

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 9 August 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	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			
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	Nigel Healy Anniversary RIP Gary Fletcher ill health Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	10	St Lawrence		9.30am	Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	11	St Clare		7.00pm	Special intention R.R.	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	12	Ferial		9.15am	Michael Berry RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	13	Ferial		9.30am	Steve Shaunessey Anniversary	Saint Michael's
Friday	14	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe		9.15am	Purcell Family intentions	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	15	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Norma Kendrick RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Pat, Joe & Brendan Fortune Anniv RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	16	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Week IV			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Priscilla Hellon RIP Sister Bernice Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend we return to the usual pattern of the Sunday readings with the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A of the cycle of readings. In today's Gospel we have the picture of the disciples on the lake and Jesus 'walking on water' towards them, at first they think it is a 'ghost' but then Jesus' natural voice in this 'supernatural scene' gives them peace. Peter, emboldened, thinks he can 'walk on water' but starts to sink and is raised up by the hand of Jesus, taken into the boat and then all is calm. The storms can symbolise all the challenges we face, and where is God amidst those waves that we feel are going to overwhelm us? He is 'walking above' them, he is the true peace, the true calm that they cannot overpower. This the disciples were to realise. Like Peter, I think there are times in our lives when we are elated and feel can 'walk on water', but then reality hits us and we can feel that we are 'sinking' but we know that if we reach out to Jesus, and his 'hand' can raise us up. I have known that hand through so many: a kind word, a listening ear, words of compassion, guidance, positive challenge; and as that hand has reached out to me, so in turn I have felt the courage to be that 'hand' to others. Then this scene becomes about all of us! Jesus the voice of peace and true calm that our 'storms' cannot overwhelm. We take heart today, that amid all the 'storms & waves' around us we can take the 'hand' of Jesus, and raised up we in our turn, can be that hand to others

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 to Lourdes: We welcome back our Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. This year Bishop Mark 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 keep these intentions in prayer over this weekend as our Pilgrims return.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **All awaiting A Level & GCSE results**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Thanksgiving Prayers answered**. 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.

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

Healing & Anointing Service at St John's: Friday 4th September 2026 at 7pm. Please see posters at the back of Church.

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: Our computer equipment and software were recently 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: **Wharfedale Ave, Wharfedale Rd, Willowbank Rd, Woodchurch Lane, Woodchurch Rd, Woodville Rd, Wycherley Rd, Wye Close & Yelverton 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

"So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'"
(Matthew 14: 29b-310)



**Welcome to Cruz & Romy Nethercott,
Joseph Boyd, Norrie Sinnett & Paddy
Thomas who were baptised in our Parish
last weekend**

**Please Pray for the Repose of Priscilla (Cilla)
Hellon, Margaret Dunne, Patrick (Paddy)
English 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 73:20, 19, 22, 23	<i>Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you</i>
Reading 1	1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13	<i>Stand on the mount before the Lord.</i>
Psalm	Ps 84: 9-14 r.8	<i>Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 9:1-5	<i>I wish that I were accursed for the sake of my brother and sisters</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Ps 129:5	<i>I long for you, O Lord, My soul longs for his word.</i>
Gospel	Matt 14:22-33	<i>Command me to come to you on the water</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ps 147:12,14	<i>O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 2nd August £665.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 2nd August 2026 £50 364 Jane Furey

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