

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 28 April 2024

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	27	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's intention Adoration & Confession Confession Pat Campbell	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	28	Fifth Sunday of Easter	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	Parishioners Teresa Walker RIP Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	29	St Catherine of Siena		9.15am	Mathai (Mathew) RIP 40 days	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	30	Ferial		7.00pm	For Prayers Answered (Sacred Heart)	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	1	Ferial		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	2	St Athanasius		9.15am	Laurence Murphy RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	3	Ss Philip & James		9.15am	Matthew O'Connell	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	4	The English Martyrs		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's intention Adoration & Confession Confession The departed who have no one to pray for them	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	5	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Isobel Eeley RIP Thomas (Tommy) Moore Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Our First Reading today comes from the New Testament 'Acts of the Apostles' as is the custom during Eastertide. It shows how St Barnabas welcomed the new Christian convert, Saul of Tarsus, later to be known as 'St Paul' to the Christian Community. Saul had tried to destroy Christianity before he, himself, encountered the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. This encounter changed Saul forever, he embraced the faith he had tried to destroy. Some were suspicious of Saul, but Barnabas took it on himself to support Saul, and it was his perseverance that helped people see that Saul had changed, helping share his story of how he had encountered Jesus. Saul, writing under the Roman version of his name, 'Paulus', Paul, was to become one of the greatest saints in the Christian story, St Paul. It was possible through Barnabas' support. Paul was in the forefront, Barnabas took on a more supportive role. Sometimes people's role can be to support and enable others to perform their role; this Barnabas did for Paul. In today's Gospel Jesus uses the image of the vine, from which branches grow and spread from the main root, and in turn root and give rise to other branches. Jesus is teaching us that 'rooted' in him only can we grow and pass on the life we receive and bear the 'fruit' of our relationship with him. I thank God today for all the people who have been like St Barnabas to me, some I may never know! In thanking God I ask that I also may, in whatever way is given to me, be that 'St Barnabas' to others, and with them bear the fruit of the Gospel today

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

Newsletter Print: Our apologies if the Newsletter Print is a little 'faint' this week. A new part is needed for our printer which should be with us this coming week.

Cross Deanery Support: With some Clergy being off sick, and others not being available in our neighbouring Wallasey and West Wirral Deanery, Father Michael Coughlan from Holy Cross, Our Lady & St Paul Parish, and myself will be covering English Martyrs' Church over several weekends in May and June. Father Sam will cover our St Philip Neri Parish Masses. Again, this is a time when we help and support each other as a Wirral Catholic Community.

Pastoral Area Confirmation: Please pray for the young people of our Birkenhead Pastoral Area who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Friday in Our Lady's Church, with Bishop Mark. We pray that they will always know the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse: This coming Tuesday, 30th May, is a special Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse. If you can please pray this prayer of intercession on the day: *"For those who have come forward to speak about the abuse they have suffered, and for those who are not yet able to. May our response be rooted in the love of Christ and may we be a community in which they can continue to feel believed and safe as the search for truth and justice unfolds. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen"*.

The Annual Diocesan Mass for Marriage: This will take place on Saturday, June 8th, 12.noon at St Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If any parishioners are celebrating a special anniversary, such as 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or a 1st wedding anniversary, and would like to attend this Mass, please let our Parish Office know as soon as possible so that we can arrange an invitation to be sent to you.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: This is the formal term for those we know better as 'Eucharistic Ministers'. In the near future we are thinking it is now time to restore the option of receiving Holy Communion under both kinds. To help with this we would need to have some Eucharistic Ministers to assist. We will contact those we know about, but if anyone feels they might like to help with this role to speak to one of Clergy after Mass and we can then get arrangements made for meetings to prepare for this.

Healing and Anointing Service St John's New Ferry: Friday 3rd May at 7pm. Speaker Father Pat Collins, All welcome! Please see leaflet at back of Church.

Diocesan Director of Schools Post: With the retirement of our present Diocese of Shrewsbury Director of Schools this summer, the Diocese is seeking to recruit a new Director of Schools and applications are now open. Details of the role and the application process can be found at:

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730>

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Acrefield Court](#), [Acrefield Rd](#), [Bedford Dr](#), [Beech Rd](#), [Ben Nevis Rd](#) & [Bowness Ave](#).

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

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Our First Holy Communion Children**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Edward David Bevan RIP**. 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.

Fund Raising Team: Our Parish Fundraising Team is delighted to announce that the Easter Raffle, The Grand National Draw and the Spring Sing altogether raised just over £2,000 towards the needs of the parish. This will help the Parish offset large heating costs, contribute towards Church supplies like candles, Communion hosts etc, IT and stationery equipment and general maintenance. Many thanks to those of you who have given so generously and to those who have helped in any way to organise these events.

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.

Further threat to the unborn of abortion up to birth: This is still an urgent issue that needs our support, please see how you might be able to help by following this link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>

St Joseph's Ladies Group: Next Wednesday 1st May at 7.30pm at St Joseph's Club. A talk from Heart for Refugees. All welcome!

St Joseph's Cleaning: Next Thursday 2nd May from 9.30am onwards. Many hands make light work. All help greatly appreciated.

St Michael's Church Cleaning: Next Thursday 2nd May after 9.15am Mass, Many hands make light work. All help greatly appreciated.

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.

Year of Prayer 2024 Come and join our online webinar with Sycamore. Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a 'Year of Prayer', as a preparatory year for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to get the most out of the prayer pathway on Sycamore! **On Wednesday 15th May 7pm-8pm.** Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join:
Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org.

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

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.

DO JUSTICE is an invitation to parishes to become a more synodal & missionary Church, a Church that adores God & serves the men & women of our time, going forth to bring everyone the consoling joy of the Gospel. The sessions will run on Monday evenings, beginning Monday 29th April, at 7pm in Our Lady's church, Birkenhead. Each sessions begins with a short time of prayer.

Parish Secretary Vacancy: A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Secretary at the parish of St Anne's, Rock Ferry. **Hours:** 15 per week, to be spread over Monday to Friday mornings (flexible). **hourly rate:** £12.50 to £13.50 depending on experience. For further details please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Applications in the form of a CV and covering letter should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date:** 17 May 2024.

Encounter: With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including an online session on 4 May to learn more.



Welcome to Lily Gilbert & Ivy Gledhill who were baptised in the Parish last weekend.

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of
All those who have died recently
May they rest in peace
in the arms of the Good Shepherd

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf. Psalm 97:1-2	<i>O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders on the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia</i>
Reading 1	Acts 9:26-31	<i>Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.</i>
Psalm	Ps 21:26-28, 30-32 r. 26	<i>You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.</i>
Reading 2	1 John 3:18-24	<i>His commandments are these: that we believe in his Son and that we love one another.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 15:4-5	<i>Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.</i>
Gospel	John 15:1-8	<i>Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. John 15:1.5	<i>I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,, 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: 21st April £987.67

Monthly Standing Orders: £1625

Development Society No: 21st April £50 222 M Hyland

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, Oxton 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