23 r. 24	<i>This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.</i>
Reading 2	Col 3: 1-4	<i>You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	1 Cor 5:7-8	<i>Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then in the Lord.</i>
Gospel	John 20: 1-9	<i>He must rise from the dead</i>
Communion Antiphon	1 Cor 5: 7-8	<i>Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia</i>

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Canon Niall Mullaley
 Assistant Priest: Father Samuel Thotamala
 Deacons: Reverends Gerard Boyle, Patrick Regan, Les Arch, Paul D'Ambrogio & John Birch
 In Residence: Father Febin Thomas CMI, Wirral Syro-Malabar Rite Chaplain
 Parish Sister: Sister Catherine Bibby FCJ

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
 Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 24th March £1259

Monthly Standing Orders: £1625

Development Society No: 24th March £50 410 Sheila Wilson

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 Catholic 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

THE PARISH CENTRE IS NOW OPEN
 0151 652 8487
 0345 241 2485
 bhj@ypcevents.com

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Woodchurch Road, Oxtan CH43 5UT
 Head Teacher: Mr Alex Turner
 0151 652 6781
 schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral/sch.uk

Saint Michael's Church Tour Video view on the website or the QR codes on the posters at Church