

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 26 April 2026**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	25	St Mark		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Christina & John Lawrence & Family Adoration & Confessions Confessions Dorothy Smith	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week IV</b>			
During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church, Human Work				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Peter McGann Anniversary RIP Tommy Moore Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	27	Ferial		9.30am	Varghese Kootungal 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	St Michael's
Tuesday	28	Ferial		7.00pm	Alan Burley birthday remembrance	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	29	St Catherine of Siena		<u>10.00am</u>	Funeral Mass for Imelda Moore	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	30	Ferial		9.30am 11.00am	Robert McManus Funeral Mass for Irene McLoughlin	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Friday	1	Ferial		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	2	St Athanasius		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Barney & Lucy McCartan RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week I</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Mary Therese McGuire birthday remem Sandra Doyle RIP Matthew O'Connell	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. On this Fourth Sunday of Easter the Gospel is always one of the versions of Jesus, the 'Good Shepherd'. Jesus used the image of 'sheep' and 'shepherd' a lot. In Jesus' earthly time, as would probably still be the case in many places in the middle east today, shepherds pastured their sheep together. These sheep from being tiny lambs, would have been taught their shepherd's distinctive call; they would recognise their shepherd's call alone. At the end of the day, when several flocks had been pastured together, the shepherds would stand outside the flocks and each make their distinctive call; the larger flock would then separate and each would go to their own shepherd only, and follow him only to their own corral. Jesus watched this process, and thought in a way it was like our world; there are so many 'voices' that call us 'this way & that', and it difficult to recognise what is true. That is why we come to Mass, take time to pray and seek to live our Christian life, so that being 'attuned' to God's way we will recognise, amid all the 'voices', the voice of Christ the Good Shepherd and with his grace, follow it. This is a day when we pray for 'Vocations'; and we pray that we may each recognise our 'call' and by following it, help build up the Body of Christ today

*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. Ame*

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity. Number: 234025

**Safeguarding Representatives Saint Michael's – awaiting appointment & Saint Joseph's - Marie Fisher**

**Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph Appeal:** This weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> April we welcome Sister Jentrix Murundu FMSJ, a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph who will be making the Annual Mission Appeal, this year on behalf of the Sisters' Mission Committee. The sisters live and work in many different parts of the world, witnessing to the love of Christ for his people in ministries of teaching, medical and health care, catechesis, social and pastoral work. The Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph were founded by Alice Ingham and companions in Rochdale. Their first overseas mission was in Sarawak & Sabah, East Malaysia, spreading later to countries in Africa & the Americas. Currently they serve in Kenya, Uganda & Ecuador as well as here in this country. There will be a Retiring Collection after all Masses this weekend, and we assure Sister Jentrix of a warm welcome.

**Good Shepherd Sunday and Bishop Mark's Pastoral Letter:** As I said in the reflection on the front page, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is 'Good Shepherd' Sunday the 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations', when we are all called to reflect on how we each respond in our lives to the call of Christ 'The Good Shepherd'. Bishop Mark recently issued a Pastoral Letter for this Sunday. As we had already invited Sister Jentrix as we mention above for today, we felt it was important the Appeal carry on. So as not to ignore the Pastoral Letter we have enclosed a copy in, or nearby, your Newsletters. Do please take this home and read it, and do please continue to pray for vocations, so that we can each play our part in building up the Body of Christ today.

**Mass this Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April:** Please note that due to a Funeral Mass at 10.00am at St Joseph's that morning there is no 9.15am Mass that day.

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

**Parish Finances:** On the noticeboard in both our church buildings is a summary of the financial return for the year 2025/26. Unfortunately like a lot of Parishes in the current circumstances with rising fuel prices and the costs to run our parish with two listed buildings etc you will see that we continue to pay out a lot more than we receive. Thank you to all for your generous offertory donations and fundraising.

**Come to St Joseph's, Upton on Saturday 2nd May for a day of reflection on the role and example of St Joseph in our spiritual lives.** We begin at 9.45am with Morning Prayer. We have two talks given by Mrs Jane Deegan, Diocesan Director for Marriage and Family Life, and Fr Joseph Fawcett-Wood. During the day there will be Adoration, Confession, and the Rosary. At Mass we will consecrate our parish and all present to St Joseph. We conclude with the crowning of Our Lady at about 3.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee provided. All welcome.

**Spring Sing'26 with Warrington Male Voice Choir Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May - 7.30pm St Michael and All Angels Church:** Tickets for our Parish Fundraising Concert performed by the Warrington Male Voice are now available to purchase at the end of each Sunday Mass or at the door on the night. The ticket price is £8.00. They can also be obtained from the Parish Office. 652 5767. The concert is a great opportunity, not only to have an enjoyable evening, but will also help raise much needed funds for our Parish Community especially as we come out of the winter period having to face large Gas and Electric Bills. Please do support this concert and bring along family and friends. Thank you. Deacon Gerard

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Elm Rd](#), [Elmswood Rd](#), [Ennerdale](#), [Fairways](#), [Holborn Sq](#), [Holly Grove](#), [Holt Hill & Holt Rd](#).

**Diocesan Marriage Mass 2026:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at St Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA at 12.00noon. Come and celebrate your vocation to marriage. Parishioners celebrating a significant wedding anniversary or married within the last year can apply for an invitation from the Bishop by contacting your Parish Priest or Secretary. Details required: couples name, address and the anniversary being celebrated.

**Tea/Coffee & Cakes this Sunday at St Joseph's after 9.30am Mass:** We're pleased to announce that tea, coffee and cakes will be served at the end of 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's this Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April. Do stay and chat to fellow parishioners or take some cakes home! Many thanks to Cathy, Margaret, Yvonne and the team!

**St Michael's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April after the 9.30am Mass, All help greatly appreciated, Many thanks.

**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 ready for collection:** There are still a few offertory envelopes that haven't been collected. If you no longer require an envelope please let the office know so we can reduce the cost of ordering boxes next year. If boxes aren't used at all in a financial year for any reason then they won't be renewed the following year, 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 **Ruth (welfare)**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Tommy Moore**. 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.

**Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a Programme Coordinator and Youth Mission Team Member:**

Details regarding both posts can be found on the Diocesan Website. Interested parties should send their CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch. Closing date Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

[recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

## **Fundraising Events**

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm** Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert – see information above

**Catholic Family Holidays In the Lake District:** Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room, chapel, and lounges, and Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families, or groups of friends. Head to [www.castleriggmanor.com](http://www.castleriggmanor.com) >> **stay with us** or contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk) / **017687 72711**

**Youth Ministry Gap Year Opportunity:** Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work. **Interested?** Contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk) or [www.castleriggmanor.com](http://www.castleriggmanor.com) >> **join the team**

*"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." (John 10: 2-4)*



**Welcome to Shea Dodd & Grace Woods who were baptised in the Parish last weekend**

**Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Philip Gaunt, Imelda Moore, Irene McLoughlin, Yvonne Jones and all those who have died recently**

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

## Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Ps 32:5-6	<i>The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	<i>God has made him both Lord and Christ</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 22:1-6 r. 1	<i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	1 Pet 2:20b-25	<i>You have returned to the shepherd of your souls.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	John 10:14	<i>I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	John 10:1-10	<i>I am the door of the sheep.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>		<i>The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia</i>

### Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Canon Niall Mullaley  
Assistant Priest: Father Malachy Ogbede  
In Residence: Father Sijo Poulouse (*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:* 19<sup>th</sup> April £724.89

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

*Development Society Winner: 19<sup>th</sup> April £50 172 Andy Davies*

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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