

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19 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	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
Monday	20	Ferial		9.30am	Special intention the Miller Family	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	21	Ferial		7.00pm	Carol Dalziel RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	22	St Mary Magdalene		9.15am	Paul & Mary Dearden	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	23	St Bridget		9.30am	Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	24	Ferial		9.15am	Fr Paul Standish 40 th Ordination Anniv	Saint Joseph's
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			
				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

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend continues the theme of the 'Kingdom of Heaven'. Jesus was to teach that the Kingdom of God' was not a country, or just about one people, but an attitude of heart, that whenever people sought to live in a loving relationship with God, and bore the fruit of that relationship in their attitude to others and how they related to them, then the kingdom of heaven 'broke in' and coloured our outlook and was opened to others around for them to see and share. The First Reading from the Book of Wisdom speaks about God's forgiveness and how, after we receive that gift we are called to share it in our outlook to others. It shows that God's lenience isn't just about 'me and God' but shows forth in our outlook to others. It plants the seeds for the Gospel view of the kingdom of heaven. This takes us to this weekend's Gospel of St Matthew. The Parable of the 'Wheat and Darnel (*Weeds* in the new translation)' is a picture about where we have to live our faith in Christ. We can't go somewhere else, just gather in a 'holy huddle' separate from the world, we have to live that faith in Jesus where we are. 'The darnel-weeds' is all around us in the attitudes and vision that detracts from God's Way; in the midst of that we are called to be the 'wheat' that continues to bear the fruit of God's love, mercy tenderness and compassion. We are aware of so much 'darnel-weeds' around in our world today, but this also helps see how much the 'wheat' of the values of the Gospel are so needed. The 'good seed' of the Gospel isn't somewhere beyond us, it is part of us through our seeking to share the life of Christ. The Second Reading reminds us that God's Spirit is part of us, and prays with us, even at our lowest. When we seek to live the Gospel, and when we pray, in Christ we are never alone

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 Poulouse (*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

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

Marian Lamp intention handed in last weekend:

If you put a Marian Lamp intention in a white envelope saying Marian Lamp offering with an intention inside last weekend could you get in touch with the office please as we don't know which Church this is for, Many thanks.

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](#)**

Welcome back to William Muh Ngong: In the week we welcomed back Acolyte William Muh Ngong, after his placement in Wilmslow and his work with the Diocesan Youth Mission Team. He will be with us for this weekend after which he will be moving to a new 'home base' with Father Godlove Amungwa in Our Lady's, Ellesmere Port. Father Godlove, William and their families know each other from their home country of Cameroon. Now that Father Godlove has a permanent base in Ellesmere Port it will be good for William to be based there. It has been a pleasure having William living here for this time, and we wish him every blessing for the future. He will still be working in our Diocese so we look forward to seeing him from time to time.

Apostleship of the Sea Collection (Stella Maris):

Thank you to everyone who donated to the last minute collection last weekend. As a Parish we raised £190.00 which has been sent off, thank you for your generosity.

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.

St Michael's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 23rd July after the 9.30am Mass. 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 **Our Newly Ordained Priests**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Dave & Elaine**. 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.

School Holidays: Every good wish to all Staff and Pupils from our Schools as they begin their summer holidays. We wish them all a joyful and refreshing time.

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.**

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/>

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/>

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: **Acrefield Court, Acrefield Rd, Bedford Dr, Beech Rd, Ben Nevis Rd & Bowness Ave.**

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.

*The Spirit helps us
in our weakness.
For we do not
know what to pray
for as we ought,
but the Spirit
himself intercedes
for us with
groanings too deep
for words (Romans 8:26)*



**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	Ps 53:6,8	<i>See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.</i>
Reading 1	Wis 12:13, 16-19	<i>You give repentance for sins</i>
Psalm	Ps 85:5-6.9-10.15-16 r.5	<i>O Lord, you are good and forgiving.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 8:26-27	<i>The Spirit intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words.</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 13:24-43	<i>Let them both grow together until the harvest.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ps 110:4-5	<i>The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 12th July £813.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 12th July 2026 £50 347 Lesley McDaid

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, Oxtan 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