

NEWSLETTER



SAINT PHILIP NERI

Sunday 4 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	3	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Patti Rixon RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Anne McManus 2 nd Anniversary	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	4	Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week III			
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	Pat Eaton RIP Anthony Whitehead Anniversary RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	5	Ferial		9.30am	Peter Price RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	6	Ferial		7.00pm	Bosco & Jacinto Viegas RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	7	Our Lady of the Rosary		9.15am	Paul Andrews RIP	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	8	Ferial		9.30am	Pundrique Sharma speedy recovery	Saint Michael's
Friday	9	St John Henry Newman		9.15am	Secular Clergy Fund	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	10	Ferial		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Pat Collins RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	11	Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week IV			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Kim Rothwell birthday remembrance Epifania Rubina Anniversary RIP Pauline Tamm RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter. The readings of this weekend are, once again, a challenge to those Religious Teachers and Political Leaders of the time who thought that because they kept the 'letter of the law' the 'Torah – the Law of Moses' and had status in society, that they almost 'had the right' to rule, impose their will on others and be looked up to. They almost felt that 'God owed them' for their virtue! Again, in parable story form, Jesus challenges this attitude. In the story the master of the house, representing God, sends servants to 'collect the produce'. These represent the Prophets of the Old Testament who called people back to a living relationship with God. They called on them to bear the fruit of that living relationship with God, 'the produce' in Jesus' story. The Old Testament Prophets' messages were often rejected, and many of them suffered, even to death, as the servants in Jesus' story. The Master of the House then sends his son "they will respect my son". Here Jesus is referring to himself and his coming rejection and his death. Those in power think they have it all, but they do not perceive the presence of God right in front of them. The story then refers to the vineyard being let out to new tenants "who will give him the fruits in their season". Jesus challenges those in power that the framework of the Torah was to help build a living relationship with God, but they had made it an end in itself. Today, Jesus calls us all to 'bear the fruit' of that living relationship with him, the fruits of love, mercy, compassion, tenderness and respect, that flow from his heart. Our rules and regulations are a framework to build our living relationship with God; those 'fruits' are so desperately needed in our world of today. As we come to the Eucharist we seek to renew our heart in Christ and bear his fruit 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



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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: This Weekend of 3rd/4th October is the CAFOD Autumn Family Fast Day Collection, and there will be a Retiring Collection after all Masses this 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.

Father John Marsh CSsR Funeral Arrangements:

Many people have been asking about the Funeral Arrangements for Father John Marsh, a Redemptorist Priest, originally from Birkenhead, who died recently aged 78. Father John's Funeral will now take place on Tuesday, 20th October, 12.00 noon here at St Joseph's, North Road. Please keep Father John and all who mourn for him in your prayers. May he know the joy and peace of God's presence.

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/>

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.

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 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.

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.

Get ready to race some pigs!: The Knights of St Columba, together with Deacon Les Arch, are holding a fun-filled Charity Pig Race Evening in aid of the RNLI at St Joseph's Hall, Upton, on Friday 16th October. Single tickets are £3 family tickets at £10, doors open at 6:30pm and the first race begins at 7:00pm. BYOB, and there will also be a raffle on the night. Come along, have a few laughs, cheer on your favourite pig and help us raise money for the RNLI at the same time. Everyone is welcome, and let's make it a fantastic night for a great cause!

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Prentonwood Court, Prospect Rd, Pulford Ave, Spruce Close, St Catherine's Gardens, St George Ave & Stuart Rd.**

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for **Briame Reatus RIP birthday remembrance**. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **Recovery of Phil Delaney**. 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.

St Joseph's Ladies Group: Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm, St Joseph's Parish Centre. A talk on the Birkenhead Priory.

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

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.

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

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: Whilst the Payment Tablet at St Michael's is working, the Payment Tablet and QR Codes at St Joseph's has been out of action for a while. We have been trying to resolve this, but it has proved more complicated than we first imagined! With the help of our Diocesan Finance Office we are we are in contact with the suppliers to get this resolved. We will keep you posted and thank you again for your understanding.

Please Pray for the Repose of the soul of Father John Marsh CSsR, Margaret Barlow 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. Est 4:17	<i>Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heave and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all</i>
Reading 1	Isa 5:1-7	<i>The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel.</i>
Psalm	Ps 79:9. 12-16, 19-20 r. Is 5:7	<i>The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.</i>
Reading 2	Phil 4:6-9	<i>Practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	cf. John 15:16	<i>I chose you out of the world, says the Lord. That you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide</i>
Gospel	Matt 21:33-43	<i>He will let out the vineyard to other tenants.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Lm 3:25	<i>The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him</i>

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 27th September £644.21

Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

Development Society Winner: 27th September 2026 £50 0 Fr Malachy

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