

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 2 August 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	1	St Alphonsus Mary Liguori		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Secular Clergy Fund Adoration & Confessions Confessions Patricia McNelis	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	2	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week II			
During Ordinary Time (Summer) i.e. up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews: Human life, Those who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights: Europe: Seafarers				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Joan Breslin RIP Patricia Eccles ill health Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	3	St Oswald		9.30am	Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	4	St John Vianney		7.00pm	Hayley Andrews & Michael Maughan Int	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	5	Ferial		9.15am	Repose of the Soul Moira McLaughlin	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	6	The Transfiguration of the Lord		9.30am	Ellen Regan birthday anniversary	Saint Michael's
Friday	7	Ferial		9.15am	Ursula Cook RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	8	St Dominic		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's intention Adoration & Confessions Confessions Patte Dawson successful treatment	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	9	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week III			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Nigel Healy Anniversary RIP Gary Fletcher ill health Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend the readings continue the theme of the 'kingdom of heaven'. The First Reading is from the second part of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah often called 'The Book of Consolation' which was compiled towards the end of the exile in Babylon of the leading citizens and artisans of the Kingdom of Judah, which followed the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple some seventy years before. The exiles are given hope of a new beginning in their old homeland if they but follow God's way and embrace God's plan. Not a reign of God that would pass, but something everlasting. The belief was that this reign would be brought about by a 'Messiah' an 'Anointed One' who would be accompanied by certain 'signs', one of which was the 'Messianic Banquet'. This in popular understanding would have been seen as a 'Great King' type of figure hosting this banquet on lush grass, almost holding 'Court' with great superabundance. This brings us to St Matthew's Gospel today. Jesus and his disciples are in a lonely place with a great crowd hungering for the word of God. Jesus wants to give this crowd something to eat, but they only have five loaves and two fish! Jesus accepts this offering, and gets the people to sit down on the lush grass. He 'takes, blesses, breaks and gives'; the small gift, given with love fills a great need with much left over; a need is met with 'superabundance'. This is the true 'Messianic Banquet'; not the Military Warrior King with his courtiers, but a 'Servant King' giving himself in love. When we come to Mass we 'take, bless, break and give' in the Eucharist so that as we offer our 'loaves and fishes', the gift of ourselves! Jesus again can transform it to serve a great need; it is not the 'size' of the offering that God looks upon, but the 'heart' behind it!

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

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 9am to 12.00 noon Monday – Friday



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@stsjoeandmike



StMaAAandStJosephs



stphilipneribirkenhead

Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

Shrewsbury Diocesan Pilgrimage in Lourdes: This week our Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage is in Lourdes, with several of our parishioners involved. Please remember them in your prayers, as they remember us. You may wish to follow Lourdes TV, via the Sanctuaries website

<https://www.lourdes-france.com> and to join them for the International Mass on Sunday 2 August at 9.30am (8.30am UK time) and Grotto Mass on Monday 3 August at 10am (9am UK time). Other liturgies maybe live streamed too.

This year Bishop Mark has invited the Pilgrimage to pray for the following intentions:

- To pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo.
- To pray for all who have gone before us in the pilgrimage of Lourdes over the 75 years of our Diocesan Pilgrimage.
- To pray that we and all pilgrims will respond to the message of prayer and conversion, walking together in Eucharistic faith and love, all our lives.
- To pray we will generously respond to our calling and for an abundance of new vocations in our Diocese to the great callings of Marriage, the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life.
- To pray for the peace of the world amid many dangers and conflicts.
- To pray the threat of euthanasia to the sick and the aged will be averted and the lives of the most vulnerable cherished and safeguarded.
- To pray with Our Lady and Saint Bernadette that through the pilgrimage of life we will always remain in the joy of the Gospel.

Please join our pilgrims in praying for these intentions, particularly during the time of the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide:

Bishop Mark has forwarded this message from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill. *"This bill is wrong in principle,"* says Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, *"It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."* You can support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

For more information and resources, please visit:

cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide
righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

St Joseph's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 6th August 9.30am onwards. Many hands make light work. 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 **David Hodgkinson (Welfare)**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Good Medical Test Results**. 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 Joseph's book stall: We are now able to take paperback books for our book stall as we have sold quite a few, many thanks.

Saturday Mass intentions St Michael's: We still have a wait for Saturday evening Mass intentions. Please bear with us if yours hasn't been said yet. If you would like to change it to another day please contact the office.

CAFOD Venezuela Earthquake Appeal: We have all seen the ongoing effects of the devastating Earthquakes in Venezuela. As part of **the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)**, **CAFOD is launching the appeal** to raise vital funds for communities affected by the devastating earthquakes. To contribute please follow this link: **Venezuela Earthquake Appeal**
Or: www.cafod.org.uk

QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update: Last week our computer equipment and software were updated. In the coming weeks we will hope to get the Digital Payment Stations and QR Codes back up and running again. We will keep you posted and thank you again for your understanding.

Would you like some company on a Tuesday afternoon? A group of older people meet at the Laurie's Centre in Birkenhead every Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm for a cup of tea and a chat followed by a few games of Bingo and a raffle. You will be made most welcome and the Laurie's Centre is very convenient for most bus routes. Just come along or ring Pat Mayor on: 07530 377741

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Acuba Grove, Adelaide Rd, Agnes Rd, Albany Rd, Albert Rd & Ash Rd.**

Quiet retreats for Adults this October: During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, and evening prayer, and then a lot of time to explore the area, pray, or just simply relax. Book at www.castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

PJ's for P-J - Paul-Joseph's Adventure Trust: In memory of Paul-Joseph, who lost his life from neuroblastoma, just before his second birthday the charity is launching **PJs from PJ** in partnership with our local Hospital, Arrowe Park's children's ward. Inspired by experiences of unexpected hospital admissions, we know how overwhelming it can be to rush to hospital with nothing. Our aim is simple: to ease just one small part of that stress by providing pyjamas for children and their parents or carers who arrive without essentials or are experiencing financial hardship. If you would like to donate new pyjamas in sizes from premature babies right through to adults, all given with love in Paul-Joseph's memory, please contact the charity on contact@bradleyloweryfoundation.com or they have a Facebook page - Paul-Joseph's Adventure Trust

'Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over' (Matthew 14: 19-20)



**Please Pray for the Repose of Priscilla
Hellon and all those who have died
recently**

**May they rest in peace,
in the arms of the Good Shepherd**

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Ps 69:2,6	<i>O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.</i>
Reading 1	Isa 55:1-3	<i>Come and eat.</i>
Psalm	Ps 144: 8-9. 15-18 r.16	<i>You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 8:35, 37-39	<i>Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Matt 4:4	<i>One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.</i>
Gospel	Matt 14:13-21	<i>They all ate and were satisfied.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ws 16:20	<i>You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 26th July £818.71

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 26th July 2026 £500 432 Tom Heaney

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



**Saint Michael & All Angels
Catholic Primary School**
New Hey Road, Woodchurch, CH49 5LE
Head Teacher: Mrs Susan Ralph
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Saint Joseph's Parish Centre
0151 652 8487 evenings
0345 241 2485
bhj@ypcevents.com

**Saint Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**
Woodchurch Road, Oxtan CH43 5UT
Head Teacher: Mr Alex Turner
0151 652 6781
schooloffice@stjosephs-
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Saint Michael's Church Tour Video view on the website or the QR codes on the posters at Church