

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 5 April 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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
Sunday	5	Easter Sunday	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	Mary Flynn RIP Charles Devon NO MASS	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	6	Monday of the Easter Octave		12.noon	Aghy Sebastian in thanksgiving	St Michael's
Tuesday	7	Tuesday of the Easter Octave		7.00pm	Olivia Keenan (Sick)	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	8	Wednesday of the Easter Octave		10.00am	Funeral Service for Mary James	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	9	Thursday of the Easter Octave		9.30am	Brian Boyle 39 th Anniversary RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	10	Friday of the Easter Octave		9.15am 12.noon	Michael Breslin RIP Anniversary Wedding Service for Emily Marriott & Ross Davies	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Saturday	11	Saturday of the Easter Octave		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Sarah, Eamonn & Family Intention No Holy Hour Confessions till 11.30am Confessions Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	12	Second Sunday of Easter	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	The Welfare of Mike Flynn Ken Ward Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We proclaim 'Happy Easter' Jesus' Resurrection, in a time for our world when there are dreadful conflicts in Ukraine, the Holy Land, the Middle East and several other parts of our world that have slipped from the focus of attention. There is ongoing concern for the environment and the effects of climate change that cause displacement of peoples; this can result in conflict, and fear for others, which is sadly fed on by some, that these displaced people will 'overwhelm' their lands. It could seem dark and hopeless, like a dark tomb; it was here in the darkness, of what seemed 'dead' that the new light, new life of Christ broke forth. Light came from darkness, hope from despair, joy from sadness, life from death. Those seem 'nice words' but recently we have seen those words become 'living words' in those who put their lives on the line to bring aid, compassion and care to those most vulnerable, those who risk scorn and derision to reach out to people that might be labelled 'outcasts' or 'undesirable' by some. We saw, through the hard pandemic days, people going out of their way to see nobody was forgotten. Then the Resurrection becomes real right now! When people encountered the Risen Christ often they did not recognise him, something blocked their understanding, then a word or action would happen and 'their eyes would be opened'; they would realise he had been there all along! We take heart today that by our attitude and witness we can help people to see the Risen Christ is among us, and we can make that hope and life real right now!

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

Every Blessing for Easter: As I say in the note above, we wish you all every blessing for this Easter Time, rejoicing that the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection gives us great hope even in the darkest days.

Easter Ceremonies: Please see the 'Dates for your Diary 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 this Easter Weekend. On Saturday 4th 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, 5th 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, 4th April at St Joseph's. Please note also that on the next weekend of Saturday 11th April the 10.30am Mass will take place, but there will be no Holy Hour afterwards and Confessions will finish at 11.30am. Hopefully everything will be back to normal by Saturday, 18th April

Easter Monday Mass: Please note also that as this coming Easter Monday, 6th April, is a Bank Holiday the Mass at St Michael's that day will be at 12.noon.

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: [Grainger Ave](#), [Gresford Ave](#), [Holm Hey Rd](#), [Kirkland Ave](#), [Landican Lane](#), [Larch Rd](#) & [Laurel Rd](#).

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 11/12th 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.

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

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 **Billy Jones**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Tom Berry jnr. (Sick)**. 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.

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.

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.

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: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Please Register with Monika Golembiewska on 07549 226794 or email:

monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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

Two vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a Programme Coordinator and Youth Mission Team Member. Further details regarding both posts can be found on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Interested parties should send their CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Closing date Friday 29 April 2026.
Thank you in advance

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

Holy Saturday – 4 April

Blessing of Easter Food - 2.00pm St Joseph's

Easter Vigil Mass 8.00pm - St Michael's

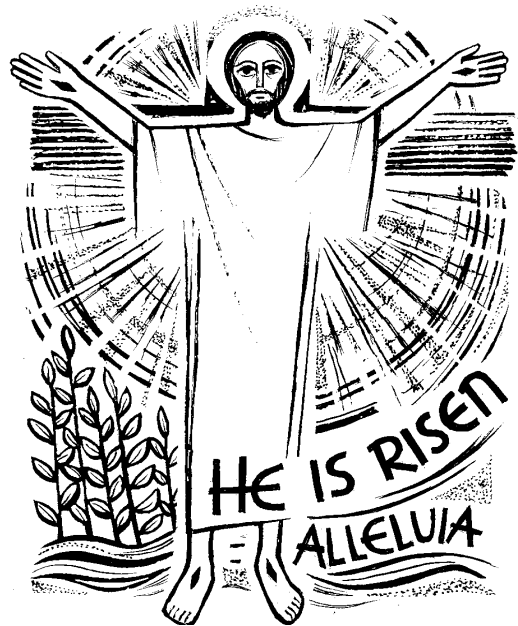
NB No Saturday evening 6.00 Mass at St Michael's

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, Imelda Moore, Irene McLoughlin
and all those who have died recently**

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

