

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 25 October 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	24	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Steve Parnell RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Jim Collins RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	25	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week II			
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	Chris Malone RIP Prayers answered Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	26	Ss Chad & Cedd		9.30am	Bob Williams	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	27	Ferial		7.00pm	Maggie Berry & Family	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	28	Ss Simon & Jude		9.15am	Cash & Berry Families	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	29	Ferial		9.30am	Carole Tully recovery from illness	Saint Michael's
Friday	30	Ferial		9.15am 10.30am	Michael Flynn (Senior) RIP Funeral Service for Joan Ellis	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Saturday	31	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Priest's intention Adoration & Confessions Confessions Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	1	All Saints	Week III			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Paddy O'Brien William & Maud Cavanagh Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend's First Reading and the Gospel remind us that faith in God involves caring for and respecting others, not just those we 'like' but those we find difficult also. This goes right back to the Old Testament in today's Exodus reading; one cannot just profess to have faith without living that faith in an attitude and response to others. In the Gospel today, again some of those in positions of authority try to catch Jesus out by asking him to comment as to which in the greatest Commandment of the 'Law' the 'Torah', the religious law that the people had inherited from Moses. They thought that if Jesus said one part was more important than the other they could discredit him in the people's eyes. As always Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter and states that if you seek to love God with all your heart, and in response seek to show that love to others, you are living the heart of the 'Law'. Love here means a lot more than just a 'warm, fuzzy feeling'; it is a sharing in the very creative heart and vision of God. In a time in our world when we are aware of so much division, conflict and coldness of heart, we are challenged more than ever to live, share and make real the loving kindness of the heart of our God which shows itself in the love, mercy, care and compassion that in him, we can all share

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 – Maria McLaughlin & 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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StMaAAandStJosephs



stphilipneribirkenhead

Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update: The QR Code is now accepting payments. We cannot get the Contactless Payment Station at St Joseph's to work yet due to the poor internet connection in the Church. Please use the QR Code for now until a solution can be found. The Contactless Payment Station at St Michael's is still working.

Sunday 1st November 2026 – 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's: Coffee, tea and cakes will be available following Mass. If you can, please do join us. Proceeds will be donated to the SVP Christmas Appeal, Many thanks.

Congratulations to Upton Hall: We have received word that Upton Hall School FCJ is celebrating a wonderful inspection outcome. Ofsted inspectors recognised the schools outstanding commitment to its pupils and 6th form students through the award of the highest judgement, exceptional, in both Behaviour and Attendance and Personal Development and Wellbeing. Our Parish of St Philip Neri wish to congratulate them in this result and hope it will serve as an encouragement for them to flourish in their mission to allow their students to flourish and grow into the people God has called them to be.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for '**John McCaffrey birthday remembrance**'. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for '**For all in Leadership and Authority**'. 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.

Confirmation 2027 – We will be starting the preparation sessions for this year's confirmation programme for any young person who is in **Year 8** or above on Thursday 5th November at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates are available at the back of Church.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Prenton Dell Ave, Prenton Dell Rd, Prenton Farm Rd, Regents Way, Rockybank Rd, Seaton Rd & Seymour Court.**

Vacancy in the Diocesan Finance Office: A vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Fundraising and Planned Giving Manager. Hours: Full time. Rate of pay: Competitive, commensurate with experience. Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website:

<https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers/fundraising-and-planned-giving-manager-2>

Closing date: 27 November 2026. Please contact Pauline McCulloch:

recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for an application form.

Foundation Governor for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School:

'Foundation Governors' are appointed by Bishop Mark to help support the Catholic Identity of our Schools. In a Catholic School the majority of the Governing Body are Foundation Governors. One of our Parish Primary Schools, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, are looking for a Foundation Governor. If you are a practising Catholic and would be interested to help, please contact the school for further information, please see the contact details on the back page of the Newsletter and see the link below....

<https://educationshrewsbury.org/governance/>

A repeat of last week's message from the Headteacher, St Joseph's Primary School: I am just writing to let my Parish family know that after 10 happy years, I am leaving St Joseph's to take up a Headteacher post at a school in Chester. I have been Headteacher at St Joseph's since 2016, having served initially as Deputy (and of course as a pupil!). It has been an honour and a privilege to lead the school and to work alongside such a dedicated and committed team. An opportunity arose to take on the Headteacher post at a school in Chester, and so last Summer I interviewed and was successful. I start there in January so this is my last term at St Joseph's. The process for recruiting the next St Joseph's Headteacher will begin in the Spring term. I want to thank the Parish for all your support and prayers over the years, and ask that you continue to pray for the children of St Joseph's. I am looking forward to my next steps and will always have fond memories of the school, the children, the staff and Parish and I am sure all who are part of the St Joseph's and St Philip Neri family will continue to flourish and live life to the full. Best wishes, Mr Turner

SVP Christmas Fund Raiser: A heartfelt thanks to all the Parishioners and friends of St Philip Neri and St Werburgh's who attended or contributed to a very successful Christmas Appeal Social Night at St Joseph's Parish Centre last Friday. You helped raise the fantastic sum of £2000.00, the proceeds of which will help bring cheer into an otherwise bleak Christmas for some

November List:

We are approaching the time of year when as a church we remember those who have died. Each year we write up a

Book of Remembrance

to display in the church throughout the month of November. If you would like names of friends or family members entered into the book this year then please make an offering and request using the envelopes provided at the back of church or write Month of the Holy Souls on an envelope with the names of those you wish to be included and place them on the usual offertory collection. Mass will be offered each week during the month of November for all whose names have been placed in the envelopes under the title of 'Holy Souls'. **(Those whose funerals have been held in our Parish over the last year will already be included in the book)**

Christmas Raffle: We will be holding a Christmas Raffle in December to raise money for Parish funds. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and boxes of biscuits for raffle prizes. Please leave at the back of St Michael's or in the Sacristy at St Joseph's. Many thanks for your generosity. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of November, the draw will take place at the beginning of December.

Anselmian Association Annual Mass of Remembrance: Fr. Bernard Forshaw will celebrate the annual Anselmian Association Mass in St Anselm's College chapel at 11am on Saturday 31st October when we will commemorate and pray for all those Anselmians and family members who have passed away during the past year. Bereaved family members are cordially invited and there will be light refreshments afterwards. Please contact the Association for further details: anselmianassociation@st-anselms.com

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22: 37-39)



Welcome to Diara D'Souza who was baptised in the Parish last weekend

**Please Pray for the Repose of the soul of Joan Ellis 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 104:3-4	<i>Let the hearts that seek the Lord Rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face</i>
Reading 1	Exod 22:20-26	<i>If you mistreat any widow or fatherless child, my wrath will burn against you.</i>
Psalm	Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.2	<i>I love you, Lord, my strength.</i>
Reading 2	1 Thess 1:5-10	<i>You turned away from idols to serve God and to wait for his Son.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	John 14:23	<i>If anyone loves me he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.</i>
Gospel	Matt 22:34-40	<i>You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Ps 19:6	<i>We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 18th October £779.59

Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

Development Society Winner: 18th October £50 808 Rob Bell

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

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