

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 14 September 2025

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	13	St John Chrysostom		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Terry McLoughlin RIP No Adoration & Confs. to 11.30am Confessions Joe, Pat & Brendan Fortune RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Week IV			
During ordinary Time (Autumn) i.e. from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruit of Human Work; and the Reverent use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Pina Hislop Priest's Intention	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	15	Our Lady of Sorrows		9.15am 10.30am	Blessings for Children's birthday & Exams Funeral Mass for Rose Keenan	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Tuesday	16	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian		7.00pm	Gill Davenport RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	17	Ferial		9.15am	Patricia Eaton RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	18	Ferial		9.15am 12.30pm	Danny Regan Funeral Service for Geraldine Hanwell	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Friday	19	Ferial		9.15am 10.15am	No 9.15am Mass Funeral Service for Janette Johnson	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Saturday	20	Ss Andrew Kim TaegŎn, P, Paul ChŎng Ha-sang and Companions		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's intention No Adoration & Confs. to 11.30am Confessions Anne Edmond RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	21	Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week I			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Brian MacDonald RIP Ken Ward 1 st Anniversary RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend the Twenty Fourth Sunday is displaced by the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. We so familiar with the 'Cross' and 'Crucifix' as Christian Symbols, that we can actually forget what the 'Cross' was; it was used as a brutal form of execution, a terrible way to end the life of another human being Jesus had been proclaimed as 'the Messiah', the anointed one of God, and yet to the mentality of the time, someone undergoing Roman Crucifixion, would disprove this claim, vindicate almost those who had criticised and denounced Jesus. Yet not long after this the first followers of Jesus were proclaiming boldly Jesus' death on the Cross, and the Cross as our hope. This would have been totally mad unless they had experienced Jesus' Resurrection. He was the 'Crucified and Risen Lord' and had suffered the path of death, but not bound by it, had risen from death, and transformed that path into a way to new life. The 'Exaltation of the Cross' reminds us that what the world would consider 'failure' is transformed by God into a path of new life and beginning. When we feel there is no hope, or any way forward, this Feast gives us hope 'Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free' *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 – awaiting appointment & Saint Joseph's - Marie Fisher



The Holy 'Jubilee' Year:

We continue the 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year' of Hope 2025 inaugurated by Pope Francis and continuing with Pope Leo, to share with our world, and make present in our lives, the loving heart of Christ

Welcome to Father Sijo Poulouse (Maniparambil):

Last Saturday we welcomed Father Sijo Poulouse, whose family name is Maniparambil from Kerala, in India. After we knew Father Sleevea was going back to India, a request came from the Syro-Malabar Bishop in the UK for us to accommodate Father Sijo, as we did for Father Febin. Father Sijo is now living with us at St Joseph's Presbytery. Father Sijo, who has newly arrived from India, will be serving as the Chaplain for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Rite Community on the Wirral, Chester and occasionally North Wales. Whilst he will be involved with his ministry across these areas, he may be in a position to help us here from time to time celebrating Mass in our Roman Rite. This will unfold in time, but for the present we are pleased to welcome Father Sijo among us.

Syro-Malabar Catholic Rite: A reminder about what we mean by the Syro-Malabar Rite. There was a myth that before the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's every Catholic Mass throughout the world was celebrated in Latin; this was not actually the case. Whilst the larger number of Catholics are part of the 'Roman' or 'Latin' Rite, other 'Rites' exist within the wider Catholic Church. A 'Rite' in the Catholic Church describes the way and language Liturgical Celebrations are carried out, but also the hierarchy and governance of these groups. The Syro-Malabar Catholic Rite originates from India and takes its roots from the 'St Thomas Christians', in a tradition from about AD 50 when St Thomas the Apostle, or some of his immediate followers, established a Christian Mission in India. The Syro-Malabar Rite has been an autonomous Rite within the Catholic Church since 1662 and has its own hierarchy and liturgical rites whilst being part of the Catholic Church in Communion with the Pope. With a greater number of Syro-Malabar Catholics now being in this country there is a Bishop, Mar Joseph Srampickal, based in Preston, to oversee the Syro-Malabar Church in Great Britain. There is also a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishop, Kenneth Nowaskowski, based in London who oversees the Ukrainian Greek Catholics in Britain. Having Father Sijo with us reminds us that we are part of a great Catholic Family across the world.

Support for the Deanery and wider area: This September, we are supporting some of our neighbouring Birkenhead and Wallasey Parishes whilst clergy are away. This weekend Father Michael and I are covering Holy Apostles and Martyrs' Parish in Wallasey whilst Father Sam Thotamala is on holiday in India for the next month or so. So if you are not seeing us for periods of time, this is what we are doing!

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

Wirral Heritage Weekends: This year both St Joseph's and St Michael's Churches are taking part in the Wirral Heritage Weekends. At St Joseph's will take part this Saturday, 13th and next Saturday 20th September from 10.00am to 4.00pm and St Michael's will take part on Saturday, 20th September from 9.00am to 1.00pm. Many thanks to all the parishioners who are offering their time as welcomers for these events.

Saturday Morning Services at St Joseph's during Wirral Heritage Weekends:

Please note that because of St Joseph's Church needing to be prepared on the weekends of Saturdays 13th and 20th September there will be no Adoration and Benediction after the 10.30am Mass and Confessions will finish at 11.30am on these days

Terminally Ill (End of Life) Bill:

The Terminally Ill (End of Life) Bill went before the House of Lords last Friday, 12th September. Thank you to all who sent messages to MP's and Peers expressing concern about this Bill. Whatever the outcome, let us continue to work and pray for the sanctity of life at all its stages. For further information please go to the Bishops Conference of England & Wales: www.cbcew.org.uk or the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC): www.spuc.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting Postponement: Due to people being away, and time needed for further preparation needed, the Parish Council Meeting, planned for last Tuesday, 9th September was postponed until a later date. We will let those involved know when this has been rescheduled.

Anointing and Healing Service: Please see the Posters in both our Churches for the Anointing and Healing Service at St John's, New Ferry on Friday, 3rd October

School Chaplain Vacancy at Upton Hall: Due to the present School Chaplain leaving at the end of this month Upton Hall School are looking to appoint a replacement. Closing date for applications is 26th September. For details please follow this link:

<https://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk/page/?title=School+Chaplain&pid=1796>

Sunday and Weekday Missals: Last year, when the new translation of the Lectionary came in we ordered some new Sunday Missals. Some of these were only one year paperback copies. Some folk have been asking if we will be ordering further copies of the hardback versions which cover all three years? If we are able to place orders over £100, delivery is free. The hardback Sunday Missal is £19.95, the new hardback Weekday Missal is £55.00 and the new hardback Daily Missal is £69.99. If you would like us to order for you please contact the Parish Office on: 0151 652 5767 leaving a message with your contact details, and which

version you would like to order, or email on: admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

St Joseph's Choir: St Joseph's choir, consists of those who sing at 9.30 Mass on Sundays at St Joseph's, joined by other members of the choir to sing at numerous funerals and weddings and other events in local churches and beyond. We rehearse together every Saturday at ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH 11.00 a.m-12.00 noon. New members from all parishes are welcome to join us. Please contact the Parish Office leaving your name and tel number if you would like to join: **0151 652 5767** admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

On SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER as part of the Heritage Week, St Joseph's Choir will be holding an open practice from 11.00-12.00 for visitors to the church, who will be welcome to listen to the choir and to join in with well known hymns.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Remembering Toni Abakhan 2nd Anniversary RIP.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Young people starting University.** 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.

Is your child due to start school in 2026? We are holding an OPEN DAY for prospective families on TUESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER at St Michael's and All Angels Primary School. Anyone is welcome to come and see our lovely school. There will be a morning tour at 10am and an evening tour at 5pm. We also have a 2 year old provision and F1 class for 3 year olds and there are places available. We offer 15 hour and 30 hour funded places.

Development Society Envelopes: Those who use envelopes for their Development Society offering are now available for collection at the back of Church.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Burrell Rd, Byron Close, Caithness Gdns, Downham Rd, Edenpark Rd, Elderwood Rd, & Elm Grove**

Water Aid: At a time when we are warned of hosepipe bans and drought, we are reminded how something as basic as water straight from a tap is taken for granted. There are many areas of the world where water is still drawn from wells as well as dirty rivers and lakes for drinking and cooking.

The well has moved to St Michael's and so far we have raised £350.

Back Area at St Joseph's Church: Recently a group of people helped to rearrange some of the furniture at the back of St Joseph's Church, and in the old baptistry and piety stall. This has created space so that people can gather for tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass occasionally, and that the old piety stall can be a 'Charity Area'. Our thanks and appreciation go to all who have made this possible.

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.

"Traidcraft Christmas Cards will be available for sale at Saint Joseph's very soon. Although most of their products are no longer available we are pleased to say that they are still producing these popular cards. "

Policies for Livestreaming in Church: The Privacy Policies for the use of Livestreaming in Church have been updated. Apart from Masses and Services with children the Livestreaming is usually on for all Services at St Michael's. As you will be aware, the Livestreaming is very important for those who cannot get to Church for various reasons, and for those who live away to join in Funerals, Weddings and other significant events. If anyone has any concerns about Livestreaming, then please speak to one of the Clergy and we will advise you about seating off camera and could bring Holy Communion to any who would not wish to approach the Sanctuary. Please note that our Livestreaming is not recorded.`

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.

St Joseph's Charity Donations: The former Piety Stall has been set up as an area to receive charity donations. There is an ongoing need for: **Food items to support Wirral Foodbank. Nappies and toiletries to support Hearts4Refugees and SVP, Second hand spectacles for recycling, The sale of second hand books to provide money for church flowers.** Please be as generous as you can.

Jubilee for Catechists with Bishop Mark Davies, On Saturday 15th November at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton St, Stockport SK1 1EJ. Book a free place here: <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Rose Keenan, Janette Johnson, Geraldine Hanwell, Patricia Eaton, Brian MacDonald, Alan Richardson and Betty Shevlin 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. Ga 6:14	<i>We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered</i>
Reading 1	Num 21:4-9	<i>If anyone were bitten by a serpent, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.</i>
Psalm	Ps 77:1-2. 34-38 r. 7	<i>Never forget the deeds of the Lord.</i>
Reading 2	Phil 2:6-11	<i>He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him</i>
Gospel Acclamation		<i>We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world</i>
Gospel	Jn 3:13-17	<i>The Son of Man must be lifted up.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Jn 12:32	<i>When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord</i>

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Canon Niall Mullaley
 Assistant Priest: Father Malachy Ogbede
 In Residence: Father Sijo Poullose (Syro-Malabar Rite)
 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: 7th September £ 672.03

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society No: 31st August £50 110 Mary Strickland, 7th September £50 175 Sally Collins

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, 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