

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 15 March 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	14	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Ronnie Connors RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Charles Tiley	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	15	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Week IV			
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	Margaret O'Sullivan Anniversary Eugenio Mazza RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	16	Ferial		9.30am	Ronnie Lysaght birthday remembrance	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	17	St Patrick		7.00pm	Prayers answered	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	18	Ferial		9.15am	Bert Williams Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	19	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary		9.30am	Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	20	Ferial		9.15am	Paul Rooney RIP	Saint Joseph's
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 V			
				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

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As we said last weekend, in the Lent of Year A on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays we have the three big Gospel Readings from St John, last Sunday, 'The woman at the well', this Sunday 'The man born blind' and on the Fifth Sunday next week, '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 Reading from the Old Testament Book of Samuel has the choice of the boy who will become King David, with the prophet Samuel coming to 'see' with God's vision. In Second Reading St Paul reminds the first Christians of Ephesus that they now see all things 'in the light of Christ'. In today's Gospel there is the picture of Jesus healing a man born blind. Jesus heals the man's physical sight, but later in the Gospel we will hear that his 'spiritual sight' has also been opened. The Religious Authorities don't see the marvellous act of God's healing, they cannot 'see' beyond their own agendas and presuppositions which 'blind' them to the presence and action of God right in front of them! When questioned, the man who was healed of his physical blindness 'sees' far more clearly than those who claimed to have the 'sight' of 'knowledge' and 'authority'. "Who are you to tell us"! This is a trap we can all fall into. People can be so convinced of their superiority, status and position, that they 'despise' and look down on others. Jesus smashes through this 'spiritual blindness' today, challenging us all to 'see' with his light. We have the gift of this season of Lent to help us to 'refocus' our 'spiritual sight', to 'see' more clearly the presence of God right in front of us, and in turn help open others to 'see'

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.

Mothers' Day: This Fourth or 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent we specially remember our Mothers. We wish those who are with us every blessing for today, and that those who have gone before us will know the joy and peace of God's presence.

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/>

For anyone wishing to find out more about becoming a Catholic update: Once again, please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to you. We should be getting in touch with you all individually soon now.

Offertory Envelopes: If you are still using Offertory envelopes they 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.

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: [Marquis St](#), [Maybank Rd](#), [Mapleton Close](#), [Melford Dr](#), [Melrose Gardens](#), [Merlin Rd](#) & [Mill 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.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Joan Hannan**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **World Peace**. 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 Books: Thank you for your generosity supplying books. We have plenty at the moment so no more books for a while please, Many thanks.

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

Advance Notice of Upcoming Second Collections: **Next weekend 21st/22nd March** collection to offset Church heating bills.

Year of St Francis Pilgrimage to Assisi: Pope Leo has declared this a Jubilee Holy year for St. Francis and we are therefore trying to organise a special pilgrimage to Assisi on the 28th June to 3rd July. The pilgrimage includes Mass in the Basilica of St Francis, veneration of St Carlos Acutis's body in the church of St Mary Major, a trip to the Holy House in Loreto (stone walls from Mary's home in Nazareth where it is believed the Annunciation & Incarnation occurred), visits to both the Basilica of St Mary of the Angel Portiuncula where the Franciscan movement started and the monastery of the first order of St Clare in San Damiano. Cost £995. If interested, it is IMPORTANT that you, please telephone Maria Fryer from St John's Parish on 07576 243343 NOW to secure a place.

St Michael's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 19th March after the 9.30am Mass. All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

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

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

Dates for your Diary 2026

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

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!)

**Barn Dance
&
Fish & Chip
Supper**

Friday 20th
March at
7.00pm
St Joseph's
Parish Centre
(Bar will be
open)



**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: Is 66:10-11	<i>Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast</i>
Reading 1	1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13	<i>David is anointed king of Israel.</i>
Psalm	Ps 22 r. 1	<i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i>
Reading 2	Eph 5:8-14	<i>Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you,</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	John 9:1-41	<i>He went and washed and received his sight.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Jn 9:11, 38	<i>The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God</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: 8th March £574.84

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 8th March £500 241 Frank Denye

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