

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 8 February 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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			
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	Parishioners Brian Salusbury for recovery after bad accident Pauline Tamm RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	9	Ferial		9.30am	Pray for Parents travelling back to India	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	10	St Scholastica		7.00pm	Canon Niall Mullaley 40 th years Anniv	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	11	Ferial		9.15am	Michael Berry RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	12	Ferial		9.30am	Mary Dooley RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	13	Ferial		9.15am	Michael Berry Junior RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	14	Ss Cyril and Methodius		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Bridie Irvine RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Margy Hill Anniversary RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	15	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Martin Perry strength & quick recovery Canon Niall Mullaley 70 th birthday Int.	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Both the First Reading and the Gospel this weekend have the theme of letting 'your light shine'. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah, writing in a time when many were selfishly using their talents for their own power, influence and gain, reminds people that living God's way involves responding to others with compassion, care and respect. This is 'God's light'. In the Gospel St Matthew reflects Jesus' image of a lamp on a stand. If you have a light, it is no good if you put it under a tub! It won't be able to light anything! Very simply, with a lamp, you put it on a lampstand where it's light can illuminate all around. Jesus is saying to his followers to live their God given gifts in service and respect for others, that is being 'God's light today'. To do so is not arrogance or pretence, this would only be the case if these gifts were used selfishly as the First Reading describes. To use our gifts to help care, serve and build up the community of faith, is to allow God's light to shine through and in us. When in a time when we see so much that appears 'darkness' shown in conflict, division, injustice, selfish gain, inhumanity we need to allow the light of God's kindness, love, mercy, compassion and tenderness to shine. We take heart today that this 'light' is part of us, and even in the smallest act of kindness we can allow that light to shine so that people can give praise to our Father in Heaven!

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: Over the last two weeks I, Canon Niall, have celebrated the Fortieth Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood on the 25th January and I celebrate my Seventieth Birthday this weekend on the Sunday. Thank you to all who have sent cards, gifts and good wishes. A huge 'thank you' to all who helped with the celebration at St Michael's School Hall last Sunday. A special thank you to Sandra, who sadly passed away last week. She had kept an organising eye even from hospital! This coming Tuesday, 10th February, the 7.00pm Mass at St Joseph's will be offered on the theme of these two events. Refreshments will be available afterwards at the back of Church.

Retired Priests' Fund: Next weekend the 14/15th February there is a collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund. Having given 40-50 years of service in active ministry Diocesan priests retire to live independently. They are no longer financially supported by a particular Parish. Most only receive the basic state pension upon retirement to support themselves. The Retired Priests' Fund seeks to help sick and retired priests with their basic living needs. The number of Priests needing our support has increased in recent years and is expected to grow in the future. In previous years People of the Diocese have given tremendous support to the special collections. There are 3 ways you can support the Fund: If you donate online you will also be able to Gift Aid what you choose to give, just go to:

www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund

Donations by Standing Order or Cheque made payable to Retired Priests' Fund or by giving in this annual retiring special collection after Mass.

Advance Notice of Upcoming Second Collections: **Weekend of 28th February to 1st March** there will be a CAFOD lent Family Fast Day Collection.

Weekend 14/15th March collection to offset Church heating bills.

Crib Offerings (Caritas) Thank you to everyone who donated to the Crib Collections which have now finished. As a Parish we were able to send **£583.38** 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 your generous support is extremely appreciated.

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.

Marriage Preparation Course: If you plan on getting married in the parish there is a Marriage Preparation course on Saturday 14th 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: **Parkhurst Rd, Pennine Rd, Pine Walks, Prenton Rd East, Raffles Rd, Rawcliffe Rd & Rectory Close.**

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.

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 **Larry Sullivan Anniversary**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Successful Peace Negotiations**. 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.

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 Closing date: Friday 20 February 2026. Further details can be found on the Diocesan website.

Welcome back Father Malachy: We welcome Father Malachy back this weekend after his visit home to Nigeria.

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 by Friday 20 February. For more information, please follow link [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

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 Books: Thank you for your generosity supplying books. We have plenty at the moment so no more books for a while please, Many thanks.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Meeting, Wednesday 11th 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 kkeen@cafod.org.uk for more info and to register (not essential but helpful).

SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. Starts: **Tues 17th February, 2026 @7pm**
Six consecutive Tuesdays: **17 Feb | 24 Feb | 03 Mar | 10 Mar | 17 Mar | 24 Mar (7-8:15pm).**
Free of Charge | LIVE on YouTube. Registration: comeandsee.org/lent26



*“Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand and it gives light to all in the house”
(Matthew 5: 15)*

**Fundraising Events
Dates for your Diary**

Friday 20th March 2026 - 7.00pm
Parish 125 Yrs Celebration, Fish Supper/Barn Dance

Saturday 11th April 2026 - 2pm
Grand National Race Parish Celebration

Friday 28th May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm
Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert

Barn Dance

&

Fish & Chip Supper

Friday 20th March at 7.00pm
St Joseph's Parish Centre



Live Music from Blackthorn Root
Tickets £12 after Masses at both
St Joseph's & St Michael's Churches
(numbers limited book early to avoid
disappointment!)

**Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of
Eileen Roberts, Sandra Doyle, Father Paul
O'Grady, 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

Entrance Antiphon	Ps 94:6-7	<i>O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God</i>
Reading 1	Isa 58:6-10	<i>Your light shall break forth like the dawn.</i>
Psalm	Ps 111:4-9 r. 4	<i>A light rises in the darkness for the upright.</i>
Reading 2	1 Cor 2:1-5	<i>I proclaimed to you the mystery of Christ crucified.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 8:12	<i>I am the light of the World, says the Lord, whoever follows me will have the light of life.</i>
Gospel	Matt 5:13-16	<i>You are the light of the world.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Ps 106:8-9	<i>Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things</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

Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 1st February £916.48

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 1st February £50 335 Joan Kelly

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