

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 2 February 2025**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	1	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Betty Anyon RIP Adoration & Confessions Confession Prayers answered	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>	<b>Week IV</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	Rob Creer RIP Parishioners Victims of the fires in LA	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	3	St Werburgh		9.15am	Aleena George	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	4	Ferial		7.00pm	John McCaffrey	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	5	St Agatha		9.15am	Parishioners who are troubled by family worries	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	6	St Paul Miki & Companions		9.15am	In thanksgiving	Saint Michael's
Friday	7	Ferial		9.15am	Benjamin O'Connell	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	8	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Ronnie Connors RIP Adoration & Confessions Confession Beatrice McParland RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Week I</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Kevin Maughan & Family Parishioners Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. On this Sunday the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord falls, and as a Feast of the Lord, displaces the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This Feast recalls the bringing of the Child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem for the rite of the redemption of the first born male child, around 30 days or so after the child's birth. In this scene from St Luke's Gospel, when Jesus was brought into the Temple, the old man, Simeon, recognises the 'anointed one' (the Christ) the 'messiah' whom he was promised to see before his death. Simeon then proclaims his prayer: "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." This same prayer is recited each night in the Church's Night Prayer, and is called the 'Nunc Dimittis'. In the first reading from the Old Testament Prophet Malachi, there is the promise that "the Lord you seek will suddenly come to his Temple". This is seen fulfilled in the Presentation of Jesus. Simeon promises that Jesus will be a 'light to the nations', to all nations. The 'light' of God's Way became flesh in Jesus, and revealed the 'Way' among us. In a time in our world which seems beset by so much 'darkness', we can take heart that the light of God's Way is with us still, a light of peace, mercy, love, compassion, hope and tenderness; the light of God's value and worth for us all. That Light does shine, even in the darkest of situations, and if we believe that it is part us, it can shine through us and overcome all darkness

*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**



**The Holy 'Jubilee' Year:** We have been speaking for some time about the 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year' 2025. A 'Jubilee Year' is a special time when the whole celebrates and seeks to proclaim the mercy and compassion of ~God, and seek anew in our lives to make that message real and present. For more information please go to our Diocesan Website: [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

On the welcome page, scroll down to the bottom, and on the left of the picture of Pope Francis you will see links to further information

**Retired Priests' Fund:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Retired Priests' collection last weekend. As a parish we raised £300.86 which has been sent to the diocese, Many thanks.

**Crib Offerings:** As we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord this weekend, this weekend is the last one when the Cribs in both our Churches will remain in place. This is also the last chance to make any 'Crib Offerings' 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:** On Saturday we said 'farewell' for the time being to Acolyte William Muh Ngong as he returns to Oscott College to continue his studies for the priesthood. We should see him again in a few weeks when he returns here during College Holidays.

**Livestream and DONA Station at St Michael's Update:** We are gradually making some progress and are working toward a full resolution of these problems.

**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.

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Bernadette Connors recovery from illness.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Intentions of Mary Dooley.** 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: **Allcot Ave, Allerton Grove, Allerton Rd, Aspendale Rd, Astonwood Rd, Baytree Rd, Bebington Rd & The Beeches**

**First Holy Communion:** The children of the parish have now enrolled on their program of preparation for their First Forgiveness and Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers as they grow in their love for the Lord. Help and encourage them whenever you see them and pray also for their parents and teachers as examples of faith for them.

**Canon John Perryman RIP:** Please pray for Canon John Perryman, a retired Anglican Priest, who died peacefully last week in the South of England, with his family in attendance. During the mid-part of the 1990's I (Canon Niall) was Chaplain in Wythenshawe Hospital in the South Manchester part of our Diocese. John was the Chaplaincy 'Manager' of our Ecumenical Team which worked with other Hospitals across the area. Under his gentle, wise and supportive leadership he helped us all from the different faith backgrounds, whilst respectful of our own traditions, to work together in service of the patients, families and staff of the Hospital Community. I remember him as a very kindly and supportive friend who helped and guided me through times of change and challenge. May he know the joy and peace of God's presence.

**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)

**Flower donation money:** If you would like to make a donation towards flowers please put the money into an envelope marked flower donation and either hand to Gill Gaunt or write Gill Gaunt's name (for St Michael's) or Liz Brookes (for St Joseph's), 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. The next preparation session will not be until the end of September

**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 Joseph's Ladies Group resuming:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February , 7.30pm at the parish Centre.

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

**An exciting opportunity has arisen within the Diocese with the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team.** Further details can be found on the Diocesan website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

Completed applications to be sent to Pauline McCulloch [recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org). Closing date 21 February 2025.

**A date for your diary:** On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm at St Michael and All Angels the Warrington Male Voice Choir will be presenting a Night at the Musicals. This concert will raise funds for our Parish community. You may remember that they performed last year for us. Tickets will be available as from next week. Please do buy a ticket to support our parish. We can guarantee you a wonderful evening of songs from your favourite shows.  
Deacon Gerard

**From Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality:** Father Pat Munroe will celebrate Holy Mass on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes . Hospitality members are invited to join him at 7.00pm at St Hugh and St John, West Timperley WA14 5NB . If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

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

**Discover Catholic Social Teaching – An Online Course for Parishes. Are you ready to explore the heart of Catholic Social Teaching?:** Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) invites you to join **Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction**, a dynamic online course designed specifically for parishioners, staff, and volunteers. Whether you're new to Catholic Social Teaching or looking for a refresher, this course will inspire and empower you to bring your faith to life.

**When and Where?**

**Five one-hour Zoom sessions**

📅 Every Tuesday in March and Tuesday, 1 April 2025

🕒 Convenient and flexible timing for all

**What's in Store?**

- Learn the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching in an accessible and engaging way.
- Hear real-life stories from CSAN members working on the frontlines of poverty and exclusion, bringing theory to life.
- Be inspired to put your faith into action within your parish and community.

**Course Fee:** Just **£95** for all five sessions! This includes a copy of Raymond Friel's "**Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities.**" **Ready to Take the Next Step?**

Click [here](#) to learn more and register your place.

For any questions, feel free to reach out to **Bernadette** at [bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk](mailto:bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk).

Let's deepen our understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and work together to transform our communities with the love and justice of Christ!



**Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Marie Delaney, Canon John Perryman and all those who have died recently.**

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

# Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Psalm 47:10-11	<i>Your Merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Malachi 3:1-4	<i>The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 23:7-10 r. 8	<i>The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Heb 2:14-18	<i>He had to be made like his brothers in every respect</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Lk 2:32	<i>A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Lk 2:22-40	<i>My eyes have seen your salvation</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Luke 2:30-31	<i>My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples</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: 26<sup>th</sup> January £680.33

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society No: 26<sup>th</sup> January £500 387 Sue Blackwell

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, Oxtou 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