

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 11 May 2025**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	10	Ferial		10.30am 10.30am 11.00am 12.noon 5.15pm 6.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass Pauline Tamm RIP Confessions only until 11.30am SVP Festival Mass Confessions Prayers Answered	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week IV</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	Natalie Abreu health and wellbeing Tom Morton Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	12	Ferial		9.15am 11.30am	Len Maguire birthday remembrance Funeral Mass for Marguerite Baistow	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Tuesday	13	Ferial		7.00pm	Irene Williams RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	14	St Matthias		9.15am	Maureen Whelan RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	15	Ferial		9.15am 11.00am	Stephen Gallagher RIP Funeral Service for Frank McSherry	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Friday	16	Ferial		9.15am	Michael Berry RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	17	Ferial		10.00am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's First Holy Communion Mass (No Adoration & Confessions) Confessions Eddie McPoland	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week I</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Terence Anthony Finnigan RIP Barney & Mary Connor RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

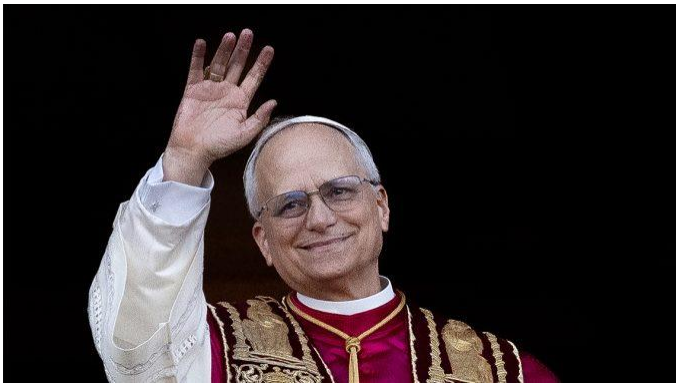
Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend we welcome Pope Leo XIV as our new 'Chief Shepherd'; it is providential that this is 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. I will say more about Pope Leo inside; as I say though, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter the Gospel is always one of the versions of Jesus, the 'Good Shepherd'. Jesus used the image of 'sheep' and 'shepherd' a lot. In Jesus' earthly time, as would probably still be the case in many places in the middle east today, shepherds pastured their sheep together. These sheep from being tiny lambs, would have been taught their shepherd's distinctive call; they would recognise their shepherd's call alone. At the end of the day, when several flocks had been pastured together, the shepherds would stand outside the flocks and each make their distinctive call; the larger flock would then separate and each would go to their own shepherd only, and follow him only to their own corral. Jesus watched this process, and thought in a way it was like our world; there are so many 'voices' that call us 'this way & that', and it difficult to recognise what is true. That is why we come to Mass, take time to pray and seek to live our Christian life, so that being 'attuned' to God's way we will recognise, amid all the 'voices', the voice of Christ the Good Shepherd and with his grace, follow it. This is a day when we pray for 'Vocations'; and we pray that we may each recognise our 'call' and by following it, help build up the Body of Christ today.

*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**



**Welcome to Pope Leo XIV!:** On Thursday Evening we welcomed the news that Cardinal Robert Prevost, originally from Chicago in the USA and working for a great deal of his ministry in Peru, had been elected as our Pope, in succession to Pope Francis. Cardinal Prevost took the Papal name 'Leo' and is now the fourteenth Pope to hold that name. Pope Leo was created a Cardinal in 2023 by Pope Francis, and worked closely with him. In his emotional greeting to the Church on Thursday he prayed for peace, and to build bridges in the spirit of Pope Francis. As I mentioned on the front page, it is a message of hope that Pope Leo's first Sunday as Pope is 'Good Shepherd Sunday' when we reflect on our response to the call of Christ, our Good Shepherd. We pray with Pope Leo, our new 'Chief Shepherd' we will seek with him to follow the call of Christ, and go forward together with him as the Body of Christ today.



**The Holy 'Jubilee' Year:** Pope Francis had inaugurated this 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year' of Hope 2025. We know that Pope Leo will wish to build on Pope Francis' wishes to share with our world, and make present in our lives, the loving heart of Christ

**Daniel Regan RIP:** We keep in prayer Pat Regan's son, Daniel, who died suddenly in Manchester last week. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Pat, Maeve and all Daniel's family at this time. May they know God's care and support at this time, and may Dan know the peace and joy of God's presence in eternal life.

**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

**SVP Festival Mass, this Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May:** This Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 12.noon at St Joseph's the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) are holding a 'Festival Mass', presided at by Father Tom Cunnah. With this Mass being at 12.noon the 10.30am Mass will take place as usual, but there will be no Adoration afterwards, and Confessions will be from 11.00am to 11.30am

**Update for those involved with the initial Birkenhead & East Wirral Pastoral Forum Meeting:**

Due to Father Robert Dykes newly arriving in Upton, and Father Michael Coughlan having to deal with family health concerns, it was thought better to postpone this meeting to give a little more time for preparation. For those involved, the new date for this gathering is Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 7.00pm in Our Lady's Cavendish Street. We will contact those involved closer this time.

**Collection last weekend to offset Church Heating Bills:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the collection last weekend. As a Parish we raised £448.22 which will go towards parish heating costs and is very much appreciated.

**Welcome to Father Robert Dykes:** This weekend we welcome to our Birkenhead & East Wirral Deanery Father Robert Dykes, to be the new Parish Priest in St Joseph's, Upton and also to serve as the Catholic Chaplain of Arrowe Park Hospital. Please keep Father Lucas, Father Robert, the Parish and Hospital Communities in your prayers as we enter this time of change and new beginnings. Father Lucas Ngwa has now returned to his home Diocese in Cameroon, and we keep him in our thoughts and prayers are with him as he readjusts to life back in Cameroon.

**St Vincent de Paul Society, (SVP) Membership Appeal:** At the end of each Mass this weekend – 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May - Kate Birkenhead, Membership Support Officer for St Vincent de Paul (Shrewsbury Diocese), will be leading on a short address outlining the role of the St Vincent de Paul Society and asking for volunteers to join the existing SVP group, attached to this parish. She will be available, along with local SVP volunteers at the end of each Mass to answer any of your questions.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: Parkhurst Rd, Pennine Rd, Pine Walks, Prenton Rd East, Raffles Rd, Rawcliffe Rd & Rectory Close.

**Upcoming First Holy Communion Masses:** We have two First Holy Communion Celebrations coming up:

◆ **This Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am at St Michael's** – 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's will still take place that day, no Adoration and Confessions from 11.00am to 11.30am only, due to the SVP Festival Mass at 12.00pm that day

◆ **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am at St Joseph's** – no Holy Hour or Confessions that day

**Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill:** There are still copies of Pastoral Letter from all the Bishops of England & Wales concerning the 'Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill'. In the next week or so of this month of May, Members of Parliament (MPs) will be asked to vote on whether it progresses further. As we have mentioned, there is deep concern about this Bill, not just in the Church or Faith circles, but in society as a whole. The Bishops' Letter urges us 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>

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Pope Leo XIV**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Jeanette Woolrich RIP Anniversary and birthday remembrance**. 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.

**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. Anne's Church Rock Ferry is holding a Rosary Service** to celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 10 am. All are welcome to the Rosary Service to Celebrate the Visitation of the Virgin Mary.

**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.

**Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) - Discerning God's Call in your life 23rd - 25th May, Liverpool:** The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). **Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.** If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

**For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)**

To register: <https://bit.ly/FCJVocationWeekend>

**Welcome to Giana Watkins who was baptised in our Parish last weekend**

**Please Pray for the Repose of the Souls of Shannon Sample, Marguerite Baistow, baby Rowan, Frank McSherry, Daniel Regan, Irene Williams 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. Ps 32:5-6	<i>The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Acts 13:14, 43-52	<i>Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 99:1-3, 5 r. 3	<i>We are his people, the sheep of his flock.</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Apoc 7:9, 14b-17	<i>The Lamb will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of living water.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	John 10:14	<i>I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and my own know me.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	John 10:27-30	<i>I give eternal life to my sheep</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>		<i>The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia</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:* 4<sup>th</sup> May £782.23

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

*Development Society No:* 4<sup>th</sup> May £50 374 Tony Wilson

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