

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 13 April 2025**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	12	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Death Anniversary Celine Michael Adoration & Confessions Confession Lynda Clark	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord</b>	<b>Week II</b>			
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	Tony Davenport RIP Ken Wood Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	14	Monday of Holy Week		9.15am	Gay	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	15	Tuesday of Holy Week		7.00pm	Clare Hughes RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	16	Wednesday of Holy Week		9.15am	Margaret McPhee lately dead	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	17	Holy Thursday		7.00pm	Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper (Pope Francis' Intention)	Saint Joseph's
Friday	18	Good Friday		3.00pm 3.00pm	The Celebration of The Lord's Passion The Celebration of The Lord's Passion	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Saturday	19	Holy Saturday		8.30pm	The Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter (Parishioners)	Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Week I</b>			
During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members for the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Frank, Hugh & Marie Hyland Anniv Freda Cavanagh NO MASS	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We enter into Holy Week when the Church 'Remembers'. When we 'Remember' in a Liturgical Action it is far more than saying "Oh yes, that happened a while back"; it is a 'recalling' of the 'then' into the 'now'. In Holy Week we 'recall' in the 'Easter Triduum' Jesus' Gift of Himself in the Eucharist, on Holy Thursday Evening, his Death on the Cross on Good Friday, and then his Resurrection at the Easter Vigil into Easter Sunday. From the Evening of Holy Thursday through to the Easter Vigil is 'one great Act of Remembrance'. On Holy Thursday Evening is the 'Key' into which all that we recall at Easter becomes part of us. Jesus said 'This is my Body' & 'This is my Blood'. In other words 'everything I am, all I have done and will do, my story, my whole self I give to become part of you, of your story'. On Good Friday we recall Jesus' death, his total self-giving, a blameless one taking on the blame for us all. Because he was totally obedient to the will of God the Father physical death had no hold over him, in his Resurrection was to open the way to everlasting life for us all. In short this we 'recall' every Holy Week & Easter. Light from dark, hope from despair, life from death. In a time in our world when there seems so much darkness and despair, that message of Jesus is needed more than ever; and in this week we take heart that the message we recall is part of us through our sharing in him, and in our lives we can make it real, present and alive to those around us

### *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](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

**Holy Week & Easter Ceremonies:** Please see the 'Holy Week and Easter in St Philip Neri Parish 2025' Box on the fourth page in bottom right for details of our Services. Please note the changes that take place in the regular pattern of services in the Easter Weekend. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April there is **NO 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Michael's** that evening because of the Easter Vigil Mass at 8.30pm at St Michael's later that evening. Also on Easter Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April there will be **NO 5.00pm Evening Mass at St Joseph's**. Please note also that there are no morning Services or Confessions on Holy Saturday Morning, 19<sup>th</sup> April at St Joseph's. Please note also that there will be no 10.30am Mass, Adoration or Confessions on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, due to the Clergy attending Father Lucas Ngwa's 40<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary and farewell Mass in Upton that morning. Hopefully, all will return to normal on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Palm Sunday and Good Friday Passion Gospels:** As we are now using the new translation of the Lectionary the 'parts' in in the Passion Gospels of Palm Sunday and Good Friday have changed. They used to be four, the Christ, Narrator, Other Voices and 'Crowd' often proclaimed by the entire congregation. In the new version there is only 'Christ', 'Narrator' and 'Speaker', so please be aware that there is now no 'congregation' part.

**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 (**Most peoples' numbers will have changed**). Please use your new envelopes from Weekend of 5/6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill:** There are still copies of last weekend's Pastoral Letter from all the Bishops of England & Wales concerning the 'Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill'. Now in May, Members of Parliament (MPs) will be asked to vote on whether it progresses further. There is deep concern about this Bill, not just in the Church or Faith circles, but in society as a whole. In the Bishops' Letter we are urged once again to write to our MP expressing concern and asking them to vote against this Bill. Lord David Alton and Baroness Jane Campbell have also sent Cards that we can use to send to our MPs. For more from the Bishops of England & Wales please go to: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk>  
From the perspective of the concerns of Disabled People please see: <https://www.notdeadyetuk.org>

**There will be a joint Walk of Witness around the Woodchurch Estate again this year for Good Friday:** The theme is "The Cross for all Creation" so we will litter pick along the route and the bags will be left at the foot of the cross, at the Methodist Church, until Easter Day. Then after the morning service the rubbish will be removed and the cross transformed with flowers. We will have pickers and hoops and bags from the Council. The Walk will start at Holy Cross as usually with a short act of worship at 10am, move on to St Michael's for a short act of worship at about 10:45 then on to Pemberton Road for a final act of worship at 11:30 followed by hot cross buns. This is an active Walk and Act of Witness so please do try to join us on Good Friday. People can do just part of the Walk or join us at the churches for the services.

**CAFOD Emergency Myanmar Earthquake Appeal:** We have all been saddened by the terrible Earthquake in Myanmar, formally known as 'Burma'. CAFOD, and its partner agencies in the 'Disasters Emergency Committee' (DEC) are seeking to offer aid and support. Please see the posters in our Churches where you can scan the QR Code to give or go to: [www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar)

**Night at the Musicals Fundraising Concert:** Our Parish Fundraising Concert took place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025. I am pleased to say it was a great success. Our thanks go to The Warrington Male Voice Choir, who entertained us so well. Thanks also to all who attended. It was lovely to see such a full Church and to hear the lovely comments following the Concert, with people asking when the next one will take place! I am also pleased to let you know that after paying the Choirs Concert Fee we made an amazing profit of **£908** Thank you to all who helped make the evening so successful.  
Deacon Gerard

**Easter Activity for Children:** Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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, a bottle of Jura Whiskey, Gin and other spirits, wine and Easter eggs. Tickets will be on sale this weekend £1 per ticket after Mass and also by contacting the Parish Office. Winners will be drawn after 11am Mass on Easter Sunday. Many thanks.

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Prayers for David and his special needs.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Mavis Price RIP, A beloved Mother.** 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: **Prentonwood Court, Prospect Rd, Pulford Ave, Spruce Close, St Catherine's Gardens, St George Ave & Stuart Rd.**

**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)

**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.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2pm to 3.30pm, Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery. Please see posters at back of Church for more details.

**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:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm, **Where:** Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG  
**To Register and for More Information please contact:**  
Monika at [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile: 07549226794 or Jane at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile: 07517 906435.

**Marriage Help -** Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20-22 June [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: **0788 7296983**

**Tour of the Relics of St. Columba, St. Andrew and St. Margaret at St. Anne's Church in Rock Ferry:** Please see the posters at the back of Church advertising full details of the upcoming Tour of the Relics of St. Columba, St. Andrew and St. Margaret at St. Anne's Church in Rock Ferry from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### 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 Patricia McNellis 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>		
<b>Reading 1</b>	Isa 50:4-7	<i>I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 r. 2	<i>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Phil 2:6-11	<i>He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Phil 2:8-9	<i>Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 22:14–23:56	<i>The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Mt 26:42	<i>Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done</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: 6<sup>th</sup> April £809.23

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society No: 6<sup>th</sup> April £50 750 Liz Hunt

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, Oxtan 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