

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 30 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	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			
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	Agnes McGinn birthday remembrance Ernesto Rubina Anniversary RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	31	Ferial		10.00am	Death Anniversary Zacha	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	1	Ferial		7.00pm	Ganty's intentions	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	2	Ferial		9.15am	Kestutis Zukas	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	3	St Gregory the Great		9.30am	Exam Tom	Saint Michael's
Friday	4	Ferial		9.15am	Repose of the soul of Conor Griffin	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	5	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Joseph Kivlehan Anniversary RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Philip Gaunt RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	6	Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week III			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Brian MacDonald 1 st Anniversary RIP Parishioners Robbie Williams RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter. In this weekend's First Reading, the Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah, even in his fear for his life, feels compelled to share God's message which he knows will make him unpopular. Even though it is not what his listeners want to hear, he shares the message because he knows it is the right thing to do. In today's Gospel Jesus proclaims that he 'the Messiah' had to face suffering, and being put to death. This was not the vision or expectation of the Messiah that St Peter had, and he challenges Jesus. Jesus in turn challenges Peter to see with a different vision. Peter is almost tempting Jesus to take what might seem a more 'expected' or even 'reasonable' path. Jesus rejects this and chooses the way of God the Father, for he knows that it is only by following that way that he will remain faithful to the way of God. In recent years we have seen images of people who have given their lives for Christ, people suffering persecution and hardship because they believed in Jesus and sought to remain faithful to his way. Thankfully, still in this part of the world, we do not face such hardship in living our faith, though we may face ridicule and mockery. As we come together to be refreshed in God's Way, we seek that strength to choose, and to continually re-choose God's Way in the situations and circumstances of our lives, and by doing so, even when it is hard, open the way for God to work

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

There are also postcards from the 'Not Dead Yet' Group of disabled people in public life who are opposing this Bill. These are available in our Churches this weekend and can be easily sent to MPs.

St Joseph's Ladies Group: This Wednesday 2nd September, 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. A talk on Family history, All welcome.

The Dimensions of Love – Fr Tom's Pilgrimage: Many of you will know Father Tom Cunnah, he is the Parish Priest of St Winefride's in Neston, and is our Diocesan Chancellor and 'Juridical Vicar' who presides over the Marriage Tribunal. Father Tom was with me (Canon Niall) twice in Ellesmere Port whilst training for the Priesthood and has been a good and supportive friend to me. I had the privilege of 'Clothing' him at his Ordination to the Priesthood ten years ago this coming week. To mark ten years of priestly ministry, Father Tom will undertake a nine-day, 130-mile thanksgiving pilgrimage across the Diocese of Shrewsbury, from West Kirby to Ludlow and Shining Tor, beginning on 3 September. Along the way, he will be praying for vocations and raising awareness and funds for the work of Caritas supporting families in need. Parishioners can follow his journey on Caritas social media. Please see posters at the back of Church for the QR code for donations. I know Father Tom wanted to mark his tenth anniversary with an act of service to promote vocations and help support the work and mission of 'Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury'. There are some Novena Leaflets and Posters to Join Fr Tom in prayer and with a 'QR' Code to donate. I will also put out baskets in our Churches for any voluntary cash donations. Do please support Fr Tom in his 'pilgrimage'. Thank you

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.

CAFOD Emergency Appeals: We have seen in the News the devastating Earthquakes in Columbia and Venezuela, and now sadly the effects of the floods in Nepal. CAFOD had an emergency fund, and to contribute please go to: www.cafod.org.uk

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 suffering from Natural Disasters**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Intentions of the Shaunessey Family**. 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.

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.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Swan Court, Temple Rd, Thornton Rd, Walker Mews, Walker Place, & Waring Ave.**

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>

St Michael's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 3rd September after the 9.30am Mass. All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

St Joseph's Church Cleaning: This Thursday 3rd September from 9.30am onwards. Many hands make light work. All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

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.

Pauline Book Centre: Saturday 19th September, 2pm. Monsignor Peter Fleetwood will be hosting a talk on the use of AI and what it means for Catholics to use AI whilst following the guidelines not only set by the Church but also outlined within Pope Leo XIV's recent encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas". Please sign up via Pauline Book Centre – Liverpool@pauline-uk.org or 0151 709 1328

New Statue of St Michael the Archangel: We have a new Statue of St Michael the Archangel at St Michael's kindly donated by Barry Miller and his Mum, Moira. This Statue will go in the side Chapel on the right side of the Church as soon as we have a plinth ready to put it on. This gift is greatly appreciated and will fit well into St Michael's Church



**Please Pray for the Repose 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 85:3,5	<i>Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.</i>
Reading 1	Jer 20:7-9	<i>The word of the Lord has become for me a reproach</i>
Psalm	Ps 62:2-6. 8-9 r. 2	<i>For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 12:1-2	<i>Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	cf. Eph 1:17.18	<i>May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us</i>
Gospel	Matt 16:21-27	<i>If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ps 30:20	<i>How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 23rd August £830.00

Monthly Standing Orders: £1610

Development Society Winner: 23rd August 2026 £50 652 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, Oxtown 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