

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 17 May 2026**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	16	Ferial		10.30am <del>11.00am</del> 5.15pm 6.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass <i>No Holy Hour or Confessions</i> Confessions Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Week III</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	Parishioners Leone Monaco Pauline Tamm RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	18	Ferial		9.30am	Vincent de Paul & Patricia Roper 60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	19	St Milburga		7.00pm	Canon Phil Moor 60 <sup>th</sup> birthday intention	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	20	Ferial		9.15am	Peter Fogg RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	21	The Dedication of the Cathedral		9.30am	Sr Rogi Koothungal FCC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary	Saint Michael's
Friday	22	Ferial		9.15am	Isobel Eeley RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	23	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Deacon Ben Tomnay RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Carol Rigby for a full recovery	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>Week IV</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Sandra Doyle RIP Ronnie Connors RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

## Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This Seventh Sunday of Easter, falling between the Ascension and Pentecost, has a feel of moving the focus from the Risen Jesus in just one body, to his presence in the lives of all his people through the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of St John today, from what is known as Jesus' 'priestly prayer'; he prays for his followers, that all the Father gives to Jesus, might be alive in them, and that by their lives, the life of God that was made present in Jesus, may be present in them. The 'Body of Christ' is not just one person, but by the Gift of the Holy Spirit, we are the 'Body of Christ' in the here and now. We come to the Sacraments so that the life of Jesus may be strengthened in us, and that we may believe that we can be his living presence. In our world of today, with the concerns of divisions, conflict, climate change and the growing gap between rich and poor, nations thinking only of their own interests, that the loving, caring presence of Jesus is needed more than ever. This time between Ascension and Pentecost, amid all the concerns of our of our world, uplifts us, and reminds us that every one of us, whoever, or whatever our situation, can allow that presence of Jesus to be real, alive and present in our in our lives, and that as the 'Body of Christ' show that care of God in our world

*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**

**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.

**Parish Office:** The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May inclusive. For any urgent matters please speak to Canon Niall or one of the Deacons, Many thanks.

**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.

**The Marian Lamp:** burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **First Holy Communion Children** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Margaret Dunn for a speedy recovery**. 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.

**Tour of the Relics of St Gerard Majella 2026:** In the last week of May, our diocese will be privileged to host the relics of St Gerard Majella on their tour of England and Wales. This is to mark St Gerard's 300th anniversary. He was a Redemptorist lay-brother from Southern Italy who died at 29. There will be four locations across the Diocese: The Cathedral, Chester, New Brighton, and Stockport. See the poster for details. St Gerard is popularly invoked as the patron of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession.

**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 (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

**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 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. Please let the office know if you no longer require one, Many thanks.

**St Joseph's Church Grounds tidy up:** Help is needed on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May from 10am onwards to tidy up the grounds and garden at St Joseph's Church. All help greatly appreciated and if you have your own gardening tools even better. Many thanks

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Cotswold Rd, Curzon Rd, Dell Court, Guy Close, Hampden Grove, Hampden Rd, & Harley Ave.**

**Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality** are holding a day of reflection on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

## Fundraising Events & Dates for your Diary

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 SMAA – 7.30pm** Warrington Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert – see information above

**Tea, Coffee and Cakes – St Joseph’s**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May after 9.30am Mass**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June after 9.30am Mass**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July after 9.30am Mass**

**SING GOSPEL! A Songs of Praise Special Event:** Come and join BBC Songs of Praise at Liverpool Olympia as we celebrate the joy and power of Gospel music with very special guests and plenty of opportunity to lift your voice and your spirits!

**WHEN: Tuesday 19th May 2026 - recording at 7pm**

**(doors open from 5.30pm)** Age restriction: there is no minimum age for entry, all ages are warmly welcomed but children aged 17 and under should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. **WHERE:** Liverpool Olympia, West Derby Road, Liverpool, L6 9BY.

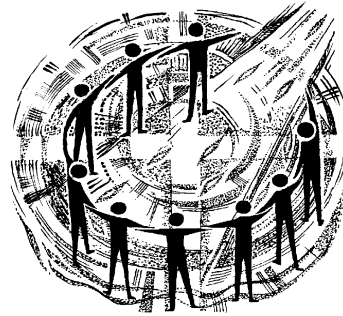
Please contact [www.Lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1422](http://www.Lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1422) for **free tickets**

**Sr Mary Hill RIP:** People have been asking us about the Funeral Arrangements for Sr Mary Hill CSN, who worked in St Michael’s Church for several years. The Vigil Mass for Sr Mary will be held at Nazareth House Chapel on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm and her Requiem Mass will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am followed by interment at Landican. Space in the chapel is limited.

## **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/>



*“I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.”  
(John 17: 9-11)*

Welcome to  
Lael Sylvester & Skyla Warren who were baptised in  
the Parish last weekend

**Please Pray for the Repose of the  
Soul of Michelle Johnson and  
all those who have died recently**  
May they rest in peace,  
in the arms of the Good Shepherd

**DIGITAL DONATIONS :** All banks have now significantly increased their handling charges for cash deposits made by the parish and our Wi-Fi connections here in church have proved problematic to us for some time now. For these reasons we are asking that if it is at all possible please use this QR Code with your mobile phones to make donations for your offertory rather than cash on the plate. The link will take you to Dona Donations Site used throughout the Diocese which enables us to also claim back 25p every time an individual donates £1 up to the value of £30 for each act of giving as GIFT AID

## OFFERTORY



**PLEASE  
SCAN TO MAKE  
DONATIONS**

## Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Ps 26:7-9	<i>O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Acts 1:12-14	<i>All with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 26:1, 4, 7-8 r. 13	<i>I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	1 Pet 4:13-16	<i>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	John 14:18	<i>I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	John 17:1-11	<i>Father, glorify your Son.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Jn 17:22	<i>Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, 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](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:* 10th May £510:00      Monthly Standing Orders: £1610  
*Development Society Winner:* 10th May 2026 001 Mary Arch

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