

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 18 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	17	St Ignatius of Antioch		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Deceased members & Benefactors of St Joseph's & St Michael's S.V.P conferences Adoration & Confessions Confessions Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	18	Twenty Ninth 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	Francis & Catherine Reynolds Des Butler Barney McCartan RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	19	St Peter of Alcantara		9.30am	Maureen Senior remembrance	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	20	Ferial		12.noon 7.00pm	Funeral Mass for Fr John Marsh Gill Davenport birthday anniversary	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	21	Ferial		9.15am	David Pryce RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	22	Ferial		9.30am	Recovery of Pope Leo XIV	Saint Michael's
Friday	23	Ferial		9.15am	George Breslin 25 th Anniversary RIP	Saint Joseph's
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			
				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

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. In this weekend's Gospel, some Religious Teachers of the time try to catch Jesus out! They think they have the perfect trap for him! They almost gleefully challenge him about the coin and the tax; they think if he answers "yes, you should pay tax" they can stir up their fellow Jews saying: "look, he's a Roman Collaborator with no respect for our traditions". If he answers "no you shouldn't pay the tax" they can run to the Romans and say: "look he's a rebel and an agitator against your rule". They thought he had no way out; however as always Jesus turns the mirror, turns it on them: "'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" They are dumfounded. Jesus invites them to see the situation of their world as it is; they were trying to shape things to their own agendas and plans, now they are challenged to see things in God's light, in God's agenda. Jesus invites them beyond 'paying taxes or not paying taxes' beyond Caesar's rule or someone else's rule, to help us all see the part we can play in our faithfulness to God. Not perhaps allowing these external situations to overcome us, but rather for us to fill them with the light of God's way, by our living that way, and playing our part in making that way real in our lives. In all the challenges of our world we are reminded today that we are not powerless; by each of us seeking to play our part in living the Gospel of Jesus, we can support each other in being the Body of Christ in the here and now, and touch our world with his saving presence

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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StMaAAandStJosephs



stphilipneribirkenhead

Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

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

Prayer for Pope Leo: We were all surprised by Pope Leo's announcement last weekend that he was having Lung Surgery. This has now taken place and, thank God, appears to be successful and the Holy Father is recovering well. Tests will need to be done to see if further treatment is needed. Please keep Pope Leo, and all involved in his care, in your prayers that he may be granted the grace of a full recovery.

CAFOD Autumn Family Fast Day Collection: Thank you to everyone who donated to the CAFOD Family Fast collection last weekend. As a Parish we have raised £755.50 which has now been sent to CAFOD.

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.

World Mission Sunday: This Sunday is a Day of Special Prayer for World Missions. There are Prayer Cards and Donation Envelopes for 'Missio', formerly the APF 'Association for the Propagation of the Faith, the 'Red Boxes' Organisation. Whilst we are not having a Second Collection as such, please use these envelopes if you wish to donate and place them in the collection baskets. We will also leave out baskets if you wished to make a cash donation. We renew our prayer this weekend for the Mission of the Church and for all who seek to share the Gospel of Christ.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Prenton Hall Rd](#), [Prenton Lane](#), [Prenton Park Rd](#), [Seymour St](#), [Shewell Close](#), [Sidney Rd](#) and [Sidney Terrace](#).

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

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 will be available in the next couple of weeks.

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Brian MacDonald birthday remembrance**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Pope Leo's Health**. 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.

Pause for Hope - An ecumenical Service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer, this Sunday 18th October at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels Church, New Hey Road, Woodchurch.

www.pauseforhope.org.uk

The initiative came from retired thoracic surgeon Professor Ray Donnelly, MBE FRCS, Founder and President of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. He was supported by numerous Cancer Charities across the Northwest, including Marie Curie Cancer Care, The Linda McCartney Centre, Macmillan Cancer Support and Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust. The ecumenical service was first held in 1999 in Liverpool Cathedral and since then services have been held right across the country, including Chester, where St Joseph's Choir first became involved. The very committed Chester group are sadly now unable to lead the service, and it was suggested that Wirral take up the idea, holding the service at St Michael and All Angel's Church. The Pause for Hope Ecumenical Service has been a tremendous support over the years for hundreds of people affected by cancer - either themselves or family and friends. With one in two people now affected by cancer in some way, perhaps now more than ever do we need a moment when we can come together to pause, and hope.

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/>

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

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

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 (**Those whose funerals have been held in our Parish over the last year will already be included in the book**)

"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's"
(Matthew 22: 21b)



Welcome to Arthur & Winnie Rees-Mallion who were baptised in the Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of the soul of Father John Marsh CSsR, 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. Pd 16:6.8	<i>To you I call: for you will surely heed me, O God ;turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.</i>
Reading 1	Isa 45:1, 4-6	<i>I have gasped the right hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before him.</i>
Psalm	Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10 r.7	<i>Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.</i>
Reading 2	1 Thess 1:1-5	<i>Remembering your faith, love and hope.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Phil 2:15-16	<i>Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.</i>
Gospel	Matt 22:15-21	<i>Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the thing that are God's.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Ps 32:18-19	<i>Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 11th October £785.49

Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

Development Society Winner: 11th October £50 361 Marie Fisher

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