

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 5 May 2024

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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			
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	Isobel Eeley RIP Thomas (Tommy) Moore Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	6	Ferial		10.00am	St Michael pray for my family	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	7	Ferial		7.00pm	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	8	Ferial		9.15am	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	9	The Ascension of the Lord <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>		9.15am 7.00pm	Pat, Joe & Brendan Fortune Parishioners	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Friday	10	Ferial		9.15am	William Maguire birthday	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	11	Ferial		10.00am 12.noon 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
Sunday	12	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Week III			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Catherine Sibert RIP Janette Woolrich birthday remembrance Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. In the edited version of our First Reading from the New Testament 'Acts of the Apostles, St Peter in his meeting with the Roman Centurion (Captain), Cornelius and his household, who though not of the Jewish faith, had experienced the gift of living faith in Jesus, St Peter has to remove his 'blinkers' that limit his vision of God, and see with God's vision and then encourages others to share this vision. Both the Second Reading and Gospel are on the theme of 'God is Love'. That seems a nice, almost obvious thing to say in a church setting! But when we stop to think and reflect, it is truly awesome! We take the cue from the line in the Gospel: "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." God's love, value and worth for each of us was not just an idea 'out there' somewhere; it became a person in Jesus. It shows that God sees each of us, and longs for us to be free and flourish to be those people we have been created to be. We see in our world today, people divided, put into 'this' or 'that' category, often by those who seek to promote their own agendas and ends. As we come together in the Eucharist and in prayer, it constantly calls us to remove any 'blinkers' that limit our vision of God, and then seeing more clearly in God's way, we also can help make Jesus' message not just an idea 'out there' but a real and living message, as today's Gospel says: "What I command you is to love one another"

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

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, 9th

May coming: This coming Thursday, 9th May, is Ascension Thursday, and is a Holyday of Obligation for those who have the health, means and ability to attend. There are two public Masses in our Parish that Day, 9.15am at St Michael's and 7.00pm at St Joseph's

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 next weekend of 11th and 12th 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 We will also hold a retiring collection for this appeal on the weekend of Pentecost 18th and 19th May

Mass this Bank Holiday Monday: Please note that this coming Monday, 6th May, is a Bank Holiday, and so the Mass at St Michael's is at 10.00am that morning and not 9.15am as usual

Upcoming First Holy Communion Masses: We have several First Holy Communion Celebrations coming up:
♦ **Saturday, 11^h May 10.00am & 12.noon at St Joseph's**
– no 10.30am Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions that day
♦ **Saturday, 18th 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 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.

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.

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.

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: Allcot Ave, Allerton Grove, Allerton Rd, Aspendale Rd, Astonwood Rd, Baytree Rd, Bebington Rd & The Beeches

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 **Mary McGuire (A much loved Aunty) birthday remembrance**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Valerie Malam**. 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.

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 on Wednesday, 15th May 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. Please see how you might be able to help by following this link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>

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

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.

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 three Monday evenings, 6th 13th & 20th 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.

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.



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 18th, 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 or sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-for-catechists-in-the-diocese-of-shrewsbury-tickets-851383700567>

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. Isaiah 48:20	<i>Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia</i>
Reading 1	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48	<i>The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the pagans too.</i>
Psalm	Ps 97:1-4 r. 2	<i>The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.</i>
Reading 2	1 John 4:7-10	<i>God is love.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 14:23	<i>Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.</i>
Gospel	John 15:9-17	<i>A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends</i>
Communion Antiphon	John 14:15-16	<i>If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, 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:

 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: 28th April £1039.40

Monthly Standing Orders: £1625

Development Society No: 28th April £50 433 Gerard Boyle

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, 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