

# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 18 January 2026



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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	17	St Anthony		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Patsy Williams RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Eileen Bevan	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	18	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week II			
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	Anne Beck RIP Special intention for Family Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	19	Ferial		11.30am	Funeral Mass for Mary Dooley	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	20	Ferial		7.00pm	Birthday Celebration Father Mario	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	21	St Agnes		9.15am	Kate & Damien	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	22	Ferial		9.30am	George Birch Anniversary RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	23	Ferial		9.15am	Michael Wilson RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	24	St Francis De Sales		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Thomas Elcock Anniversary RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Billy Harper	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	25	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week III			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Anne & Peter Rothwell thanksgiving for 60 years of Marriage Gerry Byrne Anniversary Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Now that Christmastide is complete we have a period of the Church's 'Ordinary Time' up until the beginning of Lent. In Ordinary Time reminds us of our call to live and share in our daily lives all that we recall in the Church's other seasons. This weekend's readings continue the 'Epiphany' scenes of the last two weeks of Christmastide; 'Epiphany' means to 'show forth' to allow something to be seen and understood for what it truly is. In the visit of the Wise Men and then 'fast forwarding' thirty years to the Baptism of the Lord we are shown who Jesus really is, 'God with us' who gives his life in service to enable all of us to walk in the way of God. In today's Gospel from St John, we see John the Baptist, amid all the crowd of people there, pointing out Jesus "*Behold the lamb of God*"; he reveals his presence and allows others to see him and recognise who he is. In that crowd of people Jesus would have looked and acted like anyone else of that time, it is John that makes him clear. Today, in so many of the tragic situations of our world we often hear it said "where is God in all this suffering?" It is here we need John the Baptist figure to show the work of God. In the horror of conflict, in the desperation of poverty, in the fear of those forced to flee their homes, in the inhumanity of some towards others, we also see those who, often at great risk to themselves, seeking to bring comfort, relief, care and support. We see others putting their lives at risk to speak up for the most vulnerable. Closer to home, those going out of their way to generously and selflessly live their faith and do what they can to help. All these actions say: "*Behold the lamb of God*". Today, each of us can, by what we do and say can point out the action and presence of Jesus among 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**

**No 9.30am Mass at St Michael's this Monday:** Please note that due to a Funeral Mass at 11.30am at St Michael's this coming Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, there will be no 9.30am Mass there that morning.

**Celebration the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time at 9.30am Mass this weekend:** This Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, at the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's we welcome children from St Joseph's Primary School who will take a lead with the readings and prayers that morning, as we did with Children from St Michael's School on the Feast of Christ the King. We look forward to sharing this occasion with the children and their families.

**Crib Offerings:** As we move into the New Year the Christmas Decorations in our Churches have been taken down. The Cribs, in accordance with tradition, will stay in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in early February. There are still 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.

**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.

**SVP Advent Collection:** On behalf of the SVP St Vincent Centre a huge thank you to those parishioners, who donated gifts, treats. and food during the advent period. These items were given out by the St Vincent Centre to those families that were being supported by the SVP. They were extremely grateful for this kindness and these items, especially the treats for their children made a real difference to struggling families. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support.

**For anyone wishing to find out more about becoming a Catholic:** We have now held our initial meetings, but if anyone 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 **Mrs Christine Foster RIP**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Terry Cross RIP**. 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 Michael's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January after the 9.30am Mass. All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

**Christmas raffle unclaimed prizes:** There are two unclaimed raffle prizes. Tickets were bought in St Joseph's. One in the name of Linda Ashcroft and the other Alvin Reji ticket no 811-815. Please speak to Liz at the 5.00pm Sunday Mass or Moira at the 9.30am Sunday Mass.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Prenton Rd West, Prenton Village Rd, Prenton Way, Singleton Ave, Snowdon Rd, South Rd & Southwick Rd.**

**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.

**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)

**Employment Opportunities with Upton Hall School for a School Chaplain:** 3 days per week (term time only – 39 weeks) (enhanced DBS check is required)

Point 10 - 13 Payscale £14,353 - £15,063 actual salary (£27,694 - £29,064 FTE pro rata) Dependent on experience. We are seeking to appoint a Catholic School Chaplain to play a leading role in the spiritual development of the school community, make links with parishes and is able to work alongside the governors, priests and staff in enabling the students of Upton Hall School to continue on their spiritual journey through active experience of their spirituality. In May 2025, Upton received an Outstanding judgement in our Catholic Schools Inspection. The successful candidate will come to a school where inspectors found "Upton Hall is a joyful Catholic community: the school's ethos, and the values of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) are celebrated, embraced and lived in every aspect of life. Upton Hall is forming young women to have the skills, knowledge, compassion and faith to make the world a better place" For application forms and further details contact the school or visit the web site. Application Forms only together with supporting paperwork (no CVs) to be returned by email ([recruitment@uptonhall.org](mailto:recruitment@uptonhall.org)) to school by:

Closing date: 2 February 2026 at 10.00am. Interviews: 10 February 2026. Upton Hall School FCJ, Upton, Wirral, CH49 6LJ. Telephone: 0151 677 7696 Fax: 0151 677 6868 Email: [recruitment@uptonhall.org](mailto:recruitment@uptonhall.org)

Website: [www.uptonhallschool.co.uk](http://www.uptonhallschool.co.uk)

**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](#)

**Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis Writes:** I am delighted to send you send you details as to how you can order your Five-week Lenten Course: 'We Dare to Ask'. 'We Dare to Ask' is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each exploring our baptismal vocation, preparing us for the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. The booklets can be ordered by emailing [aec@rcaos.org](mailto:aec@rcaos.org) the deadline is 19 January 2026.

**"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)

## Fundraising Events Dates for your Diary

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

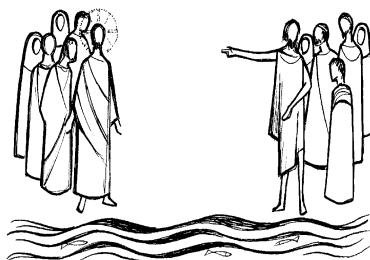
Parish 125 Yrs Celebration, Fish Supper/Barn Dance

**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



**"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**  
**John 1: 29b**

**Welcome to Dalton Owens who was baptised in the Parish last weekend**

**Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of  
Mary Dooley, Veronica Rixon, Mary Smith 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 65:4	<i>All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Isa 49: 3, 5-6	<i>I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10 r. 8.9	<i>Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	1 Cor 1:1-3	<i>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	John 1:14.12	<i>The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children to God.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	John 1:29-34	<i>Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Cf. Ps 22:5	<i>You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst</i>

### Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Canon Niall Mullaley  
Assistant Priest: Father Malachy Ogbede  
In Residence: Father Sijo Poulose (*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](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: 11<sup>th</sup> January £779.36

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 28<sup>th</sup> Dec £500 237 SVP, 4<sup>th</sup> Jan £50 102 Tony Evans, 11<sup>th</sup> Jan £50 161 Paul Davenport

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