

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 16 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	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			
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	Priscilla Hellon RIP Sister Bernice Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	17	Ferial		9.30am	Thanks for prayers answered	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	18	Ferial		7.00pm	Bob Wheelhouse RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	19	Ferial		9.15am	Maloney Family intentions	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	20	St Bernard		9.30am	Tony Barnes RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	21	St Pius		9.15am 12.noon	Annie Mooney RIP Funeral Mass for Priscilla Hellon	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Saturday	22	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Sheila Morrel RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Phil Gaunt	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	23	Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week I			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Norah Martin RIP birthday remem Parishioners Maughan Family intentions	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. Today the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary displaces the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Dogma (Teaching) of the Assumption was solemnly defined by Pope Pius XII on 1st November 1950 as a part of our faith. This belief is that the Virgin Mary "*having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory*". This had been held as a pious belief in the Church for a long time. Because Mary was joined uniquely to Jesus, and her whole life pointed to Christ, and her faithful response to God 'magnified' God's presence among us. The Assumption shows us that the whole person, flesh and spirit are valued and given a dignity by God. At a time when the gift of life, and the dignity of every person is being swept aside by many, Mary shows us, by her faithful response to God, that we too, by being joined to him have the promise of being fully with God. The Gospel of St Luke is the 'Visitation'; Mary visits Elizabeth, and the mother of God is recognised; in the womb St John the Baptist acknowledges Jesus. It is then that Mary proclaims her 'song of praise' traditionally called 'The Magnificat'. Her life 'magnified' God's life within her, and helped that way to become clear and accessible to others. We too, by seeking to 'magnify' the Lord in our lives can make that way open to those around us, a way that in this life joins us to the life that Jesus had opened for us, and by Our Lady's example we can be fully with God at the completion of our lives

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

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

St Michael's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 20th August 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 **Please pray for Good hospital results for Pat H.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Please pray for Good hospital results for Pat H.** 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.

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.

CAFOD Emergency Appeals: We have all seen the ongoing effects of the devastating Earthquakes in Venezuela, and now another powerful Earthquake has hit the neighbouring country of Columbia. 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 go to: www.cafod.org.uk

QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update: Our computer equipment and software were recently updated. In reality it may be until September when we can 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: **Waterpark Close, Waterpark Rd, Westbank Rd, Whalley Rd, Waverley Grove, Whitfield St. Whitford Rd & Willmer 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

CAFOD school volunteers needed! Could you visit your local Catholic school to **talk about the work of CAFOD**? We are looking for **volunteers** to deliver school assemblies and workshops and inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. For further information please contact Anna Letizia on **07710 094449** or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

Exciting new vacancies have arisen within the Diocese. The Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT) are recruiting for a Programme Coordinator and Team Member; both roles are full time based in Stockport. The Curial office is also looking to recruit an Accounts Assistant, full time, based in Birkenhead. CV's to be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date: Friday 18 September. Further details for all vacancies can be found on the Diocesan website using this link <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers>

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

"For today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people; rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb, since from her own body she marvellously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life"
(From the Preface of the Assumption)



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. Rv 12:1	<i>A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars</i>
Reading 1	Rev 11:19; 12:1-6; 10	<i>A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet</i>
Psalm	Ps 44:10-12, 16 r.10	<i>On your right stands the queen, in gold of Ophir</i>
Reading 2	1 Cor 15:20-26	<i>Christ the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ.</i>
Gospel Acclamation		<i>Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice</i>
Gospel	Luke 1:39-56	<i>He who is mighty has done great things for me, he has exalted those of humble estate.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Lk 1:48-49	<i>All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 9th August £1194.04

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 9th August 2026 £50 842 Cathy Rigg

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

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