

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 12 May 2024**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	11	Ferial		10.00am 12.00pm 5.15pm 6.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass First Holy Communion Mass Confession Graham Walker recovery of treatment	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week III</b>			
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	Catherine Sibert RIP Janette Woolrich birthday remembrance Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	13	Ferial		9.15am	Sam Pickering	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	14	St Matthias		7.00pm	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	15	Ferial		9.15am	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	16	Ferial		9.15am	Christobel & Olisaemeka lwoba	Saint Michael's
Friday	17	Ferial		9.15am	Philomena McLean	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	18	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 10.30am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Margaret Duncan birthday Anniv RIP Adoration & Confession First Holy Communion Mass Confession Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>Week III</b>			
During Ordinary Time (Summer) ie up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe, Human Life; Seafarers				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Moglione Family Kate and Andy Davies 20 <sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary Patti Rixon RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This Seventh Sunday of Easter, falling between the Ascension and Pentecost, has a feel of moving the focus of the Risen Jesus in just one body, to his presence in the lives of all his people through the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of St John today, from what is known as Jesus' priestly prayer; he prays for his followers, that all the Father gives to Jesus, might be alive in them, and that by their lives, the life of God that was made present in Jesus, may be present in them. He prays that they be 'One Body'. The 'Body of Christ' is not just one person, but by the Gift of the Holy Spirit, we are the 'Body of Christ' in the here and now. We come to the Sacraments so that the life of Jesus may be strengthened in us, and that we may believe that we can be his living presence. In our world of today, with the concerns of divisions, conflict, climate change and the growing gap between rich and poor, nations thinking only of their own interests, that loving, caring presence of Jesus is needed more than ever. This time, amid all the concerns, uplifts us, and reminds us that every one of us, whoever, or whatever, our situation can allow that presence of Jesus to be real, alive and present in our lives, and that as the 'Body of Christ' show that care of God in our world

### *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**

**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, including this weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May. 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.

**CAFOD Sudan Humanitarian Crisis Appeal:** With all the conflict and divisions across our world, sadly information about humanitarian crisis do not always reach the news at the moment. At the moment there is a terrible famine in Sudan and many are suffering. The Bishops have asked our help. To find out more and give directly please go to: [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) We will also hold a retiring collection for this appeal on the weekend of Pentecost 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May

**Upcoming First Holy Communion Masses:** We have several First Holy Communion Celebrations coming up:

◆ **This Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am & 12.noon at St Joseph's**  
– no 10.30am Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions that day

◆ **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am at St Michael's** –10.30am Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions at St Joseph's will still take place that day

**The Annual Diocesan Mass for Marriage:** This will take place on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 12.noon at St Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If any parishioners are celebrating a special anniversary, such as 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, or a 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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. Closing Date, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Details of the role and the application process can be found at:  
<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730>

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

**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.

**FCJ 1000 Pledges For The Earth:** We aim to collect **1000+ pledges** of action that people will take in caring for our common homes (small or large). The initiative is designed around Laudate Deum paragraphs #70, and #71. which assures us that the significance of small actions in shaping cultural change. People are invited to do any small or large additional thing, pray, plant a flower, buy a bamboo toothbrush, use less plastic, etc etc. Take a card from the back of church. You can also make your pledge online using the following link <https://bit.ly/FCJ1000Pledges>

In the words Pope Francis from Laudate Deum:-

**#70.** Every little bit helps, and avoiding an increase of a tenth of a degree in the global temperature would already suffice to alleviate some suffering for many people..

**#71.** Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture. The mere fact that personal, family and community habits are changing is contributing to greater concern about the unfulfilled responsibilities of the political sectors and indignation at the lack of interest shown by the powerful

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Acuba Grove, Adelaide Rd, Agnes Rd, Albany Rd, Albert Rd & Ash Rd.**

**Volunteers for St Joseph's Church Grounds:** We are looking for volunteers to help clear St Joseph's Church grounds on Thursday 23 May from 10am onwards. Any help greatly appreciated, thank you.

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Peace in the Holy Land**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **All Young people starting their GCSE and A Level exams**. 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.

**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.

**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 across the next two Monday evenings, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May, at 7pm in Our Lady's, Birkenhead. Each of the sessions will begin with a short time of prayer. The sessions will use the Synodal Method established by Pope Francis.

**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.

**Changes to the Abortion Law and the threat of abortion up to birth:**

Members of Parliament will be voting possibly on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, or another date not too far off, on two amendments to reduce the limit of abortion time from 24 to 22 weeks, and another amendment to reduce the abortion time limit for babies with Down's syndrome to the same as other babies. At present abortion for Down's syndrome babies is up to birth. Also MP's will have the opportunity to vote on two amendments that will generally give the right to abortion up to birth. It is an urgent issue that needs our support 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 Michael's Church Cleaning:** After 9.15am Mass next Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Many hands make light work, Any help greatly appreciated.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> May 7pm-8pm.** Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join: [Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto: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](mailto:admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk)

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information



**A Day for Confirmation Catechists:** You are invited to a day with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and Bishop Mark Davies for confirmation catechists and all those interested. It is a day exploring the Sacrament of Confirmation, best practice and an opportunity to network with catechists from across the diocese. The Mission for Catechesis Team and the Diocesan Youth Team will in attendance to offer their support on the day. Join us on **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm** at St Mary's Parish. Centre, 65 Delamere St, Crewe, CW1 2JX. To find out more contact Natalie Orefice on 07730 526826 or [natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-for-catechists-in-the-diocese-of-shrewsbury-tickets-851383700567>

Welcome to Noah Thompson who was baptised in our Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of  
**Roseline Whelan**  
who has died recently  
May she rest in peace  
in the arms of the Good Shepherd

# Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Psalm 26:7-9	<i>O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26	<i>We must choose one of these to be a witness to his resurrection with us.</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 102:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 r.19	<i>The Lord has set his sway in heaven. or Alleluia!</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	1 John 4:11-16	<i>Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	John 14:18	<i>I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	John 17:11-19	<i>That they may be one like us!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	John 17:22	<i>Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, 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



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www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk



@stsjoeandmike



StMaAAandStJosephs



stphilipneribirkenhead

Live Stream: [www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch](http://www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch)

Parish YouTube Channel: via [www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk](http://www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk)

**Income:** Thank you for your generosity.

*Offertory Collection:* 5<sup>th</sup> May £615.27

Monthly Standing Orders: £1625

*Development Society No:* 5<sup>th</sup> May £50 148 SVP Frederick

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](http://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, Oxtton 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