

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12 July 2026



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	11	St Benedict		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Barney & Mary Connors RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Johanne Birdett RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	12	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week III			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Jim Sweatman 20 th Anniversary Gerry Byrne birthday remembrance Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	13	Ferial		9.30am	Catherine Richardson Anniversary RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	14	Ferial		7.00pm	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	15	St Bonaventure		9.15am	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	16	Ferial		9.30am	Philip Gaunt	Saint Michael's
Friday	17	Ferial		9.15am	Sunny Raphel 19 th Death Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	18	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's intention Adoration & Confessions Confessions Patricia McNelis	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	19	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week IV			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Ken Ward birthday remembrance Kenny Rixon RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. The First Old Testament Reading this weekend comes from the part of the book of the prophet Isaiah which is referred to the 'Book of Consolation' giving new hope to those who were in exile in Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple some 70 years before. It was reflecting the hope of a new beginning and vision for the people and the promise of return to the Holy Land. It has the beautiful image of the word of God being like the 'rain and the snow' which coming from 'heaven' water the earth and give it life. The word of God does not 'return' without achieving what is was sent to do. God's promises would not fail the people if they turned him, and would carry out its purpose. St John in his Gospel and writing referred to the 'word' with a capital 'W' 'the Word' – a name of a person. This person was Jesus, who was the living, tangible presence of God 'the Word made flesh. In today's Gospel of St Matthew Jesus uses the story about a sower spreading seed, the seed being the image of the word of God. Not all the seed was to bear fruit, some was eaten, some had no root or depth or were scorched. Others bore fruit as appropriate to their situation. Jesus used this picture to portray lack of understanding, giving up through trial, or being choked by the 'worries of this world'. All of us would like to be the 'good soil', but if we are honest we can see parts of ourselves in all the pictures! That is why we come to Mass, to hear and receive the living 'Word of God' and be constantly 're-rooted' in the 'Good Soil' of faith, and receiving that 'new beginning', share it in our lives. The 'Word of God' seeks to be tangible and real in the situations of our world today. Rooted, and 're-rooted' in him that 'Word' is made real and 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

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



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

Apostleship of the Sea Collection: This weekend 11/12 July in both our Churches there will be a Retiring Collection for the Apostleship of the Sea 'Stella Maris'. Birkenhead has a long association with Seafarers, and the work of the Apostleship of the Sea is as important now, as ever. Whilst there will be a 'loose plate' collection, envelopes are available and also details about how to give online.

Carol Dalziel RIP: Many people know already that Carol Dalziel, a parishioner of St John's, New Ferry, and a great friend and supporter of our whole Catholic Community is this area, died peacefully on Sunday 21st June after a long illness. May she know the joy and peace of God's presence and may all who mourn for her find comfort and peace.

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](#)

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Alistair Crescent](#), [Amery Grove](#), [Bankville Rd](#), [Balmoral Gardens](#), [Briardale Rd](#), [Brimstage Ave](#), [Broadway](#), [Caerwys Grove](#) & [Carlton Mount](#)

QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update: The Digital Payment station at St Joseph's is still out of action and that the Payment Station at St Michael's work occasionally. Do please keep trying it. The QR Code cannot connect. We are not be in a position to get these all working again until midway through this month when our computer system here is modernised and software can be updated. Again, we ask your patience and understanding until we can get all this sorted. Thank you.

As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage where the faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at St Francis Church, Chester, on Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis. **Please see poster in Church for more details.**

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **The Christians of the Holy Land**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Claire Clarke**. 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.

New Parish Office opening times: The Parish Office opening times will normally be 9.00am to 12.noon.

We Believe Festival of Catholic Life St Mary's College, Oscott, 24-27 July 2026. There is content for people of every age. Book a place here <https://www.webeliefestival.com/>

New Diocesan Website: To mark our 175th Anniversary a new website has been launched for the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The renewed website is not merely a platform for information but offers a window on the life and witness of our Shrewsbury Diocese. The website can be accessed by clicking on: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>

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

Catholic holidays in the Lake District this summer: During August and September, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is opening its doors to families, groups of friends, or private individuals who are looking for an affordable stay in the Lake District. Breakfast and evening meal are provided, and Mass is celebrated on site. For more information check out castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

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

Saturday 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 for a Saturday night (approximately a few months wait). If you are waiting for an intention you have specified for a Saturday evening but would like to change it to another day please contact the office.

The Seed is the Word of God

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose"
(Isaiah 55: 10b, 11a)

Welcome to Sean Oliver Dawid Mikulas who was baptised in the Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Carol Dalziel 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 16:15	<i>As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory</i>
Reading 1	Isa 55:10-11	<i>The rain makes the earth bring forth and sprout</i>
Psalm	Ps 64:10-14 r.Lk 8:8	<i>Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 8:18-23	<i>The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.</i>
Gospel Acclamation		<i>The seed is the word of God, Christ the Sower; all who find him will live for ever</i>
Gospel	Matt 13:1-23	<i>A sower went out to sow.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Ps 83:4-5	<i>The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 5th July £707

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 5th July 2026 £50 323 Pat Harris

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
0151 677 4088
schooloffice@stmichael-allangels.wirral.sch.uk

Saint Joseph's Parish Centre
0151 652 8487 evenings
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

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's Church Tour Video view on the website or the QR codes on the posters at Church