

# NEWSLETTER



**SAINT PHILIP NERI**

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

**Sunday 13 September 2026**

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

| Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Date      | Celebration                                  | Psalter        | Mass Time                              | Mass Intention                                                                               | Church                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 12        | Ferial                                       |                | 10.30am<br>11.00am<br>5.15pm<br>6.00pm | Rosa Hughes Anniversary RIP<br>Adoration & Confessions<br>Confessions<br>Mum & Dad           | Saint Joseph's<br>Saint Joseph's<br>Saint Michael's<br>Saint Michael's |
| <b>Sunday</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>13</b> | <b>Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> | <b>Week IV</b> |                                        |                                                                                              |                                                                        |
| 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<br>11.00am<br>5.00pm            | Priscilla Hellon RIP<br>Parishioners<br>Ronnie Connors RIP                                   | Saint Joseph's<br>Saint Michael's<br>Saint Joseph's                    |
| Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 14        | Exaltation of the Holy Cross                 |                | 9.30am                                 | For Margaret, Cancer treatment                                                               | Saint Michael's                                                        |
| Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 15        | Our Lady of Sorrows                          |                | 7.00pm                                 | Rosy Fernandes RIP                                                                           | Saint Joseph's                                                         |
| Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 16        | Ss Cornelius & Cyprian,                      |                | 9.15am                                 | Fr Tom Cunna 10 <sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniv                                               | Saint Joseph's                                                         |
| Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 17        | Ferial                                       |                | 9.30am                                 | Fr Martin Onuoha 25 <sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniv                                           | Saint Michael's                                                        |
| Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 18        | Ferial                                       |                | 9.15am                                 | Special Family intention                                                                     | Saint Joseph's                                                         |
| Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 19        | Ferial                                       |                | 10.30am<br>11.00am<br>5.15pm<br>6.00pm | Bert Williams birthday remembrance<br>Adoration & Confessions<br>Confessions<br>Philip Gaunt | Saint Joseph's<br>Saint Joseph's<br>Saint Michael's<br>Saint Michael's |
| <b>Sunday</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>20</b> | <b>Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  | <b>Week I</b>  |                                        |                                                                                              |                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                                              |                | 9.30am<br>11.00am<br>5.00pm            | Parishioners<br>Ken Ward 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary<br>Kevin Maughan - sick                 | Saint Joseph's<br>Saint Michael's<br>Saint Joseph's                    |

**Canon Niall writes.....** Welcome to this week's newsletter. Both the First Reading from the Book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) and from the Gospel of St Matthew speak about the gift of God's Forgiveness, and that as we receive, so we are called to share it. Both readings speak for themselves. Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive? In a way he is asking if there is a limit? As often as 'seven times'? Jesus replies: "*I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven*". 'Seventy times seven' here does not refer to an actual number, but is a way of saying 'multiple times', we might say something like 'umpteenth times' today! Forgiveness is part of Jesus' healing, restoring the image that God wishes for us. In the parable, the story that Jesus made up to get his point over, the king, who represents God, shares a 'big vision', he forgives greatly and mightily, with total love and generosity. The servant who is forgiven does not embrace this vision, he is 'petty' and 'mean'. This selfish 'petty' view, whether in our own families, our relationships or dealings between peoples and nations can build up walls of self-interest and block the life of God flowing. We come to be renewed in God's vision, his 'great heart' that calls people out of what is petty and mean and transforms our deepest and inner selves, our 'Souls' to allow God's mercy and compassion to be seen in our lives. In some ways we have all experienced that grace, when we have received the grace of God's forgiveness and mercy, and it gives us 'new heart' to share, and make those values real in 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*



10 Willowbank Road Birkenhead Wirral CH42 7JY



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@stsjoeandmike



StMaAAandStJosephs



stphilipneribirkenhead

Live Stream: [www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch](http://www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch)

Parish YouTube Channel: via [www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk](http://www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk)

**Assisted Suicide (End of Life) Bill:** By the time this Newsletter is published the vote will have taken place for reintroduction of the 'End of Life Bill'. Whatever has been the result we seek to continue to promote the gift of life at all its stages and the worth and dignity of every human life. Thank you for all your support.

**The Dimensions of Love – Fr Tom's Pilgrimage:** Again, by the time this Newsletter is circulated Father Tom Cunah will have completed his 'Dimensions of Love' Pilgrimage across our Diocese of Shrewsbury. This Pilgrimage, marking the tenth anniversary of Father Tom's ordination to the priesthood, has been a prayer for vocations and also to support the work and mission of 'Caritas, Diocese of Shrewsbury', caring for the most vulnerable and needy families across our diocese. Thank you for all the generous support that has been shown, and if you still wish to make a donation, please use the 'QR' Code on the posters in our Churches, and on the 'Novena Leaflets' which are still around. Thank you again.

**Tea, Coffee and Cakes at St Joseph's:** Will be available after the 9.30am Mass on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**SVP Fundraiser:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Congratulations to Father Martin Onuoha and his new book 'Strung with Grace 25 Pearls on the Rosary':**

Many of you will know Father Martin Onuoha who has worked in our Diocese of Shrewsbury for several years now. Father Martin is a priest of the Diocese of Ahiara in Nigeria, the same home Diocese of Father Malachy. We have several priests of the Diocese of Ahiara working in our Diocese. Last week Father Martin, who is now looking after Our Lady and the Apostles' Parish, in Stockport, celebrated his 'Silver Jubilee', 25 years as a Priest. Our best wishes and prayers go to Father Martin at this special time. When Father Martin first came to help in our diocese he started here at St Joseph's, Birkenhead, so it holds a special memory for him. Father Martin is also a well respected author and lecturer, and he has published a new book recently, 'Strung with Grace, 25 Pearls on the Rosary'. We have some copies of this book available in our Churches costing £10-00. If you would like one please let us know. They will go on a 'first come, first served' basis. Once they are gone, they are gone!

**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.

**St Michael's Church Cleaning:** This Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September after the 9.30am Mass. All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

**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.

**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](http://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 **Remembering Our dear friend Toni Abakhan**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Young People starting or returning to University or the Workplace**. 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.

**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.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **St Stephen's Court, St Stephen's Rd, Storeton Rd, The Wiend, Thompson St, Tower Hill & Town Rd.**

**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](mailto: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>

**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](mailto:aletizia@cafod.org.uk)

**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](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers/administrator-for-inter-diocesan-fuel-management-limited) Covering letter and CV should be sent to Pauline McCulloch [recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Closing date: 18 September 2026.

**Pauline Book Centre: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Liverpool@pauline-uk.org) or 0151 709 1328

*"Peter came up to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven'"*  
**Matthew 18: 22-23**



**Welcome to Elodie Corbett, Meryn Daly-Murray and Alice & Freddie Penfold who were baptised in our Parish last weekend**

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

# Readings at Mass

|                           |                           |                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Entrance Antiphon</b>  | Cf. Sir 36:18             | <i>Give peace, o Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel</i> |
| <b>Reading 1</b>          | Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 | <i>Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray,</i>                                             |
| <b>Psalm</b>              | Ps 102: 1-4. 9-12 r.8     | <b><i>The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.</i></b>                                                              |
| <b>Reading 2</b>          | Rom 14: 7-9               | <i>Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's</i>                                                                                         |
| <b>Gospel Acclamation</b> | John 13:34                | <i>A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.</i>                                         |
| <b>Gospel</b>             | Matt 18:21-35             | <i>I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven</i>                                                                                     |
| <b>Communion Antiphon</b> | Cf. Ps 35:8               | <i>How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings</i>                                              |

**Income:** Thank you for your generosity.

*Offertory Collection:* 6<sup>th</sup> September £1219.74

Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

*Development Society Winner:* 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026 £50

**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](http://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