

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 12 January 2025**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	11	Saturday after Epiphany		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Andrew Murphy (Ann RIP) Adoration & Confessions Confession Eileen Bevan	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>Week I</b>	<b>Christmastide</b>		
During Ordinary Time (Winter) and up to Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Neil Marsden RIP Norma Smith RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	13	Ferial		9.15am	Arathoon Family intention	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	14	Ferial		7.00pm	Jose Ramon Abreu Anniversary RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	15	Ferial		9.15am	Henry Cullen RIP (A beloved brother)	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	16	Ferial		9.15am	Forshaw Family intention	Saint Michael's
Friday	17	St Anthony		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	18	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	George Dodd Adoration & Confessions Confession Trevor Beckett intention	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Week II</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Gordon McGuinness intention Kate & Tom Cash & family	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Last week we celebrated the Epiphany; the word 'Epiphany', as we said, means to 'show forth', to allow something to be understood and seen for what it truly is. In the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, brought by the Wise Men, the child Jesus is recognised as the King of Kings, God with us, who will die for us. Today's Feast, the Baptism of the Lord, is the last Feast of the Christmas Season. It is as if we have 'fast-forwarded' thirty years to the adult Jesus coming to the River Jordan to be baptised. Jesus did not need baptism, but by doing so once again 'shows forth' what he is about. He does not look down from the bank at the sinners struggling in the water, but literally 'plunges in' with them, and becomes 'one with them'; 'Emmanuel' 'God-with-us' and this is recognised as God's plan in the voice from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased". This gives us heart as we move forward in our journey, that whatever challenges come our way, our God is not standing 'on the bank' looking down at us struggling, but 'plunges in with us', and as one with us, leads us forward

### *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**

**Crib Offerings:** As we move into the New Year the Christmas Decorations in our Churches have been taken down, and thanks to all who prepared them, and saw to their being taken down. The Cribs, in accordance with tradition, will stay in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in early February. There are still baskets by the Cribs in both our Churches for the Annual 'Crib Offerings' which go to 'Caritas, Diocese of Shrewsbury' the name for the group that now incorporates what was the 'Catholic Children's Society'. 'Caritas' seeks to bring support to the most vulnerable families and peoples in the community, so do please support them as you are able.



**Acolyte William Muh Ngong:** It is good to have Acolyte William Muh Ngong, with us for a little while longer whilst he is on his January placement.

**Mass Intentions:** We are currently short of Mass intentions. If you would like a Mass intention please write who your intention is for, which Church you would like it saying at and place your donation in an envelope, many thanks.

**Cross Deanery Support:** As we said last week, before Father Sam moved away we had arranged for him to take the month of January as a holiday. To help keep this in place for him, several local Clergy from ours, and the neighbouring deanery are covering English Martyrs Church, Wallasey. Thankfully, due to having Father Sleeva and Father

Malachy with us we are able to help offer support at this time.

**Thank you:** Thanks again to you all from Father Sleeva, Father Malachy, William and myself for all the prayers, gifts, cards and greetings that we received over this Christmas time; it is so greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the cards and messages for Father Sam that we have been able to pass on to him. Thank you also to those who worked so hard to prepare our Churches and Celebrations for Christmas. As was the case last year, in all this I saw a real 'Joy' among people in this preparation. It gives true hope as we seek to move forward.

**Livestream and DONA Station at St Michael's**

**Update:** Last week I was very optimistic that we would have the internet back at St Michael's Church for us to offer the Livestream and Contactless DONA Donations Tablet once again. I was being too optimistic! The internet was back up for 24 hours and then went back down again. The Service Provider has said that this will now be into the week after next before the engineers come again. Our apologies again that this is taking so long. We have made several complaints and our Diocesan Offices are now helping us to get a resolution. Sadly it is not a matter of ringing or emailing an individual, it goes through a call centre and has been very frustrating to us all. We will keep you posted.

**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 and Reconciliation between the peoples of our World**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Sean Boyle**. 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.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Berkeley Ave, Borough Rd, Boswell Rd, Carlton Rd, Charlecombe Street, Chestnut Grove & Church Mews.**

**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 Joseph's Cleaning:** Will restart Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30am onwards. Many hands make light work. Any help greatly appreciated, thank you.

**St Michael's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January after 9.15am Mass. Any help greatly appreciated, thank you.

**St Joseph's Flower rota:** The new rota is on whatsapp, thank you.

**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)

**St Michael's Piety Stall** – A range of birthday cards, Baptism cards etc, Rosary Beads and other items are available to purchase at the back of Church.

**God Speaks: Hearing God's voice for others led by Jordan Kelly:** Music led by Joe Wells of One Hope Project, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 10.30am – 3.30pm, St Edwards's Church, Runcorn. WA7 5NZ (Lunch will be provided) please register by emailing:-  
[alphamkruncorn@gmail.com](mailto:alphamkruncorn@gmail.com)

**Foodbank:** Please remember there is a continuing need for food. Please leave your donations at the back Church, many thanks.

**Marriage Preparation** For couples contemplating marriage in the near future in a catholic church we are offering a marriage preparation course at St Joseph's Presbytery on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Please contact the parish office if you would like to take part in this session.

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development:** 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? How can I get involved? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more in this lively start to the Jubilee. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. **Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online.** Register here for free:  
[cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

**Thank you for your kind donations during Advent.** It was a fantastic response and the donations of warm coats, nappies, baby wipes, socks, underwear and toiletries were distributed between the SVP, Vincent Centre in Birkenhead and hearts for refugees. These items were passed on to families in our community and to refugees and asylum seekers who needed help. Both organisations were so grateful for the kindness and support of our parishioners, especially as we know how Budgets are stretched at this time of year. Once again, thank you for your continued support for those in our community who are in need. God bless.



Welcome to Diego Sola Garcia who was baptised in the Parish last weekend

**Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Hugh Thomas Boyle and Margaret Pegg who have died recently.**

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

# Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Matthew 3:16-17	<i>After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Isa 40:1-5, 9-11	<i>The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30 4. 1	<i>Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	<i>He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Luke 3:16	<i>He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 3:15-16, 21-22	<i>When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	John 1:32.34	<i>Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of 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:* 5<sup>th</sup> January £458.16

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

*Development Society No:* 5<sup>th</sup> January £50 226 Geoff Bevan

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, 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