

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 26 July 2026

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

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	25	St James		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Winnie Williams birthday & Anniversary Adoration & Confessions Confessions Winnie, William & Billy James RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	26	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week I			
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	Judith Dearden RIP Kathleen Boyle 5 th Anniversary RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	27	Ferial		9.30am	Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	28	Ferial		7.00pm	Father Bernard Forshaw 40 th Ordination Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	29	Ss Mary, Martha and Lazarus		9.15am	Caroline Burley birthday remembrance	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	30	Ferial		9.30am	Patrick O'Brien	Saint Michael's
Friday	31	St Ignatius of Loyola		9.15am	Adrian & Julia Fernandes birthday intention	Saint Joseph's
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			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Joan Breslin RIP Patricia Eccles 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' which is not a country or some state separate from day to day reality, but the 'Way' of God in our 'hearts', the core of our being, that which makes us 'tick' so to speak. In the First Reading we have the image of God asking the young King Solomon what he wants? He chooses wisdom, to guide and serve the people in the way that is best. God blesses him because he has not asked for himself, but for a gift to help him serve in the best way; in this he is choosing 'what matters'. This takes us to today's Gospel where Jesus, in telling the parables of the 'treasure in the field' and the 'pearl of great price' invites us to 'stand back' and consider what is our 'true treasure' our 'pearl of great price'? Are our hearts, the core of our being, what 'makes us tick', rooted in things that pass or are we rooted in the things of God, that endure forever? If we seek to allow the kingdom of heaven, the way and vision of Christ be rooted in the core of our being, then we have found the 'treasure in the field' and 'the pearl of great price' the gift of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit living in our hearts, that shapes and motivates our vision. The truth of the matter is that this needs to be a constant choice, an ongoing conversion; there are so many distractions that can mar the vision of our true treasure and that's why we need each other, so that we can support each other by the living the life of faith, sharing in the Sacraments, seeking God's presence in prayer that renews our faith vision, to be rooted in that treasure, finding what truly matters, and helping others to share that gift also

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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StMaAAandStJosephs



stphilipneribirkenhead

Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

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

**A message from Canon Christopher Matthews,
 Lourdes Pilgrimage Director:**

Next week the 2026 75th Anniversary Diocesan Pilgrimage will set out for Lourdes. Thank you for your support of the pilgrimage. Please remember us in your prayers, as we will remember you and your parishioners in ours. Parishioners may wish to follow Lourdes TV, via the Sanctuaries website

<https://www.lourdes-france.com> and to join us 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.

We invite your parishioners to join us 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

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.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **My Father Selvaraj's health**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Nathaniel**. 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.

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

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Allcot Ave, Allerton Grove, Allerton Rd, Aspendale Rd, Astonwood Rd, Baytree Rd, Bebington Rd & The Beeches**

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field' (Matthew 13: 44)



Welcome to Connie Green, Presley Scholes-Benndich, Cole Cardus and Willow Bennett who were baptised in our Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of 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 67:6-7, 36	<i>God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people</i>
Reading 1	Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12	<i>You have asked for yourself understanding</i>
Psalm	Ps 119:57, 72. 76-77, 127-130 R. 97a	<i>O Lord, how I love your law!</i>
Reading 2	Rom 8:28-30	<i>He predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son</i>
Gospel Acclamation	cf. Matt 11:25	<i>I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.</i>
Gospel	Matt 13:44-52	<i>He sells all that he has and buys that field</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ps 102:2	<i>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 19th July £765.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 19th July 2026 £50 110 Mary Strickland

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