

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 8 March 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	Robbie Williams RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Canon Niall 40 th Ordination intention	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	8	Third Sunday of Lent	Week III			
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 3.00pm 5.00pm	Parishioners Sandra Doyle RIP Holy Hour and Rosary for Peace Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Monday	9	Ferial		9.30am	Christine Woods	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	10	Ferial		7.00pm	Patricia O'Connell	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	11	Ferial		9.15am	Paul Rooney RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	12	Ferial		9.30am	Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	13	Ferial		9.15am	Nan Hetherington RIP	Saint Joseph's
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			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Margaret O'Sullivan Anniversary Eugenie Mazza RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As you may be aware, the Sunday Readings are on a three year cycle, Years A, B & C. We are now in 'Year A' of the readings cycle. In the Lent of Year A on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays we have the three big Gospel Readings from St John, today 'The woman at the well', next Sunday 'The man born blind' and on the 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. The First Old Testament Reading from Exodus has the picture of the people of Israel in the desert parched with thirst, they call to Moses for help who, in turn, calls on God. They find that God is already ahead of them, and gives them 'water from the rock'; in their great need God was already there! The image of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman has hundreds of sermons in it! In the picture of the Gospel the woman is surprised that a Jewish man would even talk to her, let alone ask her to bring him a drink! St John always uses 'misunderstanding' and 'questioning' to get his point over. In the dialogue with Jesus the woman comes to see that the 'living water' that Jesus speaks of is the life of the Holy Spirit that opens our understanding to the presence and action of God's mercy, forgiveness, compassion and life. When the woman is challenged she finds God's presence in Jesus is already there, in front of her! In receiving this gift, she shares it and helps open others to God's saving presence. This weekend, we when come together aware of so much spiritual 'dryness' around us, then refreshed by meeting the 'living water' of Jesus presence we can live, and share it also and each, in our own calling, allow it to flow through 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

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.

Prayer for Peace in a time of World Conflict: In recent days we have seen conflict spreading across the Middle East and beyond. It is a time when many rightly feel concerned. For any who would wish to come there will be a Holy Hour and Rosary for Peace in St Joseph's this coming Sunday, 8th March at 3.00pm. If you cannot come, do please take some time to pray for peace at this crucial time.

CAFOD Family Fast Day and Collection for Lent: Thank you to everyone who donated to the CAFOD Family Fast day last weekend. As a Parish we raised £732.02.

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: **Mellor Rd, Mendip Close, Mendip Rd, Milton Rd, Milton Rd East, Mossley Rd & Mounsley Rd.**

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Mary Perpetua McGuire 8th Anniversary RIP.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Mavis Price 1st Anniversary 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 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) 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.

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: **Weekend 21st/22nd March** collection to offset Church heating bills.

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

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.

[The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham](#) seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their apostolates of prayer, parish missions, hospitality, chaplaincy and youth work. Any amount, large or small is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. Cheques payable to **COLW** can be sent to *House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, NR20 4AZ*. More information, as well as the option to donate online, can be found at: www.maryshouseappeal.org E: office@walsinghamcommunity.org T: 01362 692574

[Reflection on St Joseph: Husband of the Blessed Virgin, Guardian of Jesus, Pillar of Families](#): Join us for a *Reflection on St Joseph* from the Scriptures, the saints, popes and others all of which can help us understand the importance of devotion to him, especially within the vocation of marriage and for our families.

When: Feast of St Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin
19th March 2026

Where: Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Room **7.00 pm - 9.00 pm**

Speaker: Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation, Lay Spirituality and Prayer

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)



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

Welcome to Alma May Boyton who was baptised in our
Parish last weekend

**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 24:15-16	<i>My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor</i>
Reading 1	Exod 17:3-7	<i>Give us water to drink.</i>
Psalm	Ps 94:1-2, 6-9	<i>O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'</i>
Reading 2	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8	<i>Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 4:42. 15	<i>Lord, you are indeed the saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I may not be thirsty.</i>
Gospel	John 4:5-42	<i>A spring of water welling up to eternal life.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Jn 4:13-14	<i>For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life</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



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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 March £1248.64

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 1st March £50

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