

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 10 May 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
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			
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 Len Maguire birthday remembrance Sheila Pugh 10 year Anniversary	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	11	Ferial		9.30am	Father Tom Morton	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	12	Ferial		7.00pm	Yvonne Jones RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	13	Ferial PM Vigil of the Ascension		9.15am 7.00pm	Kenneth Cunningham RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Thursday	14	The Ascension of the Lord Holyday of Obligation		9.30am 12.00pm 6.00pm	Sam Pickering birthday remembrance Ascension Day Mass Ascension Day Mass	Saint Michael's Our Lady's Our Lady's
Friday	15	Ferial		9.15am	Daniel & Kathleen Cunningham RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	16	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	First Holy Communion Mass No Holy Hour or Confessions Confessions Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	17	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Week V11			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Leone Monaco Pauline Tamm RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Over these last few weeks we have remembered the Resurrection of Jesus and his appearances to his followers and the message this conveys to our daily lives. This weekend, and on Ascension Thursday coming, the focus shifts from the Risen Jesus in one body, to his being present in all his people through the action of the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel Jesus promises the Gift of the Holy Spirit, that when he 'goes away' they will not feel deserted but know the 'Peace' of his presence in their lives. Through Jesus' Cross, Death and Resurrection he opened the way from death to life for us all; in his 'Ascension' Jesus 'the head' shows the way we 'the body' are called to follow, and whilst we journey on that way we have Jesus' presence in the Holy Spirit to give us life so we make Jesus' Way, a 'Living Way' in our lives. Then all that we recall at Eastertime isn't about remembering something long ago, but recalling it into the here and now, today, to make a living difference. In our world of the present there is a longing, near and far, for peace, hope, care, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. The 'Gospel' the 'Good News' is that those values are right here! Part of us as the Body of Christ! When we seek to live those values real, then we make the Way of Christ real, 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

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, 14th May coming: This coming Thursday, 14th May, is Ascension Thursday, and is a Holyday of Obligation for those who have the health, means and ability to attend. There are two public Masses in our Parish, the first as a Vigil Mass the evening before, Wednesday, 13th May, 7.00pm at St Joseph's, and then on the Day itself, Thursday 14th May, there will be a 9.30am Mass at St Michael's. We have coordinated our times for the Ascension with Father Michael at Our Lady's, and he is having on the Thursday itself 12.noon and 6.00pm, both at Our Lady's, Cavendish Street, CH41 8AQ

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.

Upcoming First Holy Communion Masses: We have two First Holy Communion Celebrations coming up:
♦ **This 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

Parish Office: The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 11th May until Friday 29th 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 **Paul Farrell (Welfare)**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Bring Peace to the World**. 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 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

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. 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 28th 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: **Dickens Ave, Dickens Close, Durley Dr, Harrowby Rd South, Harrowby Rd, Hawthorne Rd & Heathbank Rd.**

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

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 for **free tickets**

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 will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever."
(John 14: 16)*

Welcome to
Joshua Gibbons, Mia Rose Landers,
Jessica Taylor, Halle Tomlinson,
Jacques Vitty and Joshua & Eleanor Caul
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

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf. Is 48:20	<i>Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: the Lord has freed his people. alleluia</i>
Reading 1	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17	<i>They laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.</i>
Psalm	Ps 65:1-7, 16. 20 r. 1	<i>Cry out with joy to God all the earth.</i>
Reading 2	1 Pet 3:15-18	<i>Being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 14:23	<i>If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.</i>
Gospel	John 14:15-21	<i>I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Jn 14:15-16	<i>If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another paraclete, to abide with you for ever, 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: 3rd May £1122.20

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 3rd May £50 124 Carolyn Caldicott

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