

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 30 March 2025

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	29	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Sheila Morrel RIP Adoration & Confessions Confession Pattie Cross RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	30	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Week IV			
During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers. We are especially asked to pray for Candidates for the Sacraments on Sundays in Lent.				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Nicholas Marris Stephen Shaunessy Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	31	Ferial		9.15am	Mr Mathai Parambettu 1 st Anniv RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	1	Ferial		11.00am 7.00pm	Funeral Service, Maurice O'Callaghan Roy Turner lately dead	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	2	Ferial		9.15am	Linda Taylor RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	3	Ferial		9.15am	Nhamdi Iwoba's birthday	Saint Michael's
Friday	4	Ferial		9.15am	Stephen Gallagher RIP lately dead	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	5	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Secular Clergy Fund April Adoration & Confessions Confession Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	6	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Week I			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Mary Ann Price RIP Charles Devon Barney & Lucy McCartan RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Some of the Religious Teachers of that time criticised Jesus' approach, he: "receives sinners and eats with them". So Jesus told them the story of a son, who took his father's money, wasted it on riotous living, and then came back to his father asking to be given a job as servant! However, his father welcomes him back and lays on a feast for him, much to the annoyance of the older son, who has worked hard for his father and has worked hard and never asked for anything! This older brother thinks his father is being unjust. His father comes and pleads with him, he wants this hard working son to share his vision, to share his heart and love, and see feel and act with his heart. To be glad with him and be happy his brother is home, to share in the father's love. This was Jesus' challenge to the Religious Teachers; he wanted them to share God the Father's love, to reach out to those in need 'the sinners' so they could be welcomed back. Those Religious Teachers lived 'good' lives, but almost felt 'God owed them a reward'. Jesus is inviting them to 'share in the vision of God the Father' and as they have received his gifts, so share them with the generosity of God who gives them. In this time of Lent we are invited to stand back, see any hardness of heart in ourselves, and in receiving the gift of God's love, pass it on and live it so that others also can be reached to and welcomed. When we seek to do this, we are sharing in the vision and heart of God

Prayer to the Holy Spirit – please pray this prayer every day

Come 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
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

The Season of Lent: Please see the 'Dates for your Diary 2025' Box below.

Offertory Envelopes: If you are still using Offertory envelopes they are now ready and labelled at the back of church to pick up. Please look for your name. **Please use your new envelopes from Weekend of 5/6th April.** Please DO NOT use your old envelopes after this date as it causes issues with the accounting system, Many thanks. If you no longer use offertory envelopes and there is a box for you please let the office know so we can reduce the cost of ordering boxes next year.

Mothers' Day: We pray for all our Mothers on this special day, those who are living and those who have gone before us, and we specially remember them in our prayers.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Tom Anderson**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **KK Varghese 6th Death Anniversary**. 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.

Youth to Lourdes: Some of our Parish Youth are going as helpers to Lourdes with the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage. To help towards the financial cost of going they will be organising some fundraising events starting with a raffle for a chocolate hamper and other prizes. Tickets will be on sale this weekend £1 per ticket after Mass and also by contacting the Parish Office, Many thanks.

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

When someone wishes to see a Priest, or receive spiritual support in Hospital: Just a repeat of last week's note; whilst for the time being there is not a Catholic Chaplain based in Arrowse Park Hospital, there is always a Priest 'on call' 24/7. This cover is from the Priests of this, and our neighbouring, Deanery. If someone, whilst in Hospital, needs to see a Priest urgently, please speak to the Nursing Staff and ask them to call the 'On call Catholic Priest'. This is the best way to get someone over as quickly as possible, rather than 'ringing round' Clergy you know, as this can cause delays and mixed messages. If you, or someone you know, is in Hospital, and would like to receive Holy Communion or general visit which is not urgent, please contact me, Canon Niall, or ask for the Church of England Hospital Chaplain to contact me, and I can arrange for someone to call.

Mass Intentions situation: Once again, thank you for the number of Mass requests we are receiving. If a specific time and date has been requested we will do our best to accommodate these. There are rules which guide us in offering Mass Intentions which have been received with a 'Stipend', a financial offering, as for example, when there are two requests for the same time and date, then we are obliged to offer the one received first, and offer the second as soon as possible. Also every Parish Priest is bound to offer, or cause to be offered, a Mass every weekend for the 'People of the Parish', the Mass you will see as 'Parishioners' in the list. If it seems to be taking a while for a Mass you have requested to be offered, please we ask your understanding as we offer these according to the correct practice.

Easter Activity for Children: Maundy Thursday 17th April at 5pm in the Raiswell room at St Joseph's. Preparation of Hot cross buns, the story they tell, followed by Children's liturgy on Good Friday when the children will bring their Hot cross buns to church at 3pm. A list will be put at the back of Church for names. Parents must stay with their children.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Reservoir Rd, Roman Rd, Rosebery Grove, Thornton Close, The Hawthornes, The Ridgeway & The Towers.**

Car bump after 5pm Mass, Sunday 23rd March: A Parishioner has phoned to say he might have accidentally slightly bumped the rear of a black car on Willowbank Road after the 5pm Mass last Sunday. If you were parked in Willowbank Road at Mass and have noticed a dent/scrape on the back of your car please get in touch with the office who can put you in contact with the Parishioner.

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.

A Night at the Musicals – this coming Friday 4th April 2025 - 7.30pm St Michael and All Angels Church: Tickets for our Parish Fundraising Concert performed by the Warrington Male Voice are now available to purchase at the end of each Sunday Mass. The ticket price is £8.00. They can also be obtained from the Parish Office. 652 5767

The concert is a great opportunity, not only to have an enjoyable evening, but will also help raise much needed funds for our Parish Community especially as we come out of the winter period having to face large Gas and Electric Bills.

Please do support this concert and bring along family and friends. Thank you. Deacon Gerard

Books for sale at St Joseph's at the back of Church. Please leave a donation in the box. Any proceeds will go towards flowers for Church, Many thanks.

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

Anointing & Healing Service: Friday 4th April at 7pm. St John's Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry, with Father Chris Thomas, All welcome!

St John's New Ferry Pilgrimages 2025: **FATIMA** 10th June, 5 days £650 per person sharing or £775 single room. **MEDJUGORIE**, 16th September – 8 days £749 per person sharing or £899 single room. Flying from Manchester – tour guide, bed, breakfast and evening meal included. If interested please contact Maria Fryer 0757 6243343

Volunteers needed for St Joseph's: We would be grateful for more volunteers to help with the many different jobs at St Joseph's, including Cleaning, flower arranging, Grounds tidying etc. Please speak to Liz Brookes after Mass or let the office know if you are interested. Many thanks

Divine Mercy and St Michael Retreat: Friday 2nd May 2pm to 3.30pm, Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery. Please see posters at back of Church for more details.

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality: There will be an informal meeting on Wed 9 April at 7pm, in St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA to reflect on the role and purpose of the Hospitality, with a view to developing a more unified vision. All members are welcome. Please email secretary @teamshrewsbury.co.uk if you would like to attend.

Supporting the Vocation to Marriage & Family Life:

Calling all those interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various different ways you can help.

When: 7th June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm, **Where:** Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 OHG

To Register and for More Information please contact:

Monika at

monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07549226794 or Jane at

jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07517 906435.

Dates for your Diary 2025

Stations Of The Cross During Lent

St Joseph's after Wed 9.15 Mass.

St Michael's - Fri 7.00pm.

Prayer and Scripture Reflection During Lent

St Joseph's Raiswell Room after Fri 9.15 Mass.

Rosary During Lent

St Joseph's 10.00am before the Sat 10.30am Mass.

Holy Thursday – 17 April

Children's activity 5pm, St Joseph's (see Newsletter)

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm St Joseph's

Watching until 10.00pm St Joseph's

Good Friday – 18 April

Walk of Witness (details to follow)

Children's Activity/reflection (see newsletter)

Liturgy of the Passion - St Michael's 3.00pm

Liturgy of the Passion - St Joseph's 3.00pm

Tenebrae Service St Michael's 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross St Joseph's 7.00pm

Holy Saturday – 19 April

Blessing of Easter Food - 2.00pm St Joseph's

Easter Vigil Mass 8.30pm - St Michael's

NB No Saturday evening 6.00 Mass at St Michael's

Easter Sunday – 20 April

9.30am St Joseph's

11.00am St Michael's

NB No Sunday evening Mass at St Joseph's

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of, Ann Jones, Maurice O'Callaghan and all those who have died recently.

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

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf. Is 66:10-11	<i>Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.</i>
Reading 1	Josh 5:9-12	<i>The People of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover</i>
Psalm	Ps 33:2-7 r. 9	<i>Taste and see that the Lord is good.</i>
Reading 2	2 Cor 5:17-21	<i>God through Christ reconciled us to himself</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Luke 15: 18	<i>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'</i>
Gospel	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	<i>Your brother was dead and is alive.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Lk 15:32	<i>You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found</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
Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 23rd March £1531.07

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society No: 23rd March £50 047 Joan Kelly

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, Oxtou 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