

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 23 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	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			
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	Norah Martin RIP birthday remem Parishioners Maughan Family intentions	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	24	St Bartholomew		9.30am	Joel & Maria for a blessed family	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	25	St Thomas of Hereford		11.30am 7.00pm	Funeral Service for Margaret Dunne Alfred Richardson Anniversary RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	26	Ferial		9.15am	Patrick McGinley & Family	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	27	St Monica		9.30am	Birthday Ben	Saint Michael's
Friday	28	St Augustine		9.15am 12.noon	Marty Brion (sick) Funeral Mass for Patrick English	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Saturday	29	The Passion of St John the Baptist		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Barney McCartan RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Damian Hamilton	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	30	Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Agnes McGinn birthday remembrance Ernest Rubina Anniversary RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. The First Reading and the Gospel reflect the call to lead in Service. In the Gospel St Peter recognises Jesus for who he is, the 'Messiah' the 'Anointed One – the Christ'. He sees beyond the layers and peoples' agendas to the heart of the matter; Jesus then calls him to be the focus of unity for the people of God. Tradition has it that Peter was the Leader and focus of unity for the first followers of Jesus and became the first 'Apostle' 'Elder' 'Bishop' of Antioch in Syria. After this our faith story tells that he became the first Bishop of Rome, the first 'Pope', and the figure of unity for the People of God, and eventually he was crucified there. In the Gospel passage today when people were questioning who Jesus was, or what his role was about, many responded with their own expectations or agendas naming various figures that suited these expectations. St Peter, with all his struggles, sees clearly who Jesus is and proclaims his faith in him. So often today people are using the name of God, or religious faith, to reflect their own goals and agendas. This is why it is so important the we take time to join our parish communities for Mass, Prayer and the Sacraments, so our sense of faith, our living relationship with God, is refreshed and that our 'vision' is cleared to see amid the calls and pulls of our world, who Jesus really is, and 'see' him among us as the living Word of God, making real the love, mercy, hope, tenderness and care of God in the lives of his people. Then, renewed in that faith we can recognise and say to Jesus in the circumstances of our lives: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'

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

Development Society Envelopes: If you are in the Development Society and make use of box envelopes, they will be available shortly. Please check the back of Church.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **More vocations to the Priesthood**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **'Sis', A much loved sister**. 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: **Tilstock Crescent, Tower Rd, Vicarage Close, Warrington St, Waverley Grove, Welford Ave & Well Lane.**

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>

A vacancy has arisen within the Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management department based at the Curial Office, Birkenhead for an Administration Assistant. Salary: £27 to 28K depending on experience. Hours: 35 per week. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website using this link www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers/administrator-for-inter-diocesan-fuel-management-limited Covering letter and CV should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date: 18 September 2026.

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

"Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"
(Matthew 16: 16-18)



Welcome to Isla Nancy Edge who was baptised in our Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of 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 85:1-3	<i>Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long</i>
Reading 1	Isa 22:19-23	<i>I will place on his shoulder the key of the House of David.</i>
Psalm	Ps 137: 1-3. 6-8 r.8	<i>O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 11:33-36	<i>From him and through him and to him are all things.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Matt 16:18	<i>You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.</i>
Gospel	Matt 16:13-20	<i>You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Ps 103:13-15	<i>The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 16th August £715.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 16th August 2026 £50 197 C Airey

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