

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 29 March 2026**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	28	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's Intention Adoration & Confessions Confessions Ken Hanrahan 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday in Thanks	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Week II</b>			
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 Leone Monaco George & Mary Cairns RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	30	Monday of Holy Week		9.30am	Sophie Holmes recovery after operation	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	31	Tuesday of Holy Week		7.00pm	Brian MacDonald	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	1	Wednesday of Holy Week		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	2	Holy Thursday		7.00pm	Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper (Father Paul O'Grady RIP)	Saint Joseph's
Friday	3	Good Friday		3.00pm 3.00pm	The Celebration of The Lord's Passion The Celebration of The Lord's Passion	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Saturday	4	Holy Saturday		2.00pm 8.00pm	Blessing of Polish and Slovak baskets The Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter (Parishioners)	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Week I</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Mary Flynn RIP Charles Devon NO MASS	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We enter into Holy Week when the Church 'Remembers'. When we 'Remember' in a Liturgical Action it is far more than saying "Oh yes, that happened a while back"; it is a 'recalling' of the 'then' into the 'now'. In Holy Week we 'recall' in the 'Easter Triduum' Jesus' Gift of Himself in the Eucharist, on Holy Thursday Evening, his Death on the Cross on Good Friday, and then his Resurrection at the Easter Vigil into Easter Sunday. From the Evening of Holy Thursday through to the Easter Vigil is 'one great Act of Remembrance'. On Holy Thursday Evening is the 'Key' into which all that we recall at Easter becomes part of us. Jesus said 'This is my Body' & 'This is my Blood'. In other words 'everything I am, all I have done and will do, my story, my whole self I give to become part of you, of your story'. On Good Friday we recall Jesus' death, his total self-giving, a blameless one taking on the blame for us all. Because he was totally obedient to the will of God the Father physical death had no hold over him, in his Resurrection was to open the way to everlasting life for us all. In short this we 'recall' every Holy Week & Easter. Light from dark, hope from despair, life from death. In a time in our world when there seems so much darkness and despair, that message of Jesus is needed more than ever; and in this week we take heart that the message we recall is part of us through our sharing in him, and in our lives we can make it real, present and alive 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**

**Holy Week & Easter Ceremonies:** Please see the 'Holy Week and Easter in St Philip Neri Parish 2026' Box on the fourth page in bottom right for details of our Services. Please note the changes that take place in the regular pattern of services in the Easter Weekend. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April there is **NO 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Michael's** that evening because of the Easter Vigil Mass at 8.00pm at St Michael's later that evening. Also on Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April there will be **NO 5.00pm Evening Mass at St Joseph's**. Please note also that there are no morning Services or Confession's on Holy Saturday Morning, 4<sup>th</sup> April at St Joseph's. Hopefully, all will return to normal on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Palm Sunday and Good Friday Passion Gospels:** As we are now using the new translation of the Lectionary the 'parts' in the Passion Gospels of Palm Sunday and Good Friday have changed. They used to be four, the Christ, Narrator, Other Voices and 'Crowd' often proclaimed by the entire congregation. In the new version there is only 'Christ', 'Narrator' and 'Speaker', so please be aware that there is now no 'congregation' part.

**There will be a joint Walk of Witness around the Woodchurch Estate again this year for Good Friday:** There will be a joint Walk of Witness around the Woodchurch Estate again this year for Good Friday. The theme will be 'bringing peace in our world'. The Walk will start at Holy Cross as usually with a short act of worship at 10.00am, move on to St Michael's for a short act of worship at about 10:45am then on to Pemberton Road for a final act of worship at 11:30am followed by hot cross buns. This is an active Walk and Act of Witness so please do try to join us on Good Friday. People can do just part of the Walk or join us at the churches for the services.

**Retiring Collection to offset Church Heating Bills:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Heating collection last weekend. As a Parish a very generous amount of £1111.83 was collected which will go towards offsetting the heating costs.

**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/>

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Johnson Rd, Kenmore Rd, Kindale Rd, Levers Causeway, Leighton Rd, Linwood Rd & Little Storeton Lane.**

**Offertory Envelopes ready for collection:** If you are still using Offertory envelopes they are **NOW** ready and labelled at the back of church to pick up. Please look for your name. **Please use your new envelopes from the Weekend of 11/12<sup>th</sup> 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 Youth to Lourdes raffle:** Tickets are 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

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Dolly Brookes Anniversary RIP**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Claire Clarke**. 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.

**Barn Dance:** Many thanks to all who came to the Barn Dance on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - and to the organisers for putting it together. A great time was had by all with lots of laughs! The amount raised for Parish funds was £470.00

**Can you help?** AN old red hardbacked Sunday Missal usually kept with a cushion in the cupboard at the back of church. has gone missing. The Missal has great sentimental value to the parishioner to whom it belongs. If you know where it is or have moved the Missal can you be so kind as to put it in the sacristy. It is the sentiment attached that is so important and not the physical missal.

**St Michael's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 9.30am (There is no 9.30am Mass that day). All help greatly appreciated. Thank You.

**St Joseph's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 9.30am onwards. All help greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**St Joseph's ladies Group:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30am in the Parish Centre. All welcome!

**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](mailto: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.

**Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Ministry (MFL) Retreat**

**Day:** For all those interested in supporting the Vocation of Marriage and Family you are invited to attend our Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Ministry (MFL) Retreat Day to help you find out more about what is involved and what help is needed. There will be presentations on the Mission of Marriage, a Reflection on the Book of Tobit and Holy Mass at Midday.

**When :** 18th April 2026

**Where:** St. John Vianney Parish Hall, St Wilfrid's Church, Witton Street Northwich Cheshire, CW9 5NP

**Time:** 9.30pm to 4.00pm

**Please Register with Monika Golembiewska** on 07549 226794 or email:

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

**Anointing & Healing Service:** St John's Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm. All welcome!

**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 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

**Dates for your Diary 2026**

**During this Week – Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Station of the Cross in St Joseph's after the Wednesday 9.15 Mass

**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 (please see the details opposite)  
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  
Mary James and all those who have died  
recently**

**May they rest in peace,  
in the arms of the Good Shepherd**

## Readings at Mass

### Entrance Antiphon

#### Reading 1

Isa 50:4-7

*I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame*

#### Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24  
r. 2

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

#### Reading 2

Phil 2:6-11

*He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him*

#### Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

*Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.*

#### Gospel

Matt 26:14–27:66

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ*

#### Communion Antiphon

Mt 26:42

*Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done*

#### 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:* 22nd March £1166.17

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

*Development Society Winner: 22nd March £50 222 Moira Hyland*

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

#### 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