

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 1 December 2024

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	30	St Andrew		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Ronnie Connors RIP Adoration & Confessions Confession Holy Souls	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	1	First Sunday of Advent	Week I			
During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Richard Gray RIP Anne McManus birthday remembrance Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	2	Ferial		9.15am	Sam Pickering RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	3	St Francis Xavier		7.00pm	Sister Breda RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	4	Ferial		9.15am	Brigid Hanrahan	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	5	Ferial		9.15am 11.30am	Lawrence Richard Gomez Funeral Service for Fran Brown	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Friday	6	Ferial		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	7	St Ambrose		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Barney & Lucy McCartan RIP Adoration & Confessions Confession Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	8	Second Sunday of Advent	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Fr Frank Rice RIP ordained 70 years Ken Ward RIP Fran Brown RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend we begin a new Church Year with the First Sunday of Advent in Year C of the Sunday Cycle of Readings, and indeed with a New Lectionary using a different translation of the scriptures, from the English Standard Version, Catholic Edition (ESV-CE). Advent is two periods; the first part up to the 17th December focuses on the many ways God comes to us each day through Word and Sacrament, in each other and in the different circumstances we are in. This opens the way for Christ's coming to culminate time. From the 17th December we focus on recalling the first coming of Christ as the Baby of Bethlehem. This time is an opportunity to renew our 'awareness'. The theme of this Sunday is 'stay awake and alert' to God's presence. As we enter into this time let us seek to be a little more aware and allow God's presence to come anew through, and in, us

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

A BIG THANK -YOU: As you read this I will already be in my new home. After 43 years in this parish and now St Michael's a big part of my heart has been left here. It has been a privilege to be among you all and share in the ups and downs, laughter and tears of your lives. It has been so humbling for me to have met so many inspirational people among you. You have given me so much in the living of my ups and downs as well. As I said on Sunday there is always someone to turn to, whether for spiritual or practical help/advice, in this parish. You do support each other and that's what it's all about! It saddens me that my leaving is a break in the link of the FCJ's with this parish for well over 100 years. Many FCJ's have assisted and worshipped here. So many of you also were educated with the FCJ's at St. Lawrences, Holt Hill, The Manor, and Upton Hall and met us on many occasions. I assure you all that you are still part of the FCJ family and included in our prayers. Thank you so much for the wonderful Mass last Sunday and for your gifts and cards. I feel very humble. With a heavy heart I say "AU REVOIR", NOT Good -bye. From an Irish Blessing --- **"Until we meet again may God hold us in the palm of His Hand."**

I hope I will be back at times----I'm just braving driving on the M62 to Salford! Good bye and God Bless-
Sr Catherine FCJ.

Father Samuel Thotamala: During this coming week Bishop Mark has asked Father Samuel (Sam) Thotamala to move from here to take care of Holy Apostles & Martyrs' Parish in Wallasey whilst Canon Phil Moor continues his convalescence. Our thanks, appreciation and prayers go with Father Sam as he moves on to this new role.

Welcome to Father Sleevappa Medikonda & Father Malachy Ogbede: Bishop Mark has asked Father Sleevappa Medikonda and Father Malachy Ogbede to come and reside here at St Joseph's Presbytery to assist in our parish and to help cover the wider area mission. Father Sleevappa is from the Diocese of Khammam in India, where Father Sam is from, and is also a relative of Father Sam! Father Sleevappa has been with Canon Chris in our Cathedral in Shrewsbury. Father Malachy is newly arrived from the Diocese of Ahiara in Nigeria, the same Diocese where Father Humphrey Agbim is from. Both will join us in the coming week.

We are sorry we were not able to give you more advanced notice of these changes! We were aware that some possible changes were 'down the line' so to speak, but none of us expected it would all take place within a week! Things happen that way sometime. Do please keep all involved in your prayers. Thank you.

Mr Michael Coughlan Snr. RIP: Please continue to keep Father Michael Coughlan's father, Mr Michael Coughlan Snr. in your prayers as his Funeral takes place this coming week in Sale.

St Joseph's Ladies Group: Reminder the meal at the Caernarvon Castle is this Thursday 5th December

Confirmation: Any young person who is in Year 8 or above at school and wishes to enrol in this year's Confirmation programme please get an information flyer from the back of church. The first session for this year's confirmation programme is Thursday 21st November at 7pm in Our Lady's.

St Michael's Site Update: The Livestream and Internet at St Michael's are sadly still down, and work still needs finishing at the Old Presbytery. These have been very difficult problems to overcome, and we are getting help in trying to sort them. We will let you know any progress as it happens, and we are so sorry this is taking so long.

Children's Liturgy at St Joseph's and St Michael': We have not been able to reintroduce this as quickly as we would have wished, but it is still a work in progress!

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Cheviot Close, Cheviot Rd, Cleehill Rd, Fountain St, Frodsham St, Gayton Ave & Glover St.**

Christmas Activity: For the Young and Not So Young! Gingerbread and cookie decorating on Saturday 7th December at 2pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre. £3 per person. Please put your name on the list at the back of Church.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Larry Sullivan birthday remembrance.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **intentions of Bridget Cruise.** 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.

Thank you to St Joseph's School who have been collecting coins for our Every penny Counts towards Parish funds and have raised a fantastic £129.63.

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

First Holy Communion Preparation: For those whose Children are not in one of our Catholic Primary Schools and wish to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion please contact the office with your details. The programme for Year three onward will start in January.

St Joseph's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 5th December from 9.30am onwards. Any help greatly appreciated, thank you

St Michael's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 5th December after the 9.15am Mass. Any help greatly appreciated, thank you.

Charity Christmas Cards St Joseph's: The cards we ordered to offer for sale in church have all been sold. If you want to buy cards which show the message of the Christian Christmas Story, are fairly traded and support charities go on line to ETHICALSUPERSTORE.com

St Michael's Piety Stall - Christmas cards are now available in the Piety, we also have a new selection of Birthday cards, Baptism cards and Rosary Beds.

You are invited to a series of talks in Advent to coincide with the launch of the New Lectionary at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels, Hale Barnes, Altrincham, WA15 0HG. At **7pm on Wednesday 4th December** we are delighted to welcome Fr Paul Denney who is a priest of the Diocese of Motherwell, Scotland. He has a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He has recently served on the editorial board for the new lectionary as the delegate of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. He will speak to us about the new translation of the Lectionary that we will be using at Mass. On **Wednesday 11th December** Fr Marco Egawhary a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, he completed further studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. His talk will be on why it is important to pray with the scriptures and how to pray with them. **Wednesday 18th December** Fr David Irwin priest of the Diocese of Shrewsbury and Natalie Orefice, Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis for the Diocese of Shrewsbury will present Dei Verbum on Divine Revelation from the Second Vatican Council. After each talk we will go into the parish church for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Compline. All are welcome to attend.** For further information please contact Natalie Orefice by email Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or phone 07730526826.

CAFOD school volunteers needed! Could you visit your local Catholic school to **talk about the work of CAFOD**? We are looking for **volunteers** in the Shrewsbury Diocese to deliver school assemblies and workshops to inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. For further information please contact Anna on **07710 094449** or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

Advent 2024: As we prepare to celebrate Christmas we remember those in our society who this Christmas will be in need. We are inviting you over the four Sundays of Advent to bring an item to be donated to the SVP society and Refugee support. Each Sunday we ask if you are able to bring to the crib these items:

2nd Sunday of Advent 8/12/24 – Men's socks and underwear (New)

3rd Sunday in Advent 15/12/24 – 'Two Coat Sunday' if you have a spare coat to donate

4th Sunday in Advent 23/12/24 – Nappies and baby wipes
Thank you for your support. Whatever you can donate will make a difference to our brothers.

Fundraising Events:

Tickets for the Christmas raffle are available at the back of the two churches. Donations for the raffle (Spirits, wine, chocolates etc.) and bottles for the bottle stall can be left at the back of church. Please be generous.

WUTH NHS Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals CAROL SERVICE

**St Michael and All Angels' Church 15th December
2.00 p.m.**

With music led by St Joseph's Choir and Wirral 3Ls Choir

The parish of St Philip Neri is delighted to be hosting this year's CAROL SERVICE to which all members of both the hospitals' community and our parish community are welcome. We know many of our parish community will want to attend this service. To help us to estimate numbers of parishioners hoping to attend due to restrictions on numbers please collect a **free ticket from the back of church**. A retiring collection will be taken for the Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals Charity.



Dates for your diary



WUTH NHS Trust Carol Service – Sunday 15th December 2pm (All welcome by collecting a free ticket after Mass)

Christmas Services:

Tuesday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

5.30pm Vigil Mass for Christmas at St Michael's
10.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas at St Joseph's

Wednesday, 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Mass St Joseph's
11.00am Mass St Michael's

Please Pray for the Repose of the Souls of Michael Coughlan senior, Fran Brown, Christine McLoughlin and Caroline Burley who have died recently.

**May they rest in peace,
in the arms of the Good Shepherd**

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf. Psalm 24:1-3	<i>To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame</i>
Reading 1	Jer 33:14-16	<i>I will make a virtuous branch grow for David.</i>
Psalm	Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14	<i>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul</i>
Reading 2	1 Thess 3:12—4:2	<i>May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Ps 84:8	<i>Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and show us your saving help</i>
Gospel	Luke 21:25-28, 34-36	<i>Your liberation is near at hand.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Psalm 84:13	<i>The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase</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

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 November £669.74

Monthly Standing Orders: £1622

Development Society No: 24th November £50 542 Andy Holmes

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