

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 3 May 2026

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

| Day | Date | Celebration | Psalter | Mass Time | Mass Intention | Church |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|---|--|---|
| 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 |
| Sunday | 3 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | Week I | | | |
| 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 | Mary Therese McGuire birthday remem Sandra Doyle RIP Matthew O'Connell | Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's |
| Monday | 4 | The English Martyrs | | 9.30am | Daniel Regan 1 st Anniversary RIP | Saint Michael's |
| Tuesday | 5 | Ferial | | 7.00pm | Neil Collins RIP | Saint Joseph's |
| Wednesday | 6 | Ferial | | 9.15am | Michael Berry Junior | Saint Joseph's |
| Thursday | 7 | Ferial | | 12.noon | Funeral Mass for Philip Gaunt | Saint Michael's |
| Friday | 8 | Ferial | | 9.15am | Ann Cunningham RIP | Saint Joseph's |
| Saturday | 9 | Ferial | | 10.30am 10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm | First Holy Communion Mass Barney & Mary Connors RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Pat, Joe & Brendan Fortune | Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's |
| Sunday | 10 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Week II | | | |
| | | | | 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm | Parishioners Len Maguire birthday remembrance Sheila Pugh 10 year Anniversary | Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's |

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, again St John portrays Jesus using the 'I AM', the Old Testament name of God revealed to Moses in the burning bush 'I AM WHO I AM'. Last week it was 'I AM the gate of the sheepfold' this week we have 'I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life'. By using the 'I AM' St John is telling us that the words Jesus speaks are coming from the very lips of God. The 'Way' the 'Truth' and the 'Life' all have capitals, they are personalised as 'names'. The 'Way' to the fullness of life is personally present 'is flesh' 'human' in Jesus; by the example, teaching and witness of his life, Jesus has made that 'Way' tangible. The 'Truth' the teaching that which is truly 'Real' that shows who God is; again 'is flesh' 'human' in Jesus. The 'Life' – not just 'physical' living but the true and Eternal Life of God, which will be opened to all through the Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Gift of the Holy Spirit; again 'is flesh' 'human' in Jesus. We take heart today, that being joined to Jesus, 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' become part of us, and permeate our being, so that by what we say and do, by the way we live our lives 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' can be tangible in 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

Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph Appeal: Thank you to everyone who donated to last weekend's missionary appeal. As a Parish we raised £700.13 which has now been sent off to the Franciscan missionaries of St Joseph

Mass intentions St Michael's: Please bear with us if your Mass intention hasn't yet been said as currently we have a lot of intentions especially for a Saturday night and Sunday morning, thank you.

Weekday Masses at St Michael's this Week: This coming Monday, 4th May is a Bank Holiday, but the Mass at St Michael's will stay at the usual time of 9.30am that day, due to other events taking place later. Please note that on Thursday, 7th May there will be no 9.30am Mass at St Michael's due to a Funeral Mass taking place there that day at 12.noon.

Upcoming First Holy Communion Masses: We have two First Holy Communion Celebrations coming up:
◆ **Saturday, 9th May 10.30am at St Michael's** – 10.30am Mass, Confessions and Holy Hour at St Joseph's will still take place that day
◆ **Saturday, 16th May 10.30am at St Joseph's** – no Holy Hour or Confessions that day

Confirmation: Last Friday evening Bishop Mark joined this Deanery for the celebration of Mass at Our Lady's Church during which he confirmed and received our young people in their faith. Let us offer our prayers in support for their continued growth in faith, love of God as the Holy Trinity, and service of their communities as they become the church of today and the future.



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.

St Joseph's Ladies Group: Wednesday 6th May, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. We are being joined by some of the Ukranian Choir who are going to sing for us. All welcome

Spring Sing'26 with Warrington Male Voice Choir
Friday 29th 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 (also available by contacting Deacon Gerard on 0774 2649728) The ticket price is £8.00. 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: **Edinburgh Drive, Elm Rd North, Heswall Ave, Highgreen Rd, Hillside Rd, Holborn Hill, Durley Park Close.**

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.

Tea, coffee and cakes, St Joseph's Thanks to the excellent bakers, we'll be able to enjoy tea, coffee and cakes on the last Sunday of each month, unless there is a Baptism planned. Watch the dates for your diary section of the newsletter



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.

St Joseph's Church Cleaning: Thursday 7th May from 9.30am onwards, All help greatly appreciated, thank you

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **An end to wars**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Josephine Cowie nee Collins 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.

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality are holding a day of reflection on Saturday 23rd May at Shrewsbury Cathedral Chapter House. The day will include reflections from Father Sean Henry and Dr Kieran Moriarty. There will also be Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All Hospitality members and their guests are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

Fundraising Events & Dates for your Diary

Friday 29th May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert – see information above

Tea, Coffee and Cakes – St Joseph's
Sunday 31st May after 9.30am Mass
Sunday 28th June after 9.30am Mass
Sunday 26th July after 9.30am Mass

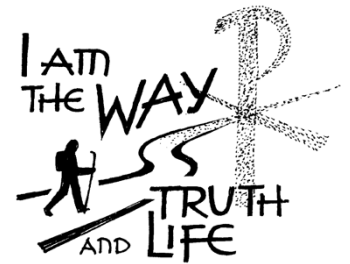
Catholic Family Holidays In the Lake District: Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the 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

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**

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/>

"Jesus said 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No comes to the Father except through me.'"
(John 14: 6)



Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Philip Gaunt and 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 97:1-2 | <i>O Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia</i> |
| Reading 1 | Acts 6:1-7 | <i>They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.</i> |
| Psalm | Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 r. 22 | <i>May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord</i> |
| Reading 2 | 1 Pet 2:4-9 | <i>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.</i> |
| Gospel Acclamation | John 14:6 | <i>I am the Way, and the truth, and the Life, says the Lord No one comes to the Father except through me.</i> |
| Gospel | John 14:1-12 | <i>I am the Way, and the truth, and the Life.'</i> |
| Communion Antiphon | Cf. Jn 15:1,5 | <i>I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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: 26th April £1015.87

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 26th April £50 102 Tony Evans

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