

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 5 July 2026**

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	4	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Paula Rixon RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Patricia McNelis	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Week II</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Frankie Savage Jozef Rajcani	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	6	Ferial		9.30am	Sandra Doyle RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	7	Ferial		7.00pm	Father Sam Thotamala intention	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	8	Ferial		9.15am	Priest's intention	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	9	Ferial		9.30am	Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	10	Ferial		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
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
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Week III</b>			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Jim Sweatman 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gerry Byrne birthday remembrance Parishioners	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 prophet Zechariah, and is set in the time of hope after the exiles had been able to return to the Holy Land from captivity in Babylon. They were able to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple, a mark of a new beginning. Zechariah sees the beginning of a new kingdom, not based on military power, which had failed to serve them in the past, but on in humble service of God. He sees the coming of a king, 'riding on a donkey'; this is an image meaning that this king will rule with humble service, bringing peace. Christians were to later see this passage as a sign of Christ; Jesus was to enter Jerusalem 'riding a donkey' a king who 'serves' with humility. In today's Gospel of Matthew Jesus shows what the kingdom of God is about, and that his reign is in 'humble, loving service'. There can be an attitude in our psyche that sees 'humility' as someone thinking they are 'no good' 'not having anything to offer' 'no role to play' 'no worth'. That is not humility in the Christian sense; that is 'false modesty' or some kind of 'low self-esteem'. True Christian humility is to acknowledge that all we have and are is a gift of God, and to live and share all that God has given us to help build up the 'Body of Christ'; his people in today's world. Jesus in his 'humility' generously and selflessly shared all he was in 'service' of all humanity in sheer 'Gift'. It is a call to all of us; we don't all have the same gifts and abilities, we are not all the same person. But when we seek to share, to 'pool' our uniqueness, we begin to grow and enrich each other, become that living Body of Christ, and allow him to reach out in and through us today in that same 'humble and loving service'

*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



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@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)

**Canon Niall:** I'm still here! I am however needing to take the necessary recovery time after my Hospital Procedure the other week. I am very appreciative to everyone for your kind thoughts and prayers.

**Father Anthony Wild:** Father Anthony Wild is receiving care and support at home, and is getting a lot better. He has asked us to convey his gratitude for the concern, prayer and kind wishes that have been shown by so many. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues on the road to recovery.

**Ordination to the Priesthood of Gerard Connett and Kevin Hogan:** Last Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, at Shrewsbury Cathedral, Bishop Mark ordained Father Gerard Connett to the Priesthood, and this Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, also at Shrewsbury Cathedral, Bishop Mark will ordain Deacon Kevin Hogan to the Priesthood. Please keep them both in your prayers as they begin their ministry in our Diocese.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**New Parish Office opening times:** The Parish Office opening times will normally be 9.00am to 12.00pm.

**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.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: Berkeley Ave, Borough Rd, Boswell Rd, Carlton Rd, Charlecombe Street, Chestnut Grove & Church Mews.

**QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update:** Sorry that the Digital Payment station at St Joseph's is 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 may not be in a position to get these all working again until mid-July when our computer system here is modernised. 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 **Vocations to the Priesthood**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **The Children suffering throughout 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.

**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.webelievefestival.com/>

**New Diocesan Website:** To mark our 175<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**BBC Young Chorister of the year 2026 - A Songs Of Praise Special:** Songs of Praise and BBC Radio 2 would love to invite you to a very special recording of BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2026 from the iconic Hallé St Peter's in Manchester.

**Wednesday 8th July 2026 - Junior Semi-Final (doors open 10:30am)**

**Wednesday 8th July 2026 - Senior Semi-Final (doors open 4:00pm)**

**Thursday 9th July 2026 - Grand Final (doors open 11:30am)**

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:** Hallé St Peter's, Audience Entrance on Hood Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 6BF  
To book tickets phone 020 8530 8154 or <https://lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1436>

**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

**Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality** will be holding a Predeparture Mass and meeting on Saturday 11th July at St Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. We will join the Youth Section at 12 noon for Mass, followed by a meeting at 1.30 pm . Please bring a packed lunch . All members of the Hospitality will be welcome.

**CAFOD Venezuela Earthquake Appeal:** We have all become aware this week of the devastating Earthquake 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**

**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](http://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us) or contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.castleriggmanor.com/events) or contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk)



*"At that time Jesus declared 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will'"*

*(Matthew 11: 25-26)*

Welcome to Nelly Herbert & James Swift who were baptised in the Parish last weekend

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

# Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Cf. Pd 47:10-11	<i>Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth: your right hand is filled with saving justice</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Zech 9:9-10	<i>Behold, your king is coming to you, humble.</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 144: 1-2. 8-11. 13-14 r. 1	<b><i>I will bless your name for ever, my God and King</i></b>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Rom 8:9, 11-13	<i>If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Matt 11:25-30	<i>I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Matt 11:25-30	<i>I am gentle and lowly in heart.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Ps 33:9	<i>Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him</i>

**Income:** Thank you for your generosity.

*Offertory Collection:* 28<sup>th</sup> June £1080.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

*Development Society Winner:* 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026 £50 350 Mandy Copeland

**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](http://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