

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 12 April 2026**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week II</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	The Welfare of Mike Flynn Ken Ward Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	13	Ferial		9.30am	Peter Crate RIP	St Michael's
Tuesday	14	Ferial		7.00pm	Deacon Ben Tomnay RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	15	Ferial		9.15am	Imelda Moore RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	16	Ferial		9.30am	Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	17	Ferial		9.15am	Imelda Moore RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	18	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's Intention Adoration & Confessions Confessions Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week III</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Frank, Marie & Hugh Hyland Freda Cavanagh Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. "Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them". We gather 'Eight Days Later', on the Eighth Day of the Easter Octave! This is always this same Gospel from St John on this day, the disciples gathered together in the room. In the Gospels, when people meet the Risen Christ, often he is just 'there' among them. Today the disciples are in hiding, and then they perceive that Jesus is 'among them'; he gives them the Gift of the Holy Spirit to give them hope and courage. Eight days later they are gathered once again with Thomas who doubted their story, and Jesus is again 'among them' and Thomas is able to touch him, see his transformed wounds, and recognises the presence of his 'Lord and God'. I know from times in my own life, when I've felt stuck in a 'room' whatever situation or circumstance that may represent, and wondered what the way out might be; it is then that someone may have said or done something that has helped me see that God was not absent, but 'right there', been there all along, but my own agendas or concerns may have blotted my perception. In a time in our world when many feel they can't see a way out of various 'rooms', we can all, by our compassion, tenderness, mercy, respect and care help each other recognise that the Risen Christ is 'among us', right there, journeying with us, and as we recognise 'Our Lord and our God' we can truly be his living sign 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. Amen*

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

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

**This Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April:** Please note also that this weekend of Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 next Saturday, 18th April

**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: [Goldsmith Rd](#), [Goldsmith Way](#), [Golf Links Rd](#), [Kelvin Rd](#), [Kingsway](#), [Kingsdale Ave](#) & [Kingsland 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 THIS 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.

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **In thanks for a beautiful Grandson Louis & Hannah.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Recovery of Olivia Keenan.** 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 Michael's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April after the 9.30am Mass. All help greatly appreciated, thank you

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

**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 Middy.

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

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

**Closing date Friday 29 April 2026.**

Thank you in advance

**Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph Appeal:** On the weekend of 25/26 April we welcome Sister Ann Jentrix FMSJ, a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Sisters' Missions. 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 & health care, catechesis, social & 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.

**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

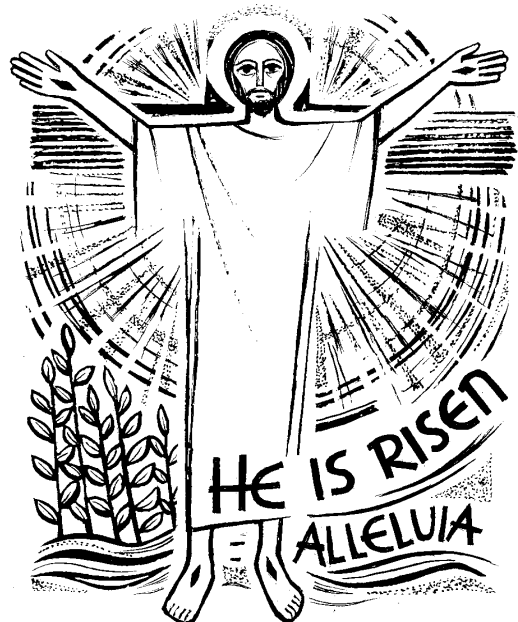
**Fundraising Events**

**Dates for your Diary**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm**

Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert

**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**



**Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of  
Imelda Moore, Irene McLoughlin, Veronica  
Kehoe, Deacon Ben Tomnay and all those who  
have died recently  
May they rest in peace,  
in the arms of the Good Shepherd**

