

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 20 September 2026

SERVING THE CHURCHES OF SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS AND SAINT JOSEPH

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	19	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Bert Williams birthday remembrance Adoration & Confessions Confessions Philip Gaunt	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	20	Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week I			
During Ordinary Time (Autumn) i.e. from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; the Harvest; the fruits of Human work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Parishioners Ken Ward 2 nd Anniversary Kevin Maughan - sick	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	21	St Matthew		9.30am	Patricia Shone RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	22	Ferial		7.00pm	Berry Family intentions	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	23	St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)		9.15am	Word and Communion Service	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	24	Our Lad of Walsingham		9.30am	Priest's intention	Saint Michael's
Friday	25	Ferial		9.15am	Patricia (Pat) Collins RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	26	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Maureen & Leslie Boyd RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Miller Family intentions	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	27	Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week II			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	John Michael O'Sullivan Anniv RIP Parishioners Thomas Elcock RIP birthday remem	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. The theme again of the First Reading and the Gospel are of God's mercy and forgiveness. Today's first reading comes from the part of the book of Isaiah called 'The Book of Consolation' to give hope the exiles in Babylon, the citizens and artisans from the old Jewish Kingdom of Judah, and their children, born in Babylon, that Jerusalem, the Temple and their country would be restored. This passage is an invitation to them to see in a new way, with the 'eyes and heart' of God. The new beginning promised to the exiles was more than just a repatriation; if they rooted their hearts in God's way, sought to share God's vision, this would be the start of a whole new relationship between God and his people. In today's Gospel Jesus tells a story to get over how great is God's generosity, and a challenge to the petty, self-righteousness attitude of some of the religious leaders of the time. Some of these who kept rigorously the rules of 'The Law' had a feeling of superiority, and looked down on those they considered 'beneath them'; they almost felt that because of their 'virtuous life' that God almost owed them something. It is a trap we can all fall into. In today's story of a landowner who is almost 'reckless' in his generosity, Jesus shows something of God the Father's heart, in wanting to share his love and mercy to all, no matter what stage they come to him. Those who have 'borne the heart of the day' can sometimes almost feel cheated by those who come at the last minute! Here the invitation is again to share in the heart and joy of God, and as we receive, we are enriched and grow by sharing that gift with 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 Poulse (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

CAFOD Autumn Family Fast Day Collection: The Weekend of 3rd/4th October is the CAFOD Autumn Family Fast Day Collection, and there will be a Retiring Collection after all Masses that weekend. Envelopes are available this weekend; please take one and place it in the second collection next weekend. If you have the opportunity to Gift Aid then there are details with the envelopes as to how you can do so.

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

Father John Marsh CSsP - RIP: Many people have been calling about the Funeral Arrangements for Father John Marsh, a Redemptorist Priest, originally from Birkenhead, who died last week aged 78. We do not know as yet where or when his Funeral will be as arrangements are still being made. Please keep Father John and all who mourn for him in your prayers. May he know the joy and peace of God's presence.

The Dimensions of Love – Fr Tom's Pilgrimage: Thanks again for your support of Father Tom Cunnah's 'Dimensions of Love' Pilgrimage. We do not know as yet how much was raised for 'Caritas, Diocese of Shrewsbury', but we will pass this on as soon as we know.

St Joseph's Missio red boxes: If anyone has red boxes from St Joseph's can you please bring them back to Church for collection, Many thanks.

Tea, Coffee and Cakes at St Joseph's: Will be available after the 9.30am Mass on **Sunday 27th September**. All proceeds will be going to MacMillan Cancer Support Charity. Please be as generous as you can and come and enjoy the company of your fellow Parishioners for this worthwhile cause. Many thanks.

Word and Communion Service, Wednesday 23rd September: Next Wednesday, 23rd September, because Canon Niall, Father Malachy and Deacon John have to leave for a training day, Deacon Les will lead a Service of Word and Communion Service at 9.15am at St Joseph's that morning.

SVP Fundraiser: Friday 9th October at 7.30pm, St Joseph's Social Club, North Road. Dance the night away with the fabulous Neil Cooper. Light refreshments included. Tickets £8 from Phil after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's or behind the bar in St Joseph's Club. See poster at back of Church for phone number to also book tickets. All monies raised will go towards helping families in Birkenhead with food vouchers and toys.

Father Martin Onuoha's new book 'Strung with Grace 25 Pearls on the Rosary': We mentioned last week about Father Martin Onuoha's 25th Ordination Anniversary and his new book, 'Strung with Grace, 25 Pearls on the Rosary'. We still have copies of this book available in our Churches costing £10-00. If you would like one please let us know. There are baskets for the money beside these.

Pause for Hope - An ecumenical service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer. Sunday 18th October at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels Church, New Hey Road, Woodchurch. www.pauseforhope.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 **Pray for World Peace**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Pray for Jack, bring him Peace of Mind**. 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.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Reservoir Rd, Roman Rd, Rosebery Grove, Thornton Close, The Hawthornes, The Ridgeway & The Towers.**

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

Neston Flower Society flower arranging workshop: Neston Flower Society are pleased to invite all Church Flower Arrangers and any congregants who may be interested in flower arranging, to a creative Flower Arranging Workshop that will be held on Tuesday, 13th October and Tuesday, 20th October 2026 between 1pm and 3pm. We have already held 2 very successful Church Flower Arranging Workshops within the last 12 months, offering practical demonstrations using sustainable materials and advising on the use of inexpensive materials to create exciting designs for use in Church, as well as your own home. This time we will be demonstrating a wire bouquet support or Meadow style for a window/choir stall - the choice is yours. For further information on the sessions, what to bring etc. then please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Fisher Secretary, Neston Flower Society
MOB:- 07919983209

QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update: Our computer equipment and software were recently updated. Sorry for the delay in getting in getting these sorted. It will be a little while yet until 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.

Development Society Envelopes: If you are in the Development Society and make use of box envelopes, they are now 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.

"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last'



(Matthew 20: 15-16)

Welcome to Isla Bailey who was baptised in our Parish last weekend

**Please Pray for the Repose of the soul of Patricia Collins, Father John Marsh CSsP and all those who have died recently
May they rest in peace,
in the arms of the Good Shepherd**

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon		<i>I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever</i>
Reading 1	Isa 55:6-9	<i>My thoughts are not your thoughts.</i>
Psalm	Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18 r.18	<i>The Lord is close to all who call him.</i>
Reading 2	Phil 1:20-24, 27	<i>For me to live is Christ.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	cf. Acts 16:14	<i>Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son</i>
Gospel	Matt 20:1-16a	<i>Do you begrudge my generosity?</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ps 118:4-5	<i>You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 6th September £636.50

Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

Development Society Winner: 6th September 2026 £50 214 Valerie Braum
13th September 2026 £50 519 Chris Perkins

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

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