

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 8 December 2024**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Week II</b>			
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	Fr Frank Rice RIP ordained 70 years Ken Ward RIP Fran Brown RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		9.15am	Holy Souls	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	10	Ferial		7.00pm	Doreen Pownall	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	11	Ferial		9.15am 1.00pm	Peter & Pam Heygarth RIP Funeral Mass for Christine McLoughlin	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Thursday	12	Ferial		9.15am 11.00am	Bridget Cruise Anniversary RIP Funeral Service for Caroline Burley	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Friday	13	St Lucy		9.15am	Michael Windsor RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	14	St John of the Cross		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Fran Brown RIP Adoration & Confessions Confession Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Week III</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Welfare of Davenport Family Anne McManus RIP Barney & Mary Connors RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. On this Second Sunday of Advent we always have the image of John the Baptist and the message to 'Prepare in the Wilderness a way for the coming of our God'. 'The Wilderness' in 'Bible Speak' is a place that symbolises desertion, desolation, danger, neediness; a place of dryness and emptiness, where people there would need help and support to survive. In Jesus' time the Wilderness would be a place for outcasts or those on the edge of society. There is a 'joy' in today's message that the wilderness is where God is going to come to make a new way; not where everything is perceived to be ordered, neat and under people's control, but where there is most need, where those who are in most need of help is where God promises to build the new way. Perhaps when the world around us may seem disordered and desolate it is here where God reminds us once again that he wishes to come anew, transform and make a new way. In all the 'wildernesses' that have surrounded us recently there has been real hope in the generous, selfless acts of so many. Today the Baptist's words are not just a nice idea, but something real and living that we can all share in making a living reality

*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**

**Welcome to Father Sleeveppa Medikonda & Father Malachy Ogbede:**

As we mentioned last week, Bishop Mark has asked Father Sleeveppa (Sleeva) 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 Sleeveppa is from the Diocese of Khammam in India, where Father Sam is from, and is also a relative of Father Sam! Father Sleeveppa 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 Father Sleeveppa and Father Malachy joined us last week and we extend them both a very warm welcome.

**Farewell to Father Samuel Thotamala:** During the last week Father Samuel (Sam) Thotamala moved from here to take care of Holy Apostles & Martyrs' Parish in Wallasey whilst Canon Phil Moor continues his convalescence. Father Sam has been such a great support and encouragement to us all in this parish and wider community, and his joy of faith, care, compassion and humanity have touched the hearts of us all. Our thanks, appreciation and prayers go with Father Sam as he moves on to this new role; thankfully he is not too far away!

As I said last 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! With Sister Catherine moving on a couple or so weeks back, we have had a lot of changes lately! Things happen that way sometime. Do please keep all involved in your prayers as we move into this time of new beginnings. Thank you.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7pm in Our Lady's.

**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)

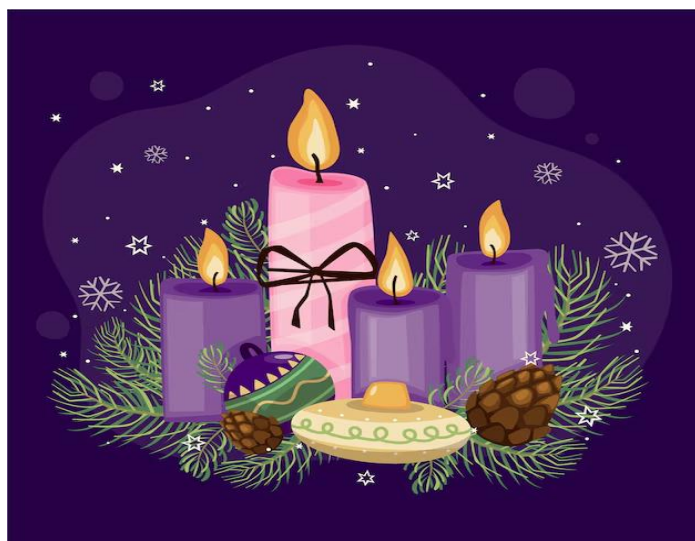
**St Michael's Site Update:** We are sorry to say that the Livestream and Internet at St Michael's are sadly still down, and work still needs finishing at the Old Presbytery. These have been very difficult problems to overcome, and we are getting help in trying to sort them. We will let you know any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

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Cambridge Rd, Carlaw Rd, Cecil Rd, Elm Rd, Everest Rd, Fairview Rd & Fieldway.**

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Neil & Family.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Deceased Members of St Michael's Ladies' Group.** 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.

**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.



**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](http://ETHICALSUPERSTORE.com)

**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. On **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent 15/12/24 – ‘Two Coat Sunday’ if you have a spare coat to donate**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2pm (All welcome by collecting a free ticket after Mass)**

#### **Christmas Services:**

##### **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

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

##### **Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

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

**Please Pray for the Repose of the Souls of Christine McLoughlin and Caroline Burley who have died recently.**

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

# Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Isaiah 30:19. 30	<i>O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Bar 5:1-9	<i>God means to show your splendour to every nation.</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 125:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6	<i>What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Phil 1:4-6, 8-11	<i>Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Luke 3: 4, 6	<i>Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 3:1-6	<i>All mankind shall see the salvation of God.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Baruch 5:5; 4.36	<i>Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God</i>

## Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Canon Niall Mullaley  
Assistant Priest: Father Sleevappa Medikonda  
Assistant Priest: Father Malachy Ogbede  
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](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:* 1<sup>st</sup> December £1292.03

Monthly Standing Orders: £1622

*Development Society No:* 1<sup>st</sup> December £50 124 Carolyn Caldicott

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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