

# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 1 February 2026



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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	31	St John Bosco		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Kenny Rixon RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Gertie & Chris Hanlon	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	1	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week IV			
		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	Canon Niall Mullaley 40 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Pauline Davis RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	2	The Presentation of the Lord		9.30am	Liz Cavendish Pell	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	3	St Werburgh		7.00pm	Canon Niall 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	4	Ferial		9.15am	Andy Dillon RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	5	St Agatha		9.30am	Pray for my Son for his Exams	Saint Michael's
Friday	6	Ss Paul Miki & Companions		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	7	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Benjamin O'Connell Adoration & Confessions Confessions David Gower	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	8	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week I			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Brian Salusbury for recovery after bad accident Pauline Tamm RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend's Gospel has St Matthew's version of 'The Beatitudes', the attitudes that are shown forth in the life of one who believes in Christ. 'Blessed' means to be rooted, like a well-grounded foundation stone, that stays firm, and supports and gives strength to the building upon it, no matter what batters it. The 'Beatitudes' are the values that a Christian is 'grounded' in. All the values reflected there are the fruit of a living relationship with God and shown in the person's attitude and outlook to others, and actions in the world. The Old Testament prophet Zephaniah speaks, in troubled times, of the example of those who are rooted in God and help share hope and new vision for others. In a time when we are aware of so much suffering in our wider world and others struggling nearer to home, those values, those 'Beatitudes' are needed more than ever. When there is hate, violence, warfare and division that show such a cruel face, the values of love, mercy, compassion, tenderness, peace and justice show the face of Christ. St Paul reminds us in the second reading that God's ways challenge, and almost 'turn upside down' the values of the 'world'. Today, as we meet Jesus in Word, Sacrament and each other, we take heart and courage, that every one of us, whoever we are, and whatever the circumstances of our lives, can show that 'face of Christ' in our outlook and attitude, and be a living sign of hope to those around us

*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**

## **Fortieth Ordination Anniversary and Seventieth Birthday:**

During these two weeks I, Canon Niall, celebrated the Fortieth Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood last weekend and am celebrating my Seventieth Birthday next weekend. Thank you to all who have sent cards and good wishes already! Two events have been kindly arranged to mark these events; this Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, after the 11.00am Mass at St Michael's, there will be refreshments in St Michael's Primary School and on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February the 7.00pm Mass at St Joseph's will be offered on the theme of these two events. Refreshments at the back of Church might be available after this Mass; this will be confirmed soon. People will be welcome to either, or both these events!

**Crib Offerings last weekend:** The Cribs, in accordance with tradition, have stayed in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord this coming Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This is the last weekend that we will still have baskets by the Cribs in both our Churches for the Annual 'Crib Offerings' which go 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.



**Marian Lamp requests:** Please put any Marian lamp requests in your own envelope or if there is an envelope provided in Church for the Marian Lamp and write on it that it is for the Marian Lamp, who the Marian Lamp request is for and which Church it is for (Please do not use the Brown Mass intention envelopes) as this can lead to confusion. Many thanks.

**Marriage Preparation Course:** If you plan on getting married in the parish there is a Marriage Preparation course on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 10am to 4pm. It is mandatory that you attend a course before your marriage. Please contact the Parish office on 652 5767 and leave a message on the answer phone if you would like to book on.

**Parish Facebook page:** Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (search Parish of Saint Philip Neri in Birkenhead) where details about our Parish events etc are regularly updated.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: Prenton Dell Ave, Prenton Dell Rd, Prenton Farm Rd, Regents Way, Rockybank Rd, Seaton Rd & Seymour Court.

**St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** Our motto is Turning Concern into Action. Do you know someone who would benefit from a visit from St Joseph's SVP. We are members of the parish and it's good to talk. If you know of someone who needs a listening ear please contact St Joseph's SVP at the parish office on 652- 5767.

**For anyone wishing to find out more about becoming a Catholic update:** Thank you to all we have been in touch with. We will be back in touch with you very soon to get the process moving again. If anyone else is still interested please speak to Canon Niall or Deacon John.

**DONA Contactless Payment Devices:** We are having difficulty at the moment with both our DONA contactless payments stations in our Churches. We are sorry for any inconvenience and hopefully this will be resolved before too long.

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Pray for Lapsed Catholics**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Mary Quinn**. 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.

**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.

**St Joseph's Ladies Group:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30 onwards in the Parish Centre. Welcome back after Christmas with a talk from Guide Dogs for the Blind. All welcome

**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 Joseph's Church Cleaning:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30am onwards. All help greatly appreciated, Many thanks

**St Michael's Church Cleaning:** this Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February after the 9.30am Mass. All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

**Employment Vacancies, Diocese of Shrewsbury:**

Two vacancies have arisen within the Diocese of Shrewsbury:

**Sales Ledger Clerk:** 20 hours per week, term time only

contract. Hourly rate £14.60.

**Pilgrimage Booking & Customer Service Coordinator:** 20

hours per week, term time only contract with the possibility of some remote working. Hourly rate £14.60.

CV and covering letter should be sent to Pauline McCulloch [recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

Closing date: Friday 20 February 2026.

Further details can be found on the Diocesan

website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

**Housekeeper Vacancy:** A vacancy has arisen for a

Housekeeper at St Anne's presbytery, Rock Ferry for 12

hours per week @ £13.45 per hour. Applications should

be sent to Pauline McCulloch, email

[recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) by Friday 20

February. For more information, please follow link [Latest](#)

[Vacancies - Diocese](#)

**St Joseph's Books:** Thank you for your generosity

supplying books. We have plenty at the moment so no

more books for a while please, Many thanks.

**"Marriage Week 7th - 14th February 2026:** Marriage

Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to

support and promote marriage and family life. Jane

Deegan the Director for Marriage and Family Life

Vocation is seeking to build a team of volunteers to

support this vital ministry in the Diocese. Two Retreat

days have been run to date with another being arranged

for April 2026. If you would like to volunteer in any

capacity and/or would like to find out more please

contact

Monika Golembiewska -Email :

[monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

Jane Deegan- Email :

[jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**CAFOD Lent Fast Day Meeting, Weds 11<sup>th</sup> February 4-**

**6pm in St Alban's Parish Hall, Mill Lane, Liscard,**

**Wallasey CH44 5XB.**

Join Kathryn Keenan, CAFOD

representative for the Diocese, for this meeting in

advance of Lent Family Fast Day. Find out more about our

work, funded by donations from previous fast days, and

hear how communities are adapting to climate change.

All CAFOD volunteers, supporters and anyone who is

interested in learning more are welcome. Email

[kkeenan@cafod.org.uk](mailto:kkeenan@cafod.org.uk) for more info and to register (not

essential but helpful).

## Fundraising Events Dates for your Diary

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - 7.30pm

Parish 125 Yrs Celebration, Fish Supper/Barn Dance

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - 2pm

Grand National Race Parish Celebration

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm

Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert



***"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy"***  
(Matthew 5: 7)

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of  
Mary Smith, Deacon Terry Simms,  
Christine Woods 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>	Ps 105:47	<i>Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13	<i>I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 145:7-10 r. Matt 5:3	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	1 Cor 1:26-31	<i>God chose what is weak in the world.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Matt 5:12	<i>Rejoice and be glad: for your reward is great in heaven.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Matt 5:1-12a	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Cf. Ps 30:17-18	<i>Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you</i>

## Parish Team:

Parish Priest:	Canon Niall Mullaley
Assistant Priest:	Father Malachy Ogbede
In Residence:	Father Sijo Poulose ( <i>Syro-Malabar Rite</i> )
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: 25<sup>th</sup> January £1030.50

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 25<sup>th</sup> Jan £50 077 Ron Eyre

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@stjosephsbirkenhead.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@stjosephsbirkenhead.wirral.sch.uk)

[Saint Michael's Church Tour Video](#) view on the website or the QR codes on the posters at Church