

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 22 March 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	21	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Martha Deehan RIP. Adoration & Confessions Confessions Barry Miller	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	22	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Week I			
During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers. We are especially asked to pray for Candidates for the Sacraments on Sundays in lent				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Steve & Delia Goulding Golden Wedding Anniversary Barney & Mary Connors RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	23	Ferial		9.30am	Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	24	Ferial		7.00pm	Joseph RIP Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	25	The Annunciation of the Lord		9.15am	Kevin Maughan & Family	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	26	Ferial		9.30am	Francis Savage RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	27	Ferial		9.15am	Tom Berry Junior (Sick)	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	28	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's Intention Adoration & Confessions Confessions Ken Hanrahan 80 th Birthday in Thanks	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Leone Monaco George & Mary Cairns RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As I have said previously, in the Lent of Year A on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays we have the three big Gospel Readings from St John, on the third Sunday, 'The woman at the well', last Sunday 'The man born blind' and on this Fifth Sunday, 'The raising of Lazarus'. These three Sundays are part of the teaching for those preparing for Baptism at Easter and a reminder and a 'refresher' for those of us already Baptised and seeking to live the faith. They focus on 'water' 'light' and 'life'. The First and Second Readings talk about the 'Spirit of Life'. In today's Gospel there is the picture of Jesus calling his friend Lazarus from death to life. The image is that Lazarus has died; Jesus comes to Bethany and Lazarus' sister, Martha professes her faith that Jesus himself is 'resurrection and life', he is the 'Way' to eternal life. Mary, Lazarus' other sister arrives and Jesus is moved to tears by their grief. He goes to Lazarus' tomb, he prays and then calls to Lazarus to 'come out'; Lazarus comes out wrapped in burial clothes, Jesus then says, "Unbind him, let him go free". Jesus calls from 'despair to hope' 'sorrow to joy' 'darkness to light' 'death to life'. Then Lazarus is 'unbound' he is free to live the fullness of life. By our Baptism, sharing in the Sacraments and living our faith we are more tuned in in our day to day lives to hear the voice of Jesus calling us 'despair to hope' from 'darkness to light' to 'unbind us and let us go free'. As we hear, and respond to that call, so we can be that call to others. In a time in our world when we are so aware of the darkness's and 'deaths' of warfare, oppression, greed, injustice, supremacism, cruelty and inhumanity. In love for us all Jesus 'weeps' with us still, but we take heart that his call is still reaching out, being responded to and passed on in the lives of his people, so that people can be 'unbound' and 'set free' to be those God longs for us to be

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 Season of Lent: Please see the 'Green Box' on the opposite page with details of the events of Lent and Holy Week. This will be updated as we go through Lent.

Penance Service with Confessions: Again, please see the 'Dates for your Diary 2025' Box below, with details of the Penance Service with Individual Confessions this coming Tuesday, 24th March at St John's, New Ferry.

Retiring Collection to offset Church Heating Bills: This weekend of 21st/22nd March there is a Retiring Collection to help offset Church Heating Bills. We had hoped that heating bills would come down, but now due to the expanding conflict in the Middle East they are increasing again. We realise that this situation is effecting everyone, so we just ask you only give what you are comfortable with, and whatever you give will be greatly appreciated.

Foundation Governor for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: 'Foundation Governors' are appointed by Bishop Mark to help support the Catholic Identity of our Schools. In a Catholic School the majority of the Governing Body are Foundation Governors. One of our Parish Primary Schools, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, are looking for a Foundation Governor. If you are a practising Catholic and would be interested to help, please contact the school for further information, please see the contact details on the back page of the Newsletter and see the link below....

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/governance/>

Offertory Envelopes: If you are still using Offertory envelopes they are will be ready and labelled at the back of church to pick up in the next couple of weeks. Please look for your name. **Please use your new envelopes from the Weekend of 11/12th April.** Please DO NOT use your old envelopes after this date as it causes issues with the accounting system, Many thanks. If you no longer use offertory envelopes and there is a box for you please let the office know so we can reduce the cost of ordering boxes next year.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Liversidge Rd](#), [Lytton Ave](#), [Layton Ave](#), [Linden Dr](#), [Malpas Ave](#), [Mallory Rd](#) & [Malvern Grove](#).

Parish Youth to Lourdes raffle: Tickets will be on sale after Mass at St Michael's this weekend. All proceeds will help towards the cost of the trip for those youth in the Parish who are going as helpers to support the sick and those who have mobility issues. Any help greatly appreciated. Many thanks

Barn Dance: Many thanks to all came to the Barn Dance on Friday 20th March - and to the organisers for putting it together. A good time was had by all! The amount raised for parish funds will be announced at the end of Masses this weekend.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **End to War in Ukraine**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **80th birthday Ken Hanrahan**. 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 Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) – Bereavement Support: During April 2026 the SVP will be running another series of its successful programme called "At a Loss" It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. The sessions will be held in Wallasey Village. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com or speak to an SVP member

LIVERPOOL WELSH CHORAL: Will Todd's Passion Music 7.30 Saturday 28th March 2026 The Tung Auditorium, Yoko Ono Lennon Centre, 6 Oxford Street Liverpool L7 3NY: If you've been to a Liverpool Welsh Choral concert before you'll know that the standard of singing will be excellent. But this concert will probably be quite different to others you've attended. The main piece, Will Todd's *Passion Music* is a beautiful and moving re-telling of the story of Holy Week, leading up to Easter, with new settings of the text of *My Song is Love Unknown* and *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?* and other Scripture extracts in a dramatic and challenging mix of Gospel, Jazz and Choral styles. In contrast, but of course echoing the Lenten theme, *Stainer's God so loved the World* and Purcell's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary* completes this stunning programme. How fitting that this is being presented on the eve of Passion Sunday, at the start of Holy Week. Liverpool Welsh Choral, which includes, in its ninety plus members, singers from church choirs across Merseyside, have been described as 'dynamic'. Discover that for yourself ! Discover also the Tung Auditorium- Liverpool's small but perfect performance venue, with discounted parking at the Paddington Village Car Park. Tickets at: www.lwcu.co.uk

Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Health & Safety officer. Salary £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience. Hours: 25 per week, term time only, Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch

recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date 10 April. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

SVP 2025 Summary: As in previous years, the St Vincent de Paul Society Parish Conference provided food vouchers at Easter and Christmas in the two Parish Primary Schools. Throughout the year we supplied furniture and re-conditioned white goods through our local supplier to those in need in the following areas: Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry, New Ferry, Oxton, Prenton, Woodchurch and Beechwood. These include districts not always covered by other Parishes due to lack of SVP Members. We are also actively involved in the St Vincent's Centre, Grange Road West, Birkenhead. This town centre 'hub' provides drop in services, daily, Monday to Friday – free beverages, snacks, food bank, clothes bank, practical advice etc. A member of Citizen's Advice attends on a weekly basis. If you are passing that way why not pop in and take a look? As part of SVP international twinning scheme we correspond with and provide financial support to two conferences in India. The S.V.P. motto is 'Turning Concern into Action' and we hope to achieve this both locally and internationally.

Wirral 3Ls Spring Concert: Wednesday 25th March 2026 10.15am – 11.30am at the Lighthouse Church, Telegraph Rd, Heswall CH60 0AJ. Tickets £6 (including Hot drink & biscuits from 9.30am) from 3LS Choir members and 3LS Office, Civic Centre, Civic Way, Bebington. CH63 7PN. Raffle with M&S Voucher prizes.

PARISH OF ST PHILIP NERI FUND RAISING EVENT

GRAND NATIONAL FUN AFTERNOON

Saturday 11th April 2.00pm-5.00pm

St Joseph's Parish Centre

with games, raffles, a Ladies' Hat competition

AFTERNOON TEA

Grand National Sweep

and watch the race on a big screen!

Tickets £10

Children £5



Fundraising Events Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11th April 2026 - 2pm

Grand National Race Parish Celebration

Friday 28th May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm

Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert

Dates for your Diary 2026

Tuesday, 24th March

There will be a Lent Penance Service with the opportunity for Individual Confession, 7.00pm St John's Church, 128 Bebington Road, New Ferry CH62 5BJ

Stations Of The Cross During Lent

St Joseph's after the Wednesday 9.15 Mass

St Michael's---Friday 7.00pm

Holy Thursday – 2 April

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm St Joseph's

Watching until 10.00pm St Joseph's

Good Friday – 3 April

Walk of Witness (details to follow)

Liturgy of the Passion - St Michael's 3.00pm

Liturgy of the Passion - St Joseph's 3.00pm

Tenebrae Service St Michael's 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross St Joseph's 7.00pm

Holy Saturday – 4 April

Blessing of Easter Food - 2.00pm St Joseph's

Easter Vigil Mass 8.00pm - St Michael's

NB No Saturday evening 6.00 Mass at St Michael's

Easter Sunday – 5 April

9.30am St Joseph's

11.00am St Michael's

NB No Sunday evening Mass at St Joseph's

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of

all those who have died recently

May they rest in peace,

in the arms of the Good Shepherd

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf: Ps 42:1-2	<i>Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength</i>
Reading 1	Ezek 37:12-14	<i>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.</i>
Psalm	Ps 129 r. 7	<i>With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 8:8-11	<i>The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 11: 25-26	<i>I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, Everyone who believes in me shall never die.</i>
Gospel	John 11:1-45	<i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Jn 11:26	<i>Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord</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: 15th March £718.20

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 15th March £50 446 Monica Faulkner

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