

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 19 April 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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
Sunday	19	Third Sunday of Easter	Week III			
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	Frank, Marie & Hugh Hyland Freda Cavanagh Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	20	Ferial		9.30am	Joseph Palliyan 7 th Anniversary	St Michael's
Tuesday	21	Ferial		12.noon 7.00pm	Funeral Service for Veronica Kehoe Sacred Heart for prayers answered	Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	22	Ferial		9.15am	Imelda Moore RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	23	St George		9.30am	Barbara Shaungnessy intention	Saint Michael's
Friday	24	Ferial		9.15am	Bridget Lawrence & Family	Saint Joseph's
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
Sunday	26	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Week IV			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Peter McGann Anniversary RIP Tommy Moore Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. In today's Gospel of St Luke we have the scene of the two disciples on the road to the village of Emmaus and their meeting with the Risen Christ. Let us look at the image; the two disciples are downcast after Jesus' death, their hopes are dismayed. Jesus himself comes to journey with them, but their vision is obscured by their own concerns and expectations. Jesus ask them to share their concerns with him; they tell their story and even the news about the 'empty tomb' but don't know what to make of it. The stranger, Jesus, challenges them, shares the scriptures, and 'opens' the meaning of the scriptures to them; they are captivated by his message. When they come to the village they invite the stranger in to their table. Jesus 'blesses, breaks and shares the bread'; then their understanding is opened, they recognise him and that he has been with them all along! They didn't see because their own agendas blocked him out. They are filled with joy, return to Jerusalem and share the Good News! The pattern should be familiar, as it is the pattern of a Christian Eucharist! We gather with our own stories and concerns, and often these can 'obscure' our vision; the scriptures are proclaimed and then 'opened' in the homily. Our prayer then should 'invite' the Lord in and then we recognise that he is with us in the taking, blessing, breaking and sharing of the bread of the Eucharist! As our understanding is opened we too can 'go out' and live and share the 'Good News' in our lives and in our different situations. This is why it is so central to Catholic Christianity that we gather regularly for the Eucharist so that our 'spiritual vision' can be refocussed to recognise that the Risen Lord is journeying with us all along, and that in recognising that presence in so many ways, we can share it 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

Pope Leo African Visit: Please continue your prayer with Pope Leo as he visits Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea to promote peace, reconciliation and inter-religious dialogue amid these difficult times for our world.

Sister Mary Hill CSN, RIP: We heard in the week of the death of Sister Mary Hill of the Sisters of Nazareth. 'Sister Mary' had worked as Parish Sister in St Michael & All Angels for several years, and in recent years had retired to help her religious sisters in Nazareth House. She will be well remembered by many. May she know the peace and joy of God's Presence.

Professor Judith Champ, RIP: Professor Judith Champ, who was a Papal Dame of the Order of St Sylvester, died peacefully in the early hour of Easter Sunday Morning. Judith was on the staff of St Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham, the Seminary where a good number of Priests, and now Deacons, of England and Wales were trained. She was a Church Historian and wrote many works about the story of the Catholic Church in these lands. She taught many of us, including myself, Canon Niall. She has had a huge influence for so many of us; she was at my Ordination to the Priesthood in 1986. Please keep Judith in your prayers that she also may know the joy and peace of God's Presence.

Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph Appeal: Next weekend of 25th/26th April we welcome Sister Ann Jentrix 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' Missionary 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 next weekend, and we assure Sister Ann of a warm welcome.

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

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: Garden Court, Garrick Road, Glenavon Rd, Ingleborough Rd, Irvine Rd, Ivydale Rd, Jessamine Rd.

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: 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 NOW.** Please DO NOT use your old envelopes anymore as it causes issues with the accounting system, Many thanks. If you no longer require an envelope 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 **For Barb dealing with bad health news.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Pope Leo's African Visit.** 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.

Diocesan Marriage Mass 2026: 13th 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.

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 29th April.

recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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.

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 >> **stay with us** or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

Fundraising Events

Dates for your Diary

Friday 28th 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 or www.castleriggmanor.com >> **join the team**

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 25th April 10.00-1.00

online. "SURRENDER TO LOVE." The Holy Spirit transforms us by helping us surrender to God's love. Mini retreat morning including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from speaker Geoff Poulter, trainer in prophecy, healing and discipleship. **Attend in person** if possible at St. Joseph's, Christchurch, Dorset. Details at https://www.altonrenewal.com/this_month

Welcome to Effie Keenan, Luca Morrison, Savannah Ross and Maeve Henshaw who were baptised in the Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Sister Mary Hill CSN, Professor Judith Champ, Imelda Moore, Irene McLoughlin, Veronica Kehoe, Deacon Ben Tomnay, Yvonne Jones and all those who have died recently
May they rest in peace,
in the arms of the Good Shepherd

How hard do you have to look?



Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf. Ps 65:1-2	<i>Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia</i>
Reading 1	Acts 2:14, 22-33	<i>It was not possible for him to be held by death.</i>
Psalm	Ps 16:1-2. 5, 7-11 r. 11	<i>O Lord, you will show me the path of life</i>
Reading 2	1 Pet 1:17-21	<i>You were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Luke 24:32	<i>Lord Jesus, open the scriptures to us. make our hearts burn within us when you speak to us.</i>
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35	<i>He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.</i>
Communion Antiphon	LK 24:35	<i>The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia</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
 admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk
 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: 12th April £755.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 12th April £50 194 SJ Reader

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